

OPEN LETTER TO CALIFORNIA STATE GOVERNOR WILSON

June 11, 1997

Dear Honorable Governor Wilson:

The State of California through the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) HAS MANDATED THAT MUCH OF THE TOWN OF Los Osos/Baywood Park have a sewer [San Luis Obispo County]. In 1990, an Assessment District was formed via a misleading mailer-process vs. a ballot measure.

We were led to believe that the sewer would:

1. Be located out of immediate boundaries of town;
2. Cost approximately \$49 million dollars at...
3. About \$45.00/month/landowner;
4. Fix the alleged problem of excessive nitrates in groundwater which is RWQCB's rationale for mandating corrective measures;
5. And the County of San Luis Obispo would hold responsibility for damages from or failure of the project.

The County of San Luis Obispo is now acknowledging:

1. Plant and percolation ponds will be in residential areas;
2. Cost \$71.5 Million dollars at...
3. Individual property costs as high as \$145-200 monthly;
4. Nitrate levels may not change for 45 years if at all;
5. The county alleges that we the residents will be completely responsible for all costs of construction, repair, replacement of the sewer, and any legal claims arising from failure of the system or its components;
6. 1.8 Million gallons of undisinfected effluent will be pumped into open ponds set directly above 700+ homes on a 10-18% sloping sand-dune hillside [crushing our property values].

The economic impact of this sewer will devastate our community. 50% if not more of this community may be forced to sell their homes and move because of the high costs of the sewer. These costs will essentially rob young families from providing preschool, scouting, gymnastics or Little League and other socially and physically important experiences. We thought it was State of California policy for water quality to "be consistent with the state goal of providing a decent home and suitable living environment for every Californian" (California Water Code, section 13142). Older residents will be at risk of having inadequate resources for daily living.

If this project goes forward, our streets will be torn up for 2-5 years. If we must sell our homes who would come into this created disaster to buy?

We have appealed to our Board of Supervisors, the Coastal Commission and the EPA without success.

WE THE UNDERSIGNED WILL BE COERCED TO EVALUATE THE FORCED SALE OF OUR HOMES BECAUSE OF THIS UNFUNDED, MANDATED SEWER. PLEASE HELP US!!

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