

**Alexander, Jacquelyne**

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**To:** Paul Hood  
**Subject:** RE: Letter to Chair Aceves and LAFCO Commissioners re 4-13-17 Agenda

**From:** Randall Day [<mailto:randall@smitv.org>]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 10, 2017 7:36 AM  
**To:** [races@cityofgoleta.org](mailto:races@cityofgoleta.org); Paul Hood <[hood.paul@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hood.paul@sbcglobal.net)>  
**Subject:** Letter to Chair Aceves and LAFCO Commissioners re 4-13-17 Agenda

THE REV. RANDALL C.K. DAY  
2949 ALTA STREET, P.O. BOX 491, LOS OLIVOS, CA

April 10, 2017

Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission  
Commissioner Roger Aceves, Chair  
105 East Anapamu Street, Room 407  
Santa Barbara CA 93101

**Re: April 13 Agenda item 3, LAFCO application 17-01 for the Formation of the Los Olivos Community Services District**

Dear Chair Aceves and Commissioners,

I regret I am unable to attend the April 13 meeting of the Commission due to professional responsibilities this week.

I support the formation of a Los Olivos Community Services District (LOCSD) and related actions as the best way to **speedily address the matter of wastewater treatment and water reclamation** through empowering the motivated local community to resolve this long-standing issue.

With others in the community, through the years we have built widening support for addressing this issue in the whole community, residents and businesses included. The next step is the community having the governance authority to make the decisions needed to implement a solution.

In recent months, as you are aware, this process has been complicated by a proposal to annex Los Olivos as an island attached to the Santa Ynez Community Services District (SYCSD). As you know, this proposal is the current alternative to the formation of a locally-empowered district.

While a Los Olivos Community Services District has the advantages of both focusing on a sole outcome and garnering cost savings on overhead by remaining small, the Santa Ynez Community Services District, which has no water treatment capability (beyond leased capacity from Solvang), has many challenges ahead. For SYCSD providing wastewater treatment in Los Olivos will certainly be only one of many concerns. **In becoming more familiar with SYCSD over the past year, it appears that District is already struggling with its current challenges;** adding the need to efficiently and economically address in detail the Los Olivos community will only compound their problems. With mounting complexity and problems, it is likely the SYCSD approach will also significantly add expense, eventually **making the SYCSD approach much costlier for Los Olivos residents.**

An additional grave concern has been apparent in LAFCO meetings, community meetings and other discussions: the vociferous support of the SYCSD proposal by the

Santa Barbara non-profit Heal the Ocean (HTO) and its director and staff. In fact, SYCSD board members and staff have taken a backseat to HTO staff in representing their interests – even in their own meetings. While tacitly sharing the commitment of the Los Olivos community for wastewater treatment and water reclamation, **an unseen and unstated goal appears to lie in the background, motivating this clamorous lobbying.** Despite repeated requests to reveal whatever lies in the background, whether representing developers or other entities, the added complexity of the HTO agenda combined with the array of problems facing SYCSD will inevitably slow or shipwreck the resolution of the single problem that needs singular focus in Los Olivos. While HTO has done important work in the past and in other areas, **no one can overlook the red flags for the future** raised by the manner in which they have entered this conversation in these recent months.

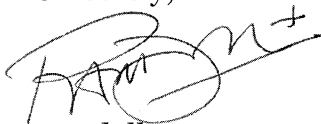
While outside groups like Heal the Ocean feel they can disregard the character of the individual towns in the Santa Ynez Valley and Santa Barbara County policy for the Santa Ynez Valley, **the towns, their history, their communities of people and distinctions are all completely real.** LAFCO has the opportunity to recognize and empower **the Los Olivos community that has been caring for itself for more than a century** to continue to resolve the matters facing it. **Superimposing a locally illogical and likely dysfunctional structure (like creating a service area island attached to Santa Ynez) will, in all probability, cripple the needed solution.**

The way forward to timely and economical wastewater treatment and water reclamation in Los Olivos is in Los Olivos and an LOCS. Los Olivos people understand the community, can care for the particular concerns of our local residents, can work with local resources for operating efficiencies, have relationships that are critical to collaborative problem-solving and can spend the needed time on this single matter to **get the right solution in a timely manner.** As needed, an LOCS can access the expertise of other local agencies through service agreements and represent Los Olivos residents in wider area conversations regarding water reclamation and wastewater treatment in the region.

**At the very least, the LAFCO process gives Los Olivos residents the opportunity to vote** on how they want to proceed and approval of the April 13 resolution will let the people vote.

I am **grateful** for these past months of work with the Commission and its staff and **appreciate the enormous amount of work you do in serving** the people of Santa Barbara County.

Sincerely,



Randall Day

## Alexander, Jacquelyne

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**From:** Paul Hood <hood.paul@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 10, 2017 9:03 AM  
**To:** Alexander, Jacquelyne  
**Subject:** FW: April 13, 2017 LAFCo Comments Letter.pdf  
**Attachments:** April 13, 2017 LAFCo Comments Letter.pdf; Untitled attachment 00080.htm

**From:** Jay Richolson [<mailto:jricholson@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 06, 2017 3:04 PM  
**To:** Paul Hood <[lafco@sblafco.org](mailto:lafco@sblafco.org)>; Mike Allen <[allen@co.santa-barbara.ca.us](mailto:allen@co.santa-barbara.ca.us)>  
**Subject:** April 13, 2017 LAFCo Comments Letter.pdf

April 5, 2017

Mr. Paul Hood, Executive Officer  
Commission Members  
LAFCO Santa Barbara County  
105 East Anapamu Street, Room 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Via email to: [lafco@sblafco.org](mailto:lafco@sblafco.org), [allen@co.santa-barbara.ca.us](mailto:allen@co.santa-barbara.ca.us)

Re: Los Olivos Community Services District Pending Application

Dear Mr. Hood and Honorable Commission Members:

We share your Commission's concerns regarding the lack of information from the SYCSD which would enable a true side-by-side comparison of the SYCSD annexation option and the LOCSD option.

Your commission discussed this issue at its January, February and March meetings and yet, apparently, received no reasonable response from the SYCSD.

A sincere effort was made by the Los Olivos Steering Committee to reach out to the SYCSD to establish a dialogue and to understand their plan for service to our community if the SOI was approved by LAFCO. Unfortunately, the effort was clearly rebuffed by the SYCSD (see attachments).

Additionally, neither the SYCSD Board nor management have made any effort to meet with the Los Olivos community to discuss the process by which the SOI, if approved, would lead to the annexation and service.

The fact is that the SYCSD Board and management have been conspicuous by their absence throughout this process, both at the community level as well as at the LAFCO meetings. Like the LAFCO commissioners, the Los Olivos residents and property owners have been kept in the dark as to the SYCSD Plan of Action if the SOI were approved.

Others, who are not authorized to speak on behalf of the SYCSD, have taken it upon themselves to inform the Los Olivos community of the SYCSD's Plan of Action, even though, as indicated in the March 11<sup>th</sup> SYCSD letter, no studies will be initiated until after the SOI is approved. These misleading statements have only served to confuse the issue within our community.

As it stands now, there is nothing for the Los Olivos Community or the LAFCO Commissioners to compare. On the one hand you have a formal petition with 234 signatures, or 42.5% of the registered voters, validated by Santa Barbara County Elections, in support of the Los Olivos CSD, on the other hand you have nothing of substance to support annexation.

In view of the foregoing, it's become apparent to us that annexation by the SYCSD is absolutely the wrong course of action and that Los Olivos must form it's own Community Services District.

There is no "free" solution. Either a locally-elected CSD board will assess Los Olivos residents to pay for and administer a tailored wastewater management system, or the SYCSD Board will assess Los Olivos residents to pay for a system that they build and manage. Cost savings to the Los Olivos ratepayers, if any, will be minimal and the potential for ongoing and acrimonious disagreements on the methodology for calculating and allocating costs to the Los Olivos ratepayers are obvious.

As validated in the Financial Feasibility Study prepared by Berkson & Associates, neither SYCSD or ID#1 offer any substantial benefits, nor solve the immediate problem in an expeditious manner, and they certainly don't compensate for the loss of local control that a locally elected board would offer under a LOCSD.

We, therefore, respectfully request that you vote in favor of the LOCSD application and allow our community to express its support for self-determination via the vote.

We wish to express our sincere gratitude to the Staff and Commissioners for all of your efforts and the time you have devoted to understanding our situation and working with our community to find the best long-term solution to our wastewater problem. We can assure you that it's very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Jay and Dottie Richolson*

Jay and Dottie Richolson  
2896 San Marcos Avenue  
Los Olivos, CA 93441

Attachments:

March 1, 2016 LO Steering Committee request to SYCSD  
April 22, 2016 SYCSD response to LO Steering Committee



## LOS OLIVOS WATER RECLAMATION

March 11, 2016

Board of Directors  
Santa Ynez Community Services District  
1070 Faraday Street  
Santa Ynez, CA 93460

Re: Los Olivos Sphere of Influence Application

Members of the Board:

The Los Olivos Water Reclamation Steering Committee is a group of engaged residents, businesses and property owners who have come together to develop and evaluate community-based solutions to the wastewater regulatory issues facing Los Olivos.

As you know, the community has been considering several mechanisms to manage, develop and operate a wastewater collection and treatment system to serve Los Olivos. We have reviewed the Santa Ynez Community Services District (SYCSD) application recently filed with the Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) to amend the SYCSD's Sphere of Influence (SOI) to include the Los Olivos (LO) Special Problems Area.

Based on the information provided in the application and to the public to date, and at the advice of our legal counsel, we do not support the District's plan as proposed. In our opinion, the application is inadequate with respect to management, technical, financial and timeline detail and does not provide sufficient data to allow either LAFCO or the Los Olivos community to make an informed decision about the effectiveness and ability of SYCSD to responsibly manage our wastewater in the future. For example, Item 1 of the Application states "SYCSD is already formed and has adequate public services and availability to serve Los Olivos sufficiently". Yet the District fails to describe what services SYCSD would provide, how they will be performed, when they will be available, and what they will cost.

LAFCO and the Los Olivos community need complete information in order to make the best decisions on this issue, including specifics of how SYCSD intends to provide service to the Los Olivos Special Problems Area and at what cost. Currently, the Los Olivos Water Reclamation Steering Committee is exploring feasibility, costs and timeframes for various water treatment options, including the SYCSD annexation.

We request that the District withdraw its application and only resubmit it once the following have satisfactorily been addressed so both LAFCO and Los Olivos residents, property owners and businesses have the details on which to base an informed decision:

Los Olivos Water Reclamation  
PO Box 553 | Los Olivos, Ca 93441 | (805) 245-3791  
[www.LosOlivosWasteWater.com](http://www.LosOlivosWasteWater.com)  
[info@losolivoswastewater.com](mailto:info@losolivoswastewater.com)

1. How and where would wastewater be treated and disposed? SYCSD does not currently own or operate a treatment plant.
2. Does it intend to send Los Olivos flow to the Solvang treatment plant?
3. Does it intend to build a new treatment plant in its service area?  
If either of these, how does SYCSD intend to deal with the Santa Ynez Valley Community Plan's limitations on sewer lines in Agricultural Lands?
4. Does it intend to build a treatment plant in Los Olivos?
5. Describe in detail the sewage services you plan to provide to Los Olivos, the system that would be required to provide those services and a timeline for when these services will be operational and available to customers in the Special Problems Area.
6. Describe in detail the methodology you plan to use to allocate Capital Costs and ongoing Operating and Maintenance Costs to the residential and commercial customers that use your service. Will Los Olivos property owners be billed at the same rate as your current customers?
7. If your plan includes the construction of a new wastewater treatment plant, how will the cost of that plant be shared among all users?
8. How do you intend to provide the registered voters and property owners in Los Olivos proportional representation on the SYCSD board?
9. Please describe your CSD's existing and latent powers that would extend to Los Olivos if our community is annexed in the future.
10. Is your district currently conducting feasibility studies or any other studies with regards to Los Olivos? If yes, please provide us with details on these studies.

We respectfully request that you withdraw the application and do not resubmit it until the residents, businesses and property owners of Los Olivos have been provided sufficient information and have determined whether it is in their best interest to support the Sphere of Influence application. We would appreciate your detailed response no later than April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2016. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark Herthel  
for the Los Olivos Water Reclamation Steering Committee

Copies to:       Honorable Doreen Farr  
                      Mr. Paul Hood  
                      Mr. Lawrence Fay  
                      Steering Committee Members  
                      Mr. John Bakker, Esq.

2614567.1

Los Olivos Water Reclamation  
PO Box 553 | Los Olivos, Ca 93441 | (805) 245-3791  
[www.LosOlivosWasteWater.com](http://www.LosOlivosWasteWater.com)  
[info@losolivoswastewater.com](mailto:info@losolivoswastewater.com)



# SANTA YNEZ COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 667, Santa Ynez, CA 93460-0667 • (805) 688-3008

April 22, 2016

Los Olivos Water Reclamation  
Attn: Mark Herthyl  
PO Box 553  
Los Olivos, CA 93441

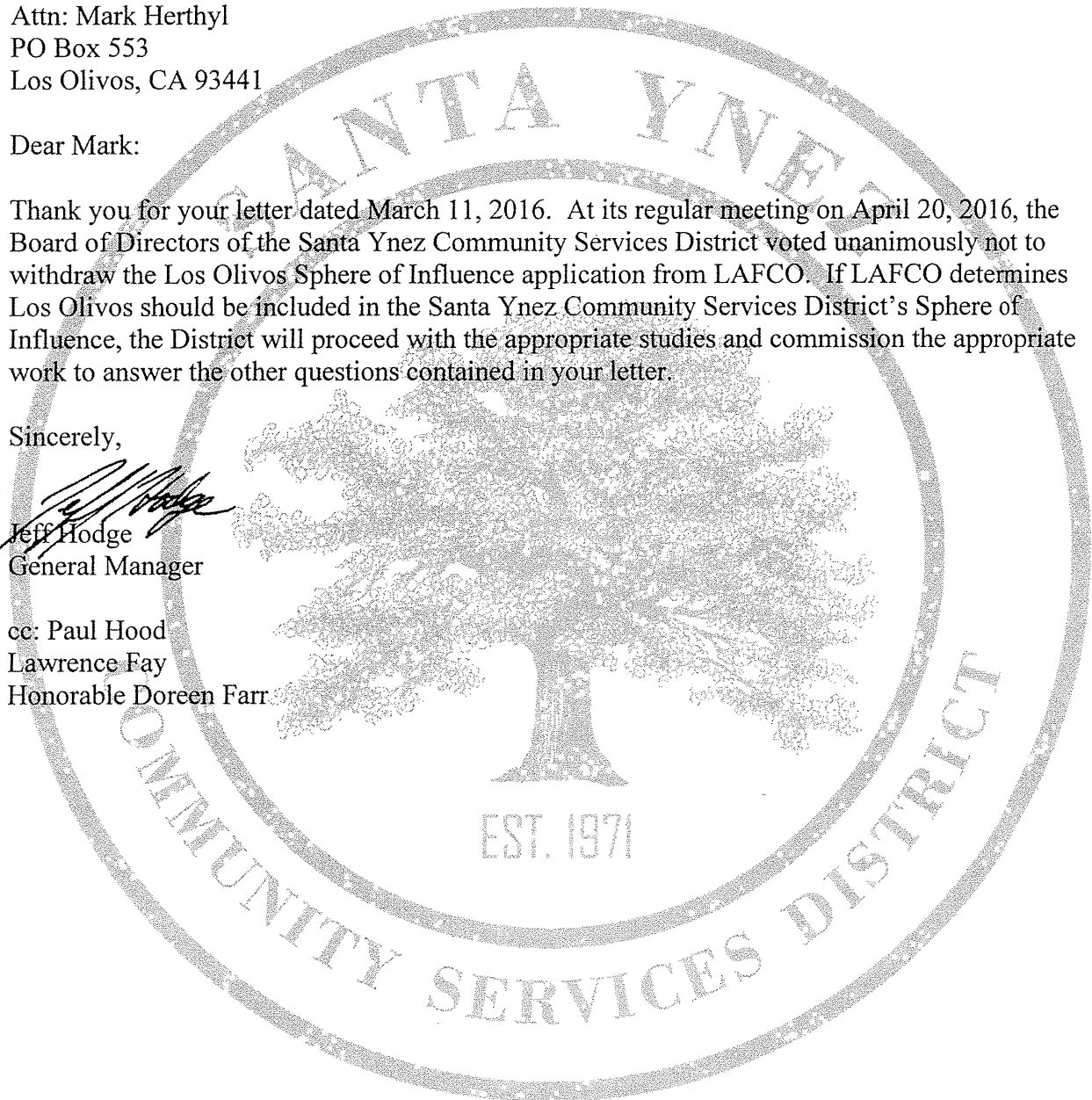
Dear Mark:

Thank you for your letter dated March 11, 2016. At its regular meeting on April 20, 2016, the Board of Directors of the Santa Ynez Community Services District voted unanimously not to withdraw the Los Olivos Sphere of Influence application from LAFCO. If LAFCO determines Los Olivos should be included in the Santa Ynez Community Services District's Sphere of Influence, the District will proceed with the appropriate studies and commission the appropriate work to answer the other questions contained in your letter.

Sincerely,

  
Jeff Hodge  
General Manager

cc: Paul Hood  
Lawrence Fay  
Honorable Doreen Farr



## Alexander, Jacquelyne

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**From:** Paul Hood <hood.paul@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 10, 2017 9:06 AM  
**To:** Alexander, Jacquelyne  
**Subject:** FW: Los Olivos CSD

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Rob Ramirez [<mailto:RobR@meridiangrouprem.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 07, 2017 8:52 AM  
**To:** [lafco@sblafco.org](mailto:lafco@sblafco.org)  
**Subject:** Los Olivos CSD

Hi we manage 4 buildings on Grand ave, and we would love to have locals have a say in the services and infrastructure of Los Olivos. We support the formation of the L. O. CSD.

Thank you,

Rob Ramirez  
MERIDIANGROUP  
Real Estate Management  
p. 805.722.1371  
f. 805.692.5020  
[www.meridiangrouprem.com](http://www.meridiangrouprem.com)  
DRE # 01272282

## Alexander, Jacquelyne

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**From:** Paul Hood <hood.paul@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 10, 2017 9:06 AM  
**To:** Alexander, Jacquelyne  
**Subject:** FW: Los Olivos CSD

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**From:** Steven Battaglia [<mailto:Steve@battagliare.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 07, 2017 7:50 AM  
**To:** [lafco@sblafco.org](mailto:lafco@sblafco.org)  
**Subject:** Los Olivos CSD

To the LAFCO Board Members:

I want you know that I fully support the formation of the Los Olivos Community Services District. This has been needed in Los Olivos and will pave the way for Los Olivos to implement the needed sewer system.

Best Regards,

Steven Battaglia  
2901 Grand Ave D, Los Olivos, CA 93441-0540  
Mail: PO Box 540, Los Olivos, CA 93441-0540

## Alexander, Jacquelyne

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**From:** Paul Hood <hood.paul@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 10, 2017 9:07 AM  
**To:** Alexander, Jacquelyne  
**Subject:** FW: LAFCO Hearing 4-13-2017 Organization Change Item #3 LOCSD APPLICATION - HTO COMMENT LETTER  
**Attachments:** LAFCO Hearing 4-13-2017 Organization Change Item # 3 LOCSD Application - HTO Comment Letter .pdf

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**From:** Hillary Hauser [<mailto:hillary@healtheocean.org>]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 07, 2017 11:22 AM  
**To:** [lafco@sblafco.org](mailto:lafco@sblafco.org)  
**Subject:** LAFCO Hearing 4-13-2017 Organization Change Item #3 LOCSD APPLICATION - HTO COMMENT LETTER

Dear Paul Hood:  
Please see attached, and please distribute to the LAFCO Commissioners.  
Thank you,  
Hillary

**Hillary Hauser, Executive Director**  
**Heal the Ocean**  
**1430 Chapala Street**  
**Santa Barbara, CA 93101**  
**(805) 965-7570**  
**[www.healtheocean.org](http://www.healtheocean.org)**



1430 Chapala Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101;  
PO Box 90106, Santa Barbara, CA 93190; Telephone (805) 965-7570; fax (805) 962-0651  
[www.healththeocean.org](http://www.healththeocean.org)

April 5, 2017

Santa Barbara LAFCO  
105 East Anapamu Street, Room 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

**Re: April 13, 2017 LAFCO Hearing: Changes of Organization & Reorganization  
Item #3: LAFCO Application 17-01, Formation of the Los Olivos Community  
Services District**

Dear Chair Aceves, Executive Director Hood, and Members of the Commission:

Heal the Ocean sends a final request to deny Application 17-01 for the formation of a Los Olivos Community Services District. We remain committed to the fastest and most economical solution to the septic and groundwater issues facing Los Olivos, and a Los Olivos CSD is neither the fastest nor the most economical or efficient method.

While LAFCO's involvement in this process may end with its approval of this application, the residents of Los Olivos will be left bearing the costs for years to come. A newly formed CSD will not be able to handle the unique challenges that face Los Olivos, challenges that require a timely response. LAFCO's involvement will have passed by the time the Regional Water Quality Control Board moves in and regulates Los Olivos for inaction.

Deadlines are fast approaching for grant funding for wastewater management projects, these grants are absolutely critical to help the residents pay for an effective wastewater treatment/recycling plant. We were recently informed by the new State Water Board staff now overseeing water recycling grants that a newly formed CSD is highly unlikely to receive any major grants that they apply for due to a lack of project/credit history.

Executive Director Hood has stated frequently that the formation process for the Los Olivos CSD is just as fast as annexation to SYCSD or any other governance option. While this may be the case in terms of formation, the time frames differ drastically in the long run. Los Olivos CSD will be created with no money in the bank, no ratepayers, no contracts, no staff, and no experience. Large amounts of time will be needed for the newly formed board to build funding and learn to manage a CSD, time that Los Olivos residents do not have. The time frames differ drastically also, because even if the CSD voting process succeeds, Los Olivos is still at Square One for building a wastewater treatment plant. They will not have even begun.

Beyond these points, it can't be stressed enough that one of LAFCO's mandates is to limit duplicate districts and redundant services. In a time where many districts across California are considering consolidation to improve efficiency, Santa Barbara LAFCO is considering the approval of a new CSD for a small community, disregarding Santa Ynez valley's existing districts capable of providing the same service in a faster, more cost-effective manner. The approval of this application will go against LAFCO's mandate as well as the best interests of a community that is facing expensive regulations unless it gets moving quickly.

If LAFCO does decide to approve this application, Heal the Ocean again asks LAFCO that it does so with stringent timelines featuring clear milestones for the new CSD. If the Commission approves this application we ask that provisions also be included for dissolving the district if the LOCSO cannot meet these milestones in the time specified, so that Los Olivos residents can explore a new wastewater plan before the RWQCB is forced to take regulatory action on the community.

Sincerely,



Hillary Hauser, Executive Director



Alex Bennett, Policy Analyst

## Alexander, Jacquelyne

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**From:** Paul Hood <hood.paul@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 10, 2017 9:08 AM  
**To:** Alexander, Jacquelyne  
**Subject:** FW: Los Olivos CSD application

-----Original Message-----

From: Neil Cline [<mailto:nmcsyv@gmail.com>]  
Sent: Friday, April 07, 2017 3:40 PM  
To: [lafco@sblafco.org](mailto:lafco@sblafco.org)  
Subject: Los Olivos CSD application

To LAFCO Commissioners,

As an original signator of the initial petition to form a Los Olivos Community Services District, I urge you to approve the Los Olivos application to conduct an election to form a Community Services District. The District, if approved, would be organized to address the new wastewater standards imposed State water policy.

The new regulations are an unfunded mandate that will require very costly capital and operating expenses. I firmly believe it is only proper that the future financial and operational activities of the new system should be under local control that would be provided by the proposed Los Olivos CSD. I hope you agree.

Sincerely

Neil Cline  
2175 Keenan Rd  
Los Olivos, CA 93441=

## Alexander, Jacquelyne

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**From:** Paul Hood <hood.paul@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 10, 2017 9:16 AM  
**To:** Alexander, Jacquelyne  
**Subject:** FW: Los Olivos Community Services District

-----Original Message-----

From: Sybil Cline [<mailto:sybilcline@gmail.com>]  
Sent: Friday, April 07, 2017 5:12 PM  
To: [lafco@sblafco.org](mailto:lafco@sblafco.org)  
Subject: Los Olivos Community Services District

PLEASE READ AND RECORD THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS INTO THE PUBLIC RECORD, THANK YOU:

A majority of the affected voters from Los Olivos have indicated their wishes to you. As your highest priority, please grant us the right to hold an election to decide on forming a Los Olivos Community Service District. It is clear that this is the will of the people, and we ask that you respect this desire.

Many members of the community have worked long and hard investigating, educating, and preparing for this historic change in our little township.

They have worked tirelessly to bring us to this point, and we ask that you support their endeavors by allowing us to hold an election on our own behalf and to not force us into alliance with out-of-town influences.

Circumstances prevent me from being present at the LAFCO meeting, but I sincerely hope you will heed my plea. Thank you.

Sybil Cline  
Los Olivos=



## Alexander, Jacquelyne

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**From:** Paul Hood <hood.paul@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 10, 2017 9:18 AM  
**To:** Alexander, Jacquelyne  
**Subject:** FW: Approval of Los Olivos Community Services District - April 13 LAFCO Meeting

**From:** Brad Ross [<mailto:rossbrada@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 09, 2017 8:58 AM  
**To:** [lafco@sblafco.org](mailto:lafco@sblafco.org)  
**Subject:** Approval of Los Olivos Community Services District - April 13 LAFCO Meeting

Approval of the LOCS D application is needed so that the citizens can vote and we can move forward with resolving wastewater issues. There are no other viable options. ID1 has no interest. SYCSD has alienated citizens as they have expanded their borders without working with the citizens. Los Olivos residents have provided overwhelming support of the application. Your approval is expected. Please do not disappoint.

Brad Ross, Resident of Los Olivos

## Alexander, Jacquelyne

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**From:** Paul Hood <hood.paul@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 10, 2017 9:18 AM  
**To:** Alexander, Jacquelyne  
**Subject:** FW: Los Olivos Community Services District

-----Original Message-----

From: Sybil Cline [<mailto:sybilcline@gmail.com>]  
Sent: Friday, April 07, 2017 5:12 PM  
To: [lafco@sblafco.org](mailto:lafco@sblafco.org)  
Subject: Los Olivos Community Services District

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Many members of the community have worked long and hard investigating, educating, and preparing for this historic change in our little township. They have worked tirelessly to bring us to this point, and we ask that you support their endeavors by allowing us to hold an election on our own behalf and to not force us into alliance with out-of-town influences.

Circumstances prevent me from being present at the LAFCO meeting, but I sincerely hope you will heed my plea. Thank you.

Sybil Cline  
Los Olivos=

## Alexander, Jacquelyne

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**From:** Paul Hood <hood.paul@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 10, 2017 9:23 AM  
**To:** Alexander, Jacquelyne  
**Subject:** FW: CSD for Los Olivos

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Julie Bradley [<mailto:juliecb@verizon.net>]  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 09, 2017 9:24 PM  
**To:** [lafco@sblafco.org](mailto:lafco@sblafco.org)  
**Subject:** CSD for Los Olivos

To Whom it May Concern:

As a Los Olivos resident, I very much support pending approval of the Los Olivos CSD application on April 13, 2017.

Julie Bradley