

Kate Ballantyne
Environmental Resources Specialist
San Luis Obispo County Department of Public Works

October 28, 2008

Dear Kate:

Please find comments on the Native American Initial Participation Plan Los Osos Wastewater Project, Draft October 2008 below:

The Northern Chumash Tribal Council would like to thank the County of San Luis Obispo for communicating with the Native American Community in our county in a positive manner.

The Northern Chumash Tribal Council (NCTC) would like to take this opportunity to state that no matter what the laws dictate and no matter what the agencies say there is only one thing that really matters and that is that we treat each other the way we each want to be treated.

Somewhere in the past something happened that changed the way certain races of people were treated and laws and regulations had to be created to force people to be better human beings, we do not have to stand inside of that box, we can work creatively outside the norm to make this county a better place to live for all races, without laws or regulations forcing us to do so.

To understand the Chumash Cosmology and our way of life, which is our ceremony, linear thinking (scientific data) needs to be put aside and dimensional thinking needs to be the norm. For the Chumash People our Ancestors still visit and walk our Sacred Site and Sacred Places and give us love and guidance in our lives. Today the NCTC has been given the honor of protecting our Sacred Sites and Sacred Places, are we doing a good job? If we were able to see with our Ancestors eyes, would they be happy about the highways and building that cross our Sacred Sites and Sacred Places, we as a community have a long way to go, and hopefully before all our Sacred Sites and Sacred Places are destroyed we will learn a better way to convince and communicate with the dominant society that protecting our Sacred Sites and Sacred Places is also beneficial to this society and may even present insight into a better future for all.

NCTC would like to see boring technologies used whenever possible when encountering Native American Chumash Cultural Resources. These technologies are very accurate, core drilling could determine the depth of the resources and boring can go underneath.

NCTC would like to see more on-site communication between construction crews and Native Monitor/Consultants, we have found that although construction crews mean no harm they have a way of causing destruction to Native Sites unintentional, but to our detriment, so we are recommending a Native American Coordinator for the entire project, a person who will be involved with the entire project and is outside the daily monitoring/consulting, but can spot check and give advice and recommendations. All Native American Chumash Monitors/Consultants must adhere to high standards of professionalism.

To allow the Los Osos CSD to limit the participation of the Native American Community is Cultural Genocide, to deny a race of people the ability to learn more about their heritage is

Cultural Genocide, the County must not allow this type of thinking to prevail in our County. The Native American Community will not allow this type of thinking to stand, this is a fight worth correcting. In the County's Grand Jury recommendations in our Complaints filed against the City of Morro Bay and City of Pismo Beach they stated that communicating in a positive manner allows both parties to reach common ground, but when one party thinks that they know what is better for everyone without serious dialog the outcome can only be conflict, and conflict cost everyone time and money.

NCTC understand the Los Osos area to be a district, a clustering of villages and camps with their inter-connecting byways and highways, we did not have HAB technologies (hot air balloons), so we walk. There are many Sacred Places in the valley that will not have any cultural materials, but this does not mean that it is not a Sacred Places and only Native Americans know these places. So, the policy with allows Native Americans to work only 50-100 feet from a registered site is flawed and needs to be revisited. Recently, I was working on Santa Ysabela Ave., we were allowed to work 50 feet from our registered sites only, I asked home owner's in-between the registered site and they were telling me that they had burials in their back yard when it was built, I investigated and found no records of the burials. The system is flawed and needs to be fixed, what is the reason that we are denied the ability to assist in locating and protection of Sacred Sites and Places that have not been identified or located? Have no doubt that what is decided here in this project will have lasting effects for years to come. Let's do it right.

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

Be Well,

Northern Chumash Tribal Council