

Julie Kennedy, President
Lisa Palmer, Vice President
Tom Fayram, Director
Greg Parks, Director
Nina Stormo, Director



DISTRICT UPDATE – 3rd QUARTER 2024

The Los Olivos Community Services District (LOCS D) continues to methodically evaluate technical approaches, obtain cost estimates, engage our community, and pursue grant opportunities for feasible, cost-effective wastewater treatment solutions for our community. This past quarter the District:

- Held a community workshop on Collection technologies and approaches – comparing gravity fed collection with effluent collection
- Continued engineering efforts that will evaluate the technical feasibility of potentially connecting the LOCS D to the City of Solvang’s wastewater treatment infrastructure
- Provided the public with an overview of the Property Owner voting process on a final solution (Proposition 218 vote)
- Continued “Coffee with a Director” - a twice monthly program that gives interested parties an opportunity to talk one-on-one with a LOCS D Director
- Expanded public outreach through community meetings, public signage and social media
- Pursued \$4,000,000 (four million dollars) in Water Resources Development Act funding through the Federal Government, with support from Congressman Salud Carbajal’s office
- Engaged a social media expert to help the District more effectively communicate with District residents and property owners
- Provided a District update to the Local Area Formation Commission (LAFCO) of Santa Barbara County

More details can be found below.

As noted in prior updates, any final wastewater treatment and water reclamation solution will be the result of significant community input, environmental review and then subject to a vote by District property owners in accordance with Proposition 218. Since the District is still evaluating technical solutions, no specific timeline for the property owner vote has been established.

Community Workshop – Collection Technologies

The District held a community workshop on August 21, 2024 to discuss the two wastewater collection approaches being considered. The workshop featured Tristian Bounds from REGEN, Carrie Poytress from Stantec Engineering, and was facilitated by Geoff Green. To watch the workshop in its entirety [click here](#). A summary of the question and answer period can found on the District’s website ([click here](#)).

Potential Connection to the City of Solvang’s Wastewater Infrastructure for Treatment and Disposal

The District has engaged Water Systems Consulting (WSC) and Carollo Engineering to understand the impacts of potentially adding District wastewater flows to the City’s existing infrastructure. WSC is focused on the components leading up to the treatment plant (e.g. pipes, lift stations, and pumps), while Carollo is examining the potential impacts to the City’s wastewater treatment plant. Both

Julie Kennedy, President
Lisa Palmer, Vice President



Tom Fayram, Director
Greg Parks, Director
Nina Storme, Director

consultants will provide cost estimates for any changes that may be required to upgrade the City's infrastructure in order to handle the District's wastewater. Final reports from WSC and Carollo are expected to be presented at the District's November meeting.

No commitments have been made by the City of Solvang or the LOCSO beyond exploring the technical feasibility and potential costs of sending LOCSO wastewater to the City facilities for treatment. The approach being studied would result in the LOCSO connecting to existing City collection pipes near Sunny Fields Park on Alamo Pintado Road. This location represents the closest connection point between the City's wastewater infrastructure and the LOCSO district's boundaries. Wastewater would then travel via the City's infrastructure to the City's treatment plant where it would be treated and disposed using existing approaches.

While WSC and Carollo are examining the technical and engineering feasibility of the District connecting to the City of Solvang, the District is simultaneously confirming its understanding of the legal and policy implications of running a force main down Alamo Pintado Road, from the Los Olivos Bridge to Sunny Field park. A force main is a pressurized pipe which is used in areas where waster cannot easily travel through the sewer system via gravity. The District would use a force main, sized to support only LOCSO wastewater, to move wastewater from the District to the City of Solvang's infrastructure.

Since connecting to the City of Solvang for treatment and disposal is still just under consideration, the District is also evaluating other approaches to treatment in or adjacent to the District.

Property Owner (Proposition 218) Vote and Process

The District heard a presentation from Steve O'Neill, District Counsel, related to the Proposition 218 vote process. A Proposition 218 vote, more often referred to as a Property Owner vote, is the process the District will use to gain approval of a final project. As part of the process, Property Owners will have an opportunity to vote in support or against any proposed solution. To watch video of the presentation or see the slides Mr. O'Neill used, visit our website ([click here](#)).

Twice Monthly Coffee with a District Board Member at Lefty's Coffee Company

A Board Member is regularly available for an hour of "open table" discussion with community members. Lefty's Coffee Co. in Los Olivos has graciously offered to let Board Members use a table for these informal conversations. All you need to do is show up, no appointment necessary. As a general rule, a Director is there on the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month starting around 8:30. If you have questions, but cannot make a Friday morning, contact us directly (LosOlivosCSD@gmail.com) and we can set up a date and time for you.

Four Million Dollars (\$4,000,000) Potential Grant through WRDA

The District continues to pursue as much as \$4,000,000 through the Federal government's Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). Funding through WRDA is not assured. However, with the help of Congressman Carbajal, the District has taken the first critical step and the grant is part of a bill. Funding for the District still needs to make it through appropriations, so there is no guarantee of any money at this point in time. Should the WRDA funding come through, the Army Corps of Engineers, would administer the funding and hire the appropriate consultants to complete the work.

Social Media Focus – Facebook and NextDoor

The District hired a Social Media consultant to help develop and implement a social media strategic plan.



Julie Kennedy, President
Lisa Palmer, Vice President
Tom Fayram, Director
Greg Parks, Director
Nina Stormo, Director

As part of the effort, the District will continue using NextDoor and will also be adding a Facebook presence. (For more information, like us on Facebook).

LAFCO Presentation

President Julie Kennedy and General Manager Guy Savage presented the latest information on District efforts to the Santa Barbara Local Area Formation Commission on August 1. To see the presentation, ([click here](#)).

District to Elect Two Board of Directors in November

As part of the normal election cycle, the District will elect two residents of the District to serve as members of the Board of Directors. Tom Fayram, an incumbent, is running again. Tom Nelson, a previously appointed Director, is also running. More information about elections can be found on the County of Santa Barbara's Elections Website ([click here](#)).

UPCOMING WORK

Community Workshops – The District's Board of Directors is keenly interested in continuing to obtain community input on potential wastewater solutions. In the next few months, the Board of Directors intends to host community workshops on:

- Treatment Options and Costs
- Collection, Treatment, and Disposal Options and Costs

The timing of the workshops will be heavily dependent on receiving the final reports related to connecting to the City of Solvang's infrastructure from WSC and Carollo in November.

ABOUT THE DISTRICT: The [Los Olivos CSD](#) was formed by voters in 2018 to give Los Olivos residents and property owners within the district local control over a local wastewater management solution and to provide a funding mechanism for the construction and operation of the facilities needed to collect, treat, and dispose of sewage, wastewater, and recycled water in Los Olivos.

Stay Informed: [Attend our monthly meetings](#) in person or virtually to stay current with our efforts to determine the best wastewater solution for Los Olivos. This is the most effective way for you to stay informed, to ask questions and get answers, and to ensure your ideas and concerns are heard. We usually post video of meetings on our website within 48 hours should you be unable to attend a meeting in person.

Check the District's website for meeting agendas and materials at losolivoscsd.com.

Visit <https://www.losolivoscsd.com/subscribe> to sign up for email updates. Please encourage your neighbors, local property owners and other interested community members to sign up as well.

If you have any questions about our District's efforts, please contact Guy Savage, General Manager, at gm.locsd@gmail.com or call him at (805) 500-4098.

Like us on Facebook