

**Alexander, Jacquelyne**

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**From:** Lynn Carlisle  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 15, 2015 7:51 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Cuyama Community Service District permit fee waiver



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Respected Supervisors,

I am the Executive Director of the Cuyama Valley Family Resource Center and a member of the newly-formed Cuyama Valley Community Association.

Thank you for considering the Cuyama Community Service District’s (CCSD) petition to waive the \$15,000 permitting fee as part of the district’s efforts to relocate the wastewater disposal ponds to bring the Cuyama Wastewater Treatment Plant into compliance with the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board’s requirements. This move will allow the CCSD to avoid future penalties that the district and the community can ill-afford.

All costs associated with operating the CCSD are paid for either by the rate payers or through grants, which the CCSD actively pursues on a continuous basis. In this case, the permitting fee of \$15,000 associated with moving the wastewater disposal ponds, is not covered by the available grants. If not waived, the cost of the permits will have to be met by the rate payers. Currently, the base rate for all rate payers in the CCSD is \$136/month for water and sewer, in addition to monthly use. Yet the average income for the community is approximately \$37,000. Paying for water and sewer now represents 4.4% of the average household’s monthly income, and a far higher percent for those households in Cuyama whose income is well below the average. Indeed, the County recently designated New Cuyama as a Disadvantaged Unincorporated Community. To ask the 225+ CCSD rate payers to again accept a rate increase that they cannot afford, will be unduly burdensome for this low-income community, many of whom are families, individuals and seniors served by the Cuyama Valley Family Resource Center.

The CCSD and its all-volunteer board have worked diligently to secure state grant funds to correct issues that have impacted the district for many years. As I understand it, funds to complete this project are in place and the district is ready to move forward with the required relocation, pending the necessary County permits.

I respectfully request that you consider waiving the permitting fees and allow this project to move forward to a successful conclusion.

Again, thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this request.

With gratitude,

Lynn Carlisle