



# SAVE THE DREAM

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### NEWSLETTER #4

March 25, 2005  
Hand delivered

#### Our goals are to:

- 1) Support the Los Osos Wastewater Project as proposed by the LOCSD,
- 2) DEFEAT the recall of our LOCSD Board members, and
- 3) Seek funding to reduce the wastewater project's cost.

#### Our Dream is to:

- Preserve our unique quality of life;
- Protect our drinking water and groundwater basin;
- Restore the health of the Bay;
- Retain our surrounding rural environment and prevent sprawl; and
- Restore civility and unite our community.

We invite you to make this your dream also.

This newsletter has been written and paid for by Save The Dream Coalition,

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For more information please call:  
534-9226 or explore our website at:  
[www.SaveTheDream.info](http://www.SaveTheDream.info)

# Fact vs. Fantasy?

## The sewer opponents have painted a picture that does not match reality.

No one wants to pay a high monthly sewer bill. We can reduce the project's cost by working together.

Having a recall election and delaying the project will not solve our 30 year pollution problem or reduce the project's costs.

Just as they expected Unocal, in Avila, to protect public health and safety and to clean up their pollution quickly, the State expects Los Osos to take responsibility for our pollution. Thirty years is a long time to study and restudy our problem. Our time is up. If we delay further, the State or the County will build the current, permitted project at the same location for higher cost.

Over the last 30 years, project opponents have filed eight law suits. The courts have dismissed five, the remaining suits should be decided by May, 2005. More suits in the future will mean additional legal fees and a higher project costs.

Opponents have frightened the community, spreading false rumors about the wastewater project's location. See the facts inside.

The wastewater project opponents have been making a great many promises, but have

offered *no* factual data to support their contention that they have a cheaper or better solution—or *any* solution at all!

At their recent workshops they had no cost estimates or specific details on an alternative. Their two possible solutions are: 1) FIVE smaller sewer plants within Los Osos (versus one), or 2) a ponding system outside of town.

At the 03/17/2005 LOCSD meeting a spokesperson for wastewater opponents stated if people are concerned about the quality of their drinking water and the pollution in the bay, they could place a honey hut in their front yard and buy drinking water from Vons. Is *this* their plan?

That's why it is vital to:

- Move forward with the LOCSD's project,
- Not sign the recall petition, or UNsign the petition today,
- Help us obtain financial assistance to pay for the wastewater project.

**If you—or someone you know—have signed the recall petition, and have now changed your mind, it's easy to UNsign! Just fill out the enclosed form, or download one from our website, and mail to the County Elections office at: 1144 Monterey St., SLO, CA 93408. Or, call us, we'll pick it up and deliver it for you.**

**Donations:** There are two easy ways to sign up and donate to Save the Dream

- 1) Sign up on-line at: [www.SaveTheDream.info](http://www.SaveTheDream.info) and make a contribution directly by using your credit card on our secure PayPal account, or
- 2) Send a check to: Save The Dream, P.O. Box 6252, Los Osos, CA 93412

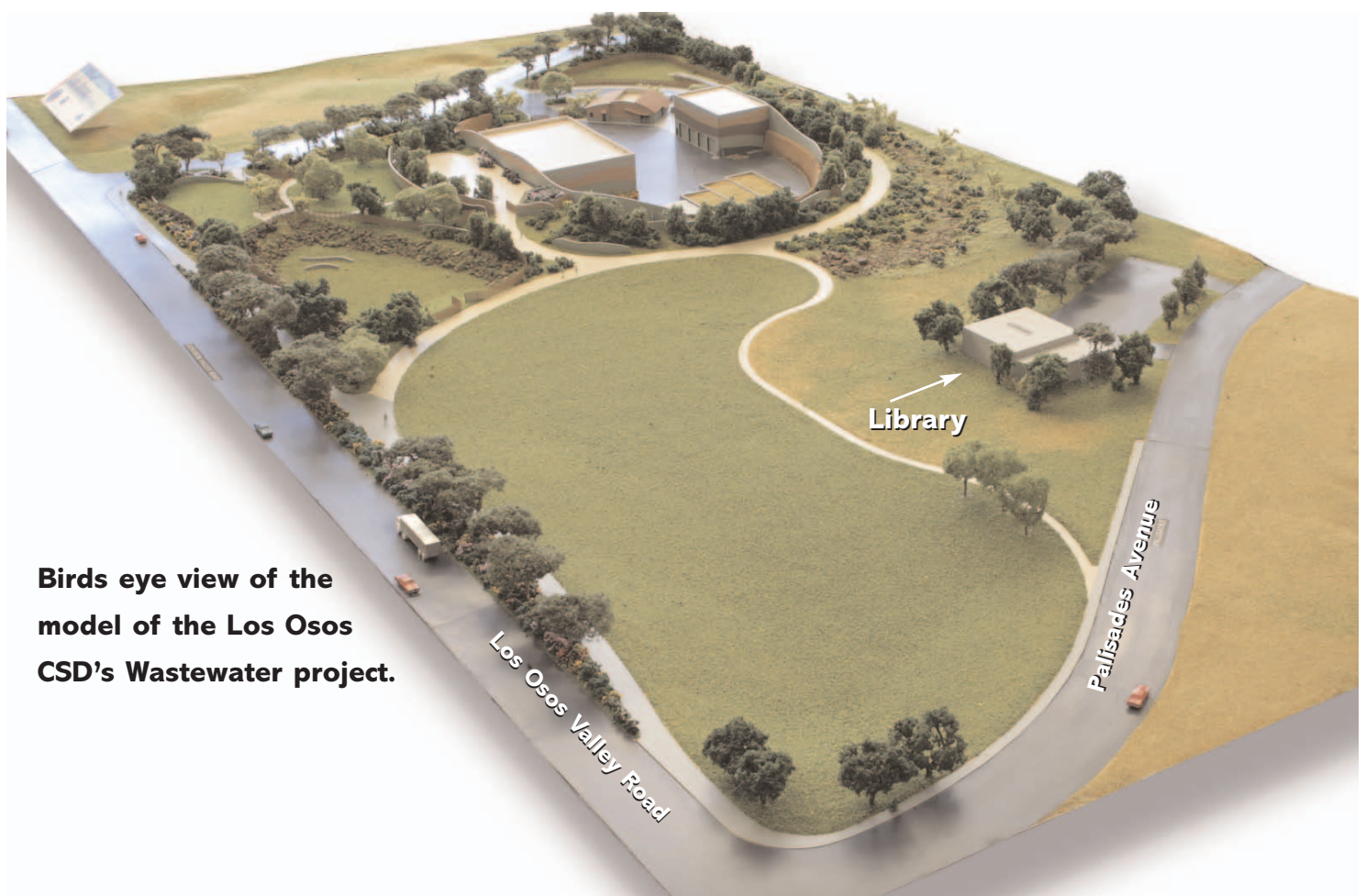
# A picture is worth a 1,000 words...

Wastewater treatment facility

Library



View of the LOCSO's Wastewater Project (the Resource Park) from Los Osos Valley Road, as seen on the project model.



Birds eye view of the model of the Los Osos CSD's Wastewater project.

## Public Amenities at the Resource Park will include:

Off-leash Dog Park  
Play Field (for soccer, etc.)  
Tot Lot  
Amphitheater  
Picnic Area

Community Gardens  
Restrooms  
Parking  
Walking Paths and Bike Lane

# The Wastewater Project will be a positive asset for Los Osos—it will eliminate our pollution, protect our drinking water, and create additional parkland.

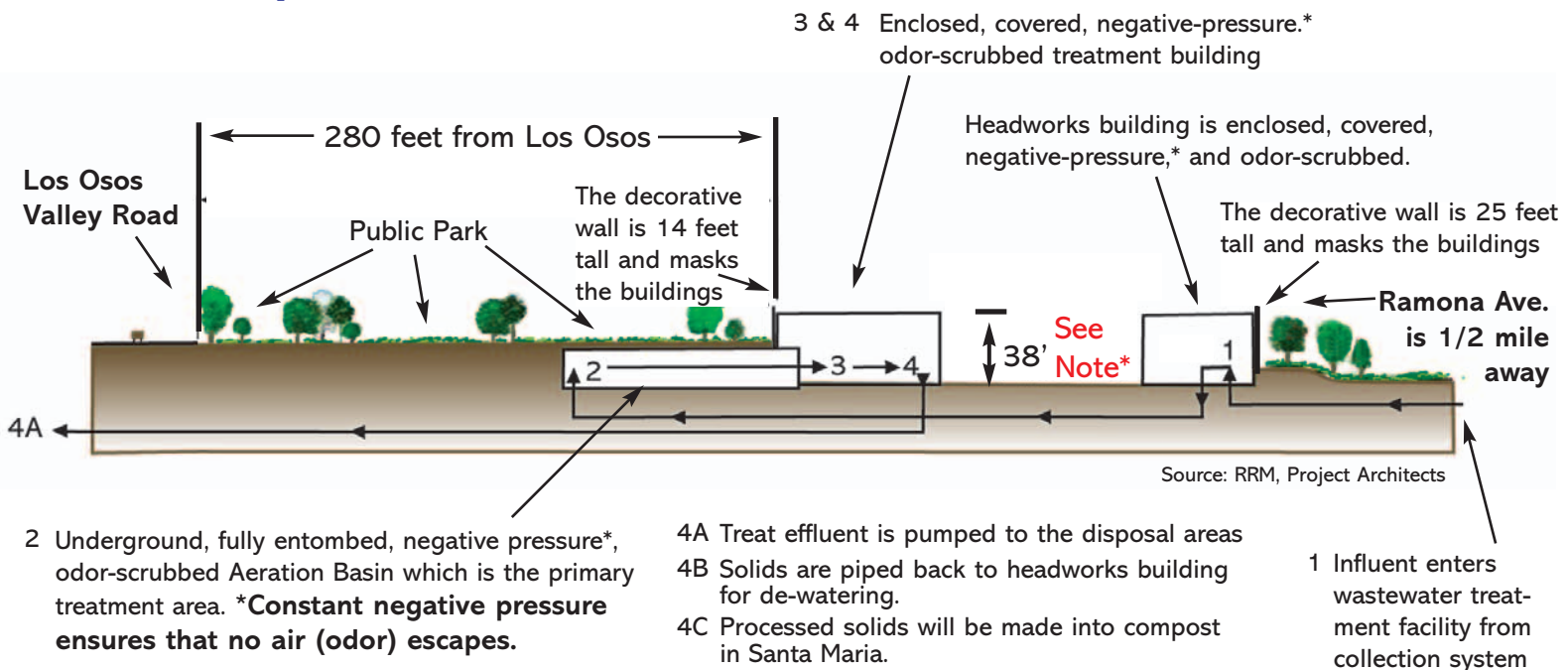
The Resource Park has been designed as a multi-use facility intended to benefit the entire Los Osos/Baywood Park community by providing a state-of-the-art wastewater treatment plant in a park-like setting. The treatment facility consists of two major components: the principal treatment areas that are buried beneath the park, and a cluster of buildings that include final treatment and processing, lab facilities, visitor and operations space, and maintenance facilities.

Approximately 1/2 of the treatment facility will be located BELOW the elevation of Los Osos Valley Road, thereby minimizing visual impacts, and creating additional area for recreational uses.

Constructing the treatment plant underground provides an opportunity for much of the site to be landscaped or otherwise improved to provide open space and recreation amenities for the community. The site plan (see photos) incorporates a drainage percolation area that can be used in dry weather as a large grass area suitable for youth soccer or other types of active recreation.

The site will also incorporate a system of pedestrian/bicycle trails, seating areas, and a fenced dog park. A Class I bicycle path will be installed along Los Osos Valley Road. Lighting is only provided for safety/security purposes at the treatment plant and for selected walkways. The landscape plans will incorporate native, drought-tolerant buffer planting around the entire site.

## The wastewater project will be underground or in fully enclosed, enclosed, negative-pressure buildings designed to ensure that no odors escape.



**Note:** From your view along Los Osos Valley Road the buildings are slightly less than 14' tall



# UNsign the recall petition now.

**The cost of the wastewater project is high, and getting higher. The project opponents have nothing to offer except delays.**

That's why we are asking the community to work together to get grants and alternative funding. We will be much more effective in obtaining financial aid from State and Federal legislators if we unite to seek funding.

**Don't be fooled. A recall election will only make the project more expensive. UNsign the recall petition today.**

Opponents are asking this community to accept on faith that a cheaper solution can be found if we just keep looking. That is precisely the course of action that got us into our current predicament. Meanwhile, the problem continues to worsen and costs continue to climb. Does it make sense that a project that has not been designed, has no approvals from any of the regulatory agencies, has not been subjected to environmental review, that lacks funding, and will be constructed years from now will somehow be less expensive than building the approved project now? The answer is no.

Don't gamble with your money, your water supply, or the health of the Bay. And don't support the recall.

	LOCSD's Approved Project	Opponents Unknown Project
Avoid fines from the Regional Board?	Yes	No
Known Cost?	Yes*	No
Designed?	Yes	No
Environmental Review complete?	Yes	No
Approvals by Regulatory Agencies?	Yes**	No
Funded?	Yes***	No
Timeframe for construction	Fall 2005, complete Fall, 2007	Unknown

\* Estimated at \$110 million. The LOCSD and the Save the Dream Coalition are working to reduce cost of the current high bids.

\*\* All permits have been issued except the permit from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service—expected April 2005.

\*\*\* Funded by State Revolving Loan February 2005.

**For more information please call: 805/534-9226  
or see us on the web at: [www.SaveTheDream.info](http://www.SaveTheDream.info)**

For additional information, read the data on the Regional Water Quality Control Board's site:

[www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb3/WMI/Index.htm](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb3/WMI/Index.htm). Scroll down to: Los Osos Water Quality Issues Frequently Asked Questions



# Don't sign the recall petition...

The recall backers are the wastewater project opponents who have delayed the project through their lawsuits and appeals. The project's largest cost increases have been caused by their delays.

- Wastewater project opponents have ***no*** scientific data proving they have a cheaper or better plan.
- The State Water Board said they will ***not consider*** an alternative project or location because our low-interest loan ***is*** project- and site-specific.

## 1. A recall will ***not*** move or stop the sewer, it ***will*** make it more expensive.

- More delays mean the LOCSD may be fined out of existence. We'd lose local control.
- The County or State would take over our Project, ***assume*** the permit and build the ***same*** Project in the ***same*** location.
- Attempting to gain more time to restudy alternatives already investigated, by suing the State, will only increase the project's cost. Lawsuits have been filed on similar issues, and have been dismissed.
- We'd lose our low-interest 2.6% State Revolving Fund loan and have to pay commercial rates at 5.5%-6% interest instead, ***plus*** costs for delays, inflation, and rising costs for construction materials like concrete and steel.

## 2. A recall is costly

- It delays the project and increases taxpayer's costs by over \$500,000 per month.
  - It wastes \$50,000 of taxpayer's money to conduct a recall election.
  - It results in potential loss of grants that could help low-income residents.
  - It means the project will cost more in the future.
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- It means we continue to degrade our drinking water and thereby ensure we will eventually need to import State water – a costly alternative to wellwater.

## 3. A recall will continue the degradation of our water supply

- It continues the pollution of our groundwater—and continues saltwater intrusion into our groundwater.
- It continues the pollution of the Morro Bay National Estuary.

## 4. Don't listen to gossip—learn the facts for yourself.

- Hear the facts for yourself, then decide. Watch the State Water Board meeting on video available FREE from the LOCSD (to obtain a video, call 528-9370, or stop by the office at 2122 9th Street, Los Osos). After you witness what the State Water Board members said, you will understand why signing the recall petition doesn't make sense. If you have already signed, please UNsign the petition immediately (see the reverse side). We are much stronger as a united community.
- For more facts, check out the Regional Water Quality Control Board's frequently asked questions. Their web site is: ([www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb3/WMI/Index.htm](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb3/WMI/Index.htm)). Scroll down to: Los Osos Water Quality Issues Frequently Asked Questions