



LOS OSOS COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

805-528-9370 Direct / 805-528-9377 Fax
www.losososcscsd.org

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tuesday, April 7, 2020 at 5:30 P.M.

Pursuant to Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20, members of the Board of Directors, staff and public may participate in this meeting via teleconference and/or electronically. The LOCSO Boardroom will NOT be open for accessing the special meeting.

For quick access, go to <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/545470479>
(This link will help connect both your browser and telephone to the call)

If not using a computer, dial 1 (929) 205-6099 or 1 (301) 715-8592 and enter **545 470 479**

All persons desiring to speak during any Public Comment can submit a comment by:

- Through email at ldurban@losososcscsd.org by 12:00pm on 4/7/2020
- Through the district website www.losososcscsd.org/contact-us by 4:30pm
- Through teleconference by phone at 1 (929) 205-6099 and enter **545 470 479**
- Through teleconference by phone at 1 (301) 715-8592 and enter **545 470 479**
- Through teleconference meeting at <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/545470479>

AGENDA

This agenda is prepared and posted pursuant to Government Code §54954.2. District prepared staff reports and documents are normally available on the District website www.losososcscsd.org on the date the agenda is posted or at the District Office. Any writing or document pertaining to an open session item on this agenda which is distributed to the Board of Directors after the posting of this agenda will be available for public inspection at the time the subject writing or document is distributed at the District Office during normal business hours, and may be posted on the District's website at www.losososcscsd.org.

Please silence all cell phones during the meeting as a courtesy to others.

Consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act and California Government Code §54954.2, requests for disability related modification or accommodation including auxiliary aids or services may be made by a person with a disability who requires the modification or accommodation in order to participate at the referenced public meeting by contacting the General Manager at 805-528-9370 or at the District Office during normal business hours.

1. OPENING – 5:30 P.M.

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call

2. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Members of the public may address the Board relating to any item of interest within the Board's jurisdiction but *not* on its agenda today. Public comment and public testimony shall be directed to the Board President and shall be addressed to the Board of Directors as a whole. Please state your name before addressing the Board. Each person addressing the Board of Directors shall do so in an orderly and civil manner. **Public Comment is limited to three (3) minutes or otherwise at the discretion of the President.**

3. GENERAL ACTION ITEMS

Public comment and public testimony shall be directed to the Board President and shall be addressed to the Board of Directors as a whole. Please state your name before addressing the Board. Each person addressing the Board of Directors shall do so in an orderly and civil manner. **Public Comment is limited to three (3) minutes or otherwise at the discretion of the President.**

- A. Discussion of a Draft Letter from the Board of Directors to County of San Luis Obispo Board of Supervisors requesting a delay to the Public Hearing regarding the adoption of a five year rate increase for the Los Osos Wastewater Service Area scheduled for April 21, 2020. [Recommend Approval]
- B. Discussion if District should cast a protest vote for District owned properties in the Los Osos Wastewater Service Area [Recommend Discussion and Direction to Staff]

4. ADJOURNMENT



April 7, 2020

TO: LOCSD Board of Directors

FROM: Ron Munds, General Manager

SUBJECT: Item 3A & 3B – 4/7/2020 Board of Directors Meeting

Discussion of a Draft Letter from the Board of Directors to the County of San Luis Obispo Board of Supervisors regarding the adoption of a five-year rate increase for the Los Osos Wastewater Service Area and a discussion of submitting protests of the rate increase for the two District owned properties that would be impacted.

President
Charles L. Cesena

Vice President
Christine M. Womack

Directors
Matthew D. Fourcroy
Vicki L. Milledge
Marshall E. Ochylski

General Manager
Ron Munds

District Accountant
Robert Stilts, CPA

Unit Chief
Scott M. Jalbert

Battalion Chief
George Huang

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 6064
Los Osos, CA 93412

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Los Osos, CA 93402

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STAFF RECOMMENDATION

- 1. Provide direction to staff on the preferred correspondence alternative regarding the proposed sewer rate increase to be transmitted to the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors.***
- 2. Provide direction to staff on whether to submit a protest to the rate increase for the two District properties that would impacted by the rate increase.***

DISCUSSION

At the April 2, 2020 Board meeting, the Board requested the scheduling of Special Board meeting to discuss the County's proposed Los Osos sewer rate increase and the implications on the community. Suggested topics for the meeting included a possible request to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) to delay the public hearing on the rate increase schedule for April 21, 2020 and possibly submitting a protest to the rate increase for the District properties effected by the increase.

Since the April 2nd meeting, staff had an opportunity to talk to County staff about LOCSD's concerns regarding a rate increase at a time unemployment is rising and businesses are shutdown. It was indicated that at this time, they were proceeding with the public hearing and if the protest fails, will adopt the new rates but would likely recommend that implementation of the increase be delayed until the COVID-19 crisis came to an end. This is a similar action the BOS took in March with a County Service Area water rate increase.

With this in mind, staff is presenting three alternative for the Board to consider to address the District's sewer rate increase concerns.

Alternative 1

Alternative 1 (draft letter attached) would request a delay of the public hearing to a time when full public participation would be available. The correspondence outlines the concern in the community of raising rates when individuals, families and businesses are reeling from the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic.

Alternative 2

Alternative 2 (draft letter attached) would not request a delay of the public hearing but would request a delay in implementing the sewer rate increase if

the BOS chooses to move forward with the adoption of the rate until a time that the financial impacts of the COVID-19 crisis have past.

Alternative 3

Alternative 3 would combine alternatives 1 and 2 by requesting a delay of the public hearing but if the BOS decided to move forward, request a delay in the implementation of the new rates until a time that the financial impacts of the COVID-19 crisis have past (no draft letter attached).

Additionally, at the April 2nd Board meeting, the Board requested that there be a discussion on submitting protests to the County for the two District properties that would be impacted by the sewer rate increase. The two properties effected are the fire station on Bayview Heights Drive and the water yard and office on 8th Street.

Attachment



April 7, 2020

Members of the Board of Supervisors
1055 Monterey Street, D430
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Dear members of the Board of Supervisor,

On April 7th, the Los Osos Community Services District's Board of Directors held a Special Board meeting to discuss the County's intention of holding a public hearing on the proposed sewer rate increase at the April 21st Board of Supervisor's meeting. The outcome of our meeting was support by the Board of Directors to respectfully request a delay in the public hearing to a time when engaged public participation and comment is possible. Though we understand that public meetings can and will be held virtually, by experience, we know how limiting this format is to public participation, especially by seniors and low income individuals and families that will be most impacted by the proposed rate increase.

While we fully understand we have no authority in this matter, we are elected officials that represent the entire District. We are keenly aware that there is heightened public concern in our community that a decision to raise the sewer rates at a time when individuals, families and businesses are reeling from the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic is not timely or warranted. With the dramatic rise in unemployment and the closure of many businesses for indefinite period of time in Los Osos, please consider the ramifications of moving forward.

All public agencies that provide water and wastewater service in California are under pressure to continue to provide these vital services while being sensitive to the magnitude of crisis we are operating under. In fact, Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-42-20 signed on April 2nd implements a moratorium on water service disconnection for non-payment of bills during the COVID-19 emergency which demonstrates the enormity of the situation.

In summary, as a Board of Directors, we urge you to reconsider the timing of the public hearing for the proposed sewer rate increase and wait until time that full participation by community members is possible. It is understood that financial considerations need to be balanced with the current crisis but we believe a delay will not have an adverse effect on operations of the Los Osos wastewater system for the near term. I and the other Board members are available for any questions you may have, feel free to reach out to us as needed.

Respectfully,

Charles L. Cesena
President of the Board
Los Osos Community Services District

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Dear Members of the Board of Supervisor,

President

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On April 7th, the Los Osos Community Services District's Board of Directors held a special Board meeting to discuss the County's intention of holding a public hearing to approve the proposed sewer rate increase at the April 21st Board of Supervisor's meeting. Assuming the rate will be approved, the Board of Directors respectfully request a delay in the implementation of the increase until a time that the financial impacts of the COVID-19 crisis have past.

While we fully understand we have no authority in this matter, we are elected officials that represent the entire District. We are keenly aware that there is heightened public concern in our community, that the decision to raise the sewer rates at a time when individuals, families and businesses are reeling from the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic is not timely or reasonable given the circumstances.

In summary, with the dramatic rise in unemployment and the closure of many businesses for indefinite period of time in Los Osos, as a Board of Directors, we urge you to consider a delay in the implementation of the new rates until a time the economic recovery of the community from the pandemic crisis is assured. It is understood that County's financial considerations need to be balanced with the current crisis but we believe a delay will not have an adverse effect on operations of the Los Osos wastewater system for the near term. I and the other Board members are available for any questions you may have, feel free to reach out to us as needed.

Respectfully,

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