

LOCAC is an advisory group. When making recommendations, it is our duty to take into consideration the evidence of a sustainable water supply and is therefore why we are submitting this letter that addresses development with new water use.

The community is concerned about our water supply and asks the County to take into serious consideration our concerns and requests before approving any development that uses new water.

The California Coastal Commission Staff has expressed concern that there is not sufficient evidence of an adequate water supply for any new development.¹ The Los Osos Sustainability Group (LOSG) has expressed concerns about the Los Osos water supply and its sustainability.² The local water purveyors have also stated their doubts about the sustainability of the groundwater basin.³

The San Luis Obispo County Local Coastal Program (LCP) provisions on water supply include those that require denial of projects where adequate water or wastewater services are not available.⁴ Los Osos is a community that has historically suffered from an inadequate water supply; from a groundwater basin continually being over drafted, to a water quality that is negatively impacted due to sea water intrusion and nitrate contamination. The current water basin management policy is based on what should work. At this time, there is no data to show that it does.⁵

LOCAC supports a growth of our community that is responsible and just. We support transparency and ask the County to inform all applicants of this issue of water and the lack of support for new development involving its use.

Before any new development is approved, we want to see data that demonstrates the Los Osos water supply is healthy and that further development will not cause permanent harm to the basin. We respectfully request:

1. to see conclusive evidence that Los Osos has a sustainable water supply, now and in the future, for its existing community, its environmentally sensitive habitats, and its existing agricultural businesses.
2. to see conclusive evidence that there is a water supply that is protected from salt-water intrusion and nitrite contamination.
3. to see new development restricted not only in the prohibition zone but restricted throughout Los Osos, no matter the lot size or location. We all take water from the same basin.

LOCAC and the Land Use Committee will always have discretion to approve recommendation of development based on evidence of water supply and sustainability.

¹Watson, Mike. March 26, 2021. 'Staff Report Substantial Issue Determination Appeal Number A-3 SLO-21-0020 (Pat Kimbell Second Unit, Los Osos)'. *California Coastal Commission*.

²Basin Basics. *The Los Osos Sustainability Group*. Accessed April 15, 2021. Available at: <https://www.thelosg.com/basin-basics-faq.html>.

³Johnson, Peter. (2020) 'Los Osos residents and water purveyors raise concerns about county plan to allow new development.' *New Times*. December 3, 2020. Accessed April 15, 2021. Available at: <https://www.newtimeslo.com/sanluisobispo/los-osos-residents-and-water-purveyors-raise-concerns-about-county-plan-to-allow-new-development/Content?oid=10359121>; Gardner, Chris. (July 2020). S&T letter to the

county on Los Osos water. *Vice President of the Board and S&T Staff Representative to the Los Osos Basin Management Committee*; Zimmer, Mark. (July 2020) GSWC recommendations for SLO County re Consideration of Growth Management Plan. *General Manager Coastal District, Golden State Water Company*; Miller, Rob. (July 2020) BMC recommendations to the Coastal Commission. *Interim Director of Basin Management Committee*; Munds, Ron. (July 2020) CSD recommends cautious and measured approach to approving any new development in the CSD service area. *General Manager Los Osos CSD*.

⁴Coastal Zone Land Use Ordinance 23.04.430, page 4-159. Available at: [https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Planning-Building/Forms-Documents/Ordinances/Coastal-Land-Use-Ordinance-\(Title-23\).pdf](https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Planning-Building/Forms-Documents/Ordinances/Coastal-Land-Use-Ordinance-(Title-23).pdf); Coastal Plan Policies, county of San Luis Obispo (1988, revised 2007). Coastal Public Policy #1. *San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors, California Coastal Commission*.

⁵Cesena, Charles. (December 2020). Los Osos Basin Plan not in sync with LOCP. *President of the Board Los Osos CSD*.