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Subject: 2024 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) New Requests

The Los Olivos Community Services District (LOCSO) has jurisdictional boundaries within the broader Los Olivos Special Problems Area. The LOCSO and Special Problems Area are located in the Santa Ynez Valley portion of northern Santa Barbara County. The Special Problems Area was designated in 1974.

The LOCSO was formed by local residents in 2018 to address high levels of nitrates in local shallow groundwater aquifers that contributed to the Special Problems Area designation. The LOCSO currently consists of 378 parcels and had a Fiscal Year 2023-24 budget of \$227,650. The LOCSO is pursuing a community wastewater treatment solution that will replace septic tanks that are a notable contributor to nitrate levels (the Project).

On its very limited budget, the LOCSO has completed a number of studies in order to engineer potential solutions for the Project. Studies have included 30% design documents for a gravity-fed wastewater collection to membrane bioreactor (MBR) treatment facility. Cost estimates for the gravity-fed collection to MBR solution were calculated at \$47,800,000. Given these high costs per parcel (\$126,455 if costs were equally split between all parcels), the LOCSO has hired an engineering firm to complete a 30% design of an effluent collection system as a potentially more cost-effective approach to gravity-fed collection. The LOCSO is also exploring connection to the only other municipal wastewater treatment facility in the Santa Ynez Valley, run by the City of Solvang, that may have capacity to treat LOCSO wastewater. All of these engineering studies are anticipated to be completed in early 2024.

Concurrent with engineering and design efforts, the LOCSO installed two groundwater monitoring wells in 2022 and is in the process of installation three additional groundwater monitoring wells that should be completed in early 2024. The data from the wells represents the first consistent and reliable testing the community has undergone in over 30 years.

As noted, the LOCSO anticipates completing its engineering design efforts next year. Following completion of the engineering design efforts, the LOCSO will begin pursuing two significant efforts related to the Project:

- Priority 1 - 60% Engineering Design - effort costs estimated in excess of \$300,000
- Priority 2 - Environmental Impact Assessment and Review - effort cost estimated in excess of \$150,000, and Continued Groundwater Sampling and Testing - effort cost estimated at \$12,500, combined effort amount in excess of \$162,500.

The LOCSO is submitting two Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) requests. One each for the efforts and amounts noted above.