

January 30, 2009

Mark Hutchinson

Re: Los Osos Wastewater Project  
Comments on Draft EIR

The mission of the Morro Coast Audubon Society (MCAS) representing 900+ members county-wide is "***To promote the appreciation, conservation and restoration of ecosystems, focusing on the biological diversity of birds, other wildlife, and their habitats, particularly in San Luis Obispo County.***" MCAS owns several properties in Los Osos, the most popular and well known being Sweet Springs Nature Preserve, which MCAS estimates receives over 1000 visits per month. Since the health of our properties depends on finding a solution to the ongoing pollution of the aquifer, MCAS supports the effort to build a wastewater treatment system for Los Osos.

While the Draft EIR states that the construction and operation of the wastewater project will have both short and long term environmental impacts, these impacts are thought to be able to be avoided, minimized, and mitigated to the point where the benefits of the project clearly outweigh the impacts. MCAS works in close collaboration with the Morro Bay National Estuary (MBNEP), and supports the more detailed comment letter submitted by Dan Berman, MBNEP Director. While MCAS is concerned about all aspects of the proposed project, our comments will be limited to the biological impacts as those are the portion of the project encompassed by our mission.

As such, MCAS realizes that during construction of any of the proposed alternatives, there will be disturbances to the habitat and therefore to the species utilizing this habitat. MCAS agrees with the findings of the Draft EIR that ultimately, after the construction is complete and the wastewater treatment system is functional, the status of the biological resources will, in fact, be improved compared to the current status.

MCAS requests that the identified impacts be avoided, minimized, and mitigated according to the Draft EIR recommendations. Further, MCAS wishes to be acknowledged as an interested party and notified of future developments regarding this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jan Surbey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jan Surbey  
MCAS President

