

Public Comment for Items Not On the Agenda

San Luis Obispo County maintains a website regarding the coronavirus. It keeps a tally of how many cases of the virus have been diagnosed in the County by city and community, only if the city or community has five or more cases. Otherwise, everyone else is lumped into a category called "Other."

Letting people know that there is a case diagnosed in their community could be educational and motivational, but communities in the "Other" category will not have this information until they get to the seemingly arbitrary number of five. I would hope we all want to keep our numbers down and want to encourage it. Knowing our number could help.

Information is power, so please, ask Public Health to break out the "Other" category into the individual communities. When you are given an answer to why they haven't done it, please screen it for how rational it sounds during a pandemic.

Thanks

Ellen Sturtz
Los Osos Resident

Dear Honorable Board Members,

I am writing to request a postponement of the Sewer Rate Hike hearing tonight.

Is it morally correct to hold this vote during a National Pandemic, better yet, a shelter at home mandate by our governor? I wonder?

It seems it is the duty of our elected public servants to act in the best interest of the people in Los Osos? Is it not? If so, I beg you to do the right thing and postpone the vote hearing until a time when we are allowed to go outside again someday.

Thank you for your gracious time and consideration.

Tami Donner

Public Comment For Agenda Item 3A

Although I do appreciate the request for a postponement, we need to make an effort to thwart this now. Therefore, I request that the csd do a mailing to remind people to vote by April 21. Upon reflection and another perusal of the document sent to us by the county, I understand why people did not respond. The document was not dated. It was printed on flimsy paper giving an immediate impression of low importance. It was filled with meaningless charts - not actual detailed impact costs but vague generalities. It was clearly intended to obfuscate the issue into a non-reaction by the good citizens of Los Osos.

We need to get people to react and react now. We cannot drag this out. When the virus crisis has passed, we are going to get caught up in a battle for personal economic survival. It is going to be more difficult to rally our efforts. Let's win this now!

Cynthia LaPier

Public Comment For Agenda Item 3A

FOR PUBLIC COMMENT AT APRIL 7, 2020 LOS OSOS COMMUNITY SERVICES MEETING

Dear Los Osos CSD Members:

Thank you for placing on your agenda a letter to the County Board of Supervisors encouraging them to delay the hearing on the proposed Los Osos sewer rate increase. In addition to the letter I encourage you to do anything in your power to delay this process.

It is a process, and public involvement is essential to good governance, no matter how painful that can be for government at times. During this global pandemic, governmental activities have been delayed, from filing taxes, Supreme Court oral arguments to a California Department of Toxic Substances Control item regarding the Morro Bay Power Plant site.

I am having a difficult time understanding why the County insists on limiting public involvement by pursuing this non-essential timeline. Just to be clear, public involvement and engagement even in the internet age in our community includes, though not limited to, such activities as tabling at Farmers Market, going door to door, and visiting with community groups. None of these activities are a priority at this time, nor are safe or perhaps in some cases legal. Rightfully so, people are focused with survival--taking care of family, friends and the community--and all that involves.

Why would we have anyone focused elsewhere?

This includes County staff. Almost three weeks ago I sent a four page letter to County Public Works, and when I did not receive a response, and the item did not look like it was being delayed, I contacted the County. To say I felt guilty reaching out to staff and our District Supervisor is an understatement.

I was told by the District Supervisor that the point person on the proposed sewer increase "...has significant duties in our response to the COVID-19 situation and I would expect she needs some time to respond to your various questions."

I spoke with someone in Public Works who was knowledgeable and amiable to answering my questions, willing to have a conversation in a couple of weeks. To his credit, he seemed to understand and was willing to communicate my argument for delay to the powers that be.

The last thing I want is for staff to be taken away from their crisis related duties to deal with the proposed Los Osos sewer rate increase. Nor do I want to see Los Osos residents in their way doing the same. Do you?

BEWARE—Our District Supervisor wrote: "None of the options (before the Board) would impose the rate increase while the COVID-19 emergency is upon us." Don't be fooled, this is a way for other Board members and perhaps members of the CSD to feel comfortable with moving forward and not delaying. It has NOTHING to do with having a complete process including unencumbered community participation.

After this pandemic passes we will all be judged by what we did and did not do. Please be a hero and do everything you can to stop this clock and show the CSD can be prudent and rational during this challenging time.

Thank you for your efforts in advance.

Sincerely,

ELLEN STURTZ, Los Osos Resident

April 7, 2020

Dear President Cesena and Board of Directors:

In regard to the General Action Items on tonight's agenda:

Item A:

Please send the letter to the San Luis Obispo County Board of Directors to delay the public hearing in regard to the 5 years sewer rate increase for the Los Osos Wastewater Services District.

Despite our intense focus on staying healthy, saving lives and curtailing the spread of a deadly disease; it appears the County intends to go forward with this "virtual" hearing on the 21st. I believe this is in violation of our 1st Amendment Rights to Peaceably Assemble and to Petition our Government.

In crucial matters affecting the entire community within the Prohibition Zone, this non-attendance meeting prohibits our community from coming together to collectively face the board and provide the mutual energy to plead our case.

In addition, the community has been deprived of spreading the message about this impending rate increase; unable to go door to door, table at Farmers Market and other locations, speak at local meetings, etc., to get the word out to sign the protest. None of that is possible now.

I believe The rate increase will have deleterious and pernicious effects on a small community already facing economic repercussions from the current Shelter-at-Home orders.

Please voice your opinion and tell the Board of Supervisors to delay this hearing.

In addition please appeal to the County CAO and Emergency Services Director, Wade Horton to use his authority to advise the board to delay.

Item B:

Please cast a NO vote for all the properties currently assessed and owned by the District.

As stated above the economic impacts upon our community has already resulted in many losing their jobs and facing an uncertain future.

A rate increase should not even be considered during a nationwide pandemic.

Shameful.

Regards,

Vita Miller