

From: Harvey Packard
To: Sorrel Marks
Date: Tue, Nov 15, 2005 2:55 PM
Subject: Fwd: RE: support of Faye Just's contention that the Tribune is biased against Los Osos

Here's another email. maybe you got it too.

>>> Peter "Piero" Brewer <pete@lerici.com> 11/15/2005 1:01 PM >>>
Dear Editor Prado,
I am writing in support of Ms. Faye Just contention.

First and foremost I would like to point out that there is no indisputable evidence that the current septic system is polluting the Estuary and the waters around Morro Bay et al. There have been studies and recent readings that show that the septic systems have not contaminated the fresh water aquifer. Instead centralized sewage treatment plants at Monarch Grove and near the golf course have been creating high levels of nitrates.

I should think your paper would print that information as well as the edicts imposed by director Briggs. Instead you continue to state that Los Osos septic tanks are responsible for polluting the bay. A study by Dr. Kitts from Cal Poly on seeps recently demonstrated just the reverse and his statements are recorded from a past Los Osos CSD meeting.

If anything you should at least say that Los Osos septic tanks allegedly pollute the estuary. Without hard scientific evidence no one can state with certainty that Los Osos is polluting anything since it has yet to pollute its aquifer in the 15 years or so that measurements and readings have been taken.

Finally, there is the grand gravity collection sewage treatment plant. The last status report distributed by LOCSO Manager Bruce Buel showed that the cost had risen to over \$200,000,000. It is a cost plus project in which there were only one bidder. The constant increase seems to show a project that whose crescendo would peak above \$300,000,000. That is what it cost the US for the Saturn V from inception to launch. A sewage treatment plant for 5,000 households.

And it is the wrong system. Exactly because it lies above a very pure fresh water aquifer and is close to an environmental sensitive coastal area. Is this my statement? The statement of the current LOCSO and its supporters? No, it is the statement of the Environmental Protection Agency in Washington DC. To wit:

From the EPA handbook on Onsite and Clustered (Decentralized) Waste Water Treatment Systems.

1.7 Current status of decentralized wastewater management

In 1997 USEPA issued the Response to Congress on Use of Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems. This report was a milestone: USEPA acknowledged for the first time that sewerage the entire country was not feasible and that decentralized wastewater systems were a viable alternative to centralized facilities. The report also described the inherent benefits of properly managed decentralized wastewater systems:

More cost-effective than central sewer alternatives, except in densely populated urban centers.
Longer service lives for managed onsite systems vs. unmanaged systems.

Faster response to problems; smaller problem impacts
Increased opportunity for better watershed management.
Better ground water protection and management capabilities.
Increased property values.

The EPA bases its latest data from groundbreaking research by people like Dr. Robert L. Siegrist, PHD,

PE

Professor and director for Environmental Science at the Colorado School of Mines in Golden CO.

He states:

Sewers can lead to problems with CWM:

SSOs and CSOs are serious and prevalent.

In 2001 the EPA estimated that on an annual basis
there were 40,000 sanitary sewer overflows (SSO)
400,000 backups into basements.

1.3 trillion gallons / year of sewage discharge by CSOs
(centralized sewer facility overflows.)

Roughly 1.8 to 3.5 million people get sick each year by
swimming in water contaminated by SSO's.

And your paper has reported this phenomena right here on the central coast in
San Luis Obispo, in Pismo, in San Simeon, Morro Bay and I am told it happens
almost regularly during heavy rains in Cayucos!!!!

I attach his talk on the topic.

CC: Matt Thompson