



July 11, 2024

**TO:** LOCSD Board of Directors

**FROM:** Ron Munds, General Manager

**SUBJECT: Agenda Item 11F – 7/11/2024 Board Meeting**

Approve Letter of Support for the Cabrillo Estates Property Owner's Association Grant Application to the Rose Foundation for Funding a Preliminary Engineering Report for Connection to the Los Osos Wastewater Project.

**President**

Marshall E. Ochylski

**Vice President**

Christine M. Womack

**Directors**

Charles L. Cesena  
Matthew D. Fourcroy  
Troy C. Gatchell

**General Manager**

Ron Munds

**District Accountant**

Robert Stilts, CPA

**Unit Chief**

John Owens

**Battalion Chief**

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

This item will be approved along with the Consent Calendar unless it is pulled by a Director for separate consideration. If so, Staff recommends that the Board adopt the following motion:

***Motion: I move that the Board approve a letter of support for the Cabrillo Estates Property Owner's Association (CEPOA) Grant Application to the Rose Foundation for Funding a Preliminary Engineering Report for Connection to the Los Osos Wastewater Project.***

**DISCUSSION**

For decades, the community has been battling nitrate contamination in Los Osos groundwater basin which is the only source of water for the approximately 15,000 residents. When the prohibition zone boundaries were drawn for the Los Osos wastewater project, several areas on the community were not included, including the Cabrillo Estates neighborhood. The 246 homes in the neighborhood continue to rely on the use of onsite septic systems for wastewater disposal.

Recently, the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board presented evidence that the septic tanks from Cabrillo Estates neighborhood are contaminating municipal wells down gradient of the neighborhood. Connecting the neighborhood to the community's wastewater system will aid in improving the water quality in the groundwater basin which is consistent with the long-term Los Osos groundwater basin management plan's objectives.

The CEPOA has been concerned with the potential financial consequences to property owners with the presence of nitrates in the area. With the relatively new onsite wastewater treatment systems Local Agency Management Plan (LAMP) requirements in place, which are very expensive to comply with if there are problems with an existing septic system, the CEPOA is pursuing a connection to the Los Osos wastewater project.

There first step for the CEPOA is to have preliminary engineering and construction cost report developed so the neighborhood can assess the level of financial commitment necessary and the mechanisms available to fund the project. They are applying for a grant from the Rose Foundation to secure the initial funding needed for the report.

Since the project supports the Los Osos Basin Plan objectives to solve the water quality issues associated with nitrate contamination in the groundwater basin, the

staff recommendation is to support the request by providing a letter of support to the CEPOA.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT**

There is no financial impact to the District to adopt this plan.

**Attachments**

Draft Letter of Support



July 11, 2024

**To the Rose Foundation Central Coast Community-Based Water Quality Grants Program**

Dear Rose Foundation,

**President**  
Marshall E. Ochylski

**Vice President**  
Christine M. Womack

**Directors**  
Charles L. Cesena  
Matthew D. Fourcroy  
Troy C. Gatchell

**General Manager**  
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The Los Osos Community Services District (District) Board of Directors is in strong support of the Cabrillo Estates Property Owners Association (Association) effort to connect to the Los Osos Water Reclamation Facility. For decades, the community has been battling nitrate contamination in Los Osos groundwater basin which is the only source of water for the approximately 15,000 residents.

The Cabrillo Estates neighborhood, which has 246 homes, was not included in the original wastewater project and continues to rely on septic systems. Recently, the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board presented evidence that the septic tanks from Cabrillo Estates neighborhood are contaminating municipal wells down gradient of the neighborhood. Connecting the neighborhood to the community's wastewater system will aid in improving the water quality in the groundwater basin which is consistent with the long-term Los Osos groundwater basin management plan's objectives.

It is the District's understanding that the grant funds being pursued will enable the Association to initiate the development of a preliminary engineering report which will include a cost estimate necessary for the neighborhood to assess the level of financial commitment needed to fund the project. This is an important first step towards forming a tax assessment district to finance the project's final design and construction.

In summary, the District fully supports the solution being presented by the Association and would encourage the Rose Foundation's serious consideration and approval of their grant application.

Sincerely,

Marshall E. Ochylski  
President of the Board of Directors  
Los Osos Community Services District

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