

CUYAMA COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

4853 Primero Street
P.O. Box 368
New Cuyama, CA 93254

Phone (661) 766-2780
Fax (661) 766-2632
ccsd@inreach.com

April 9, 2015

County of Santa Barbara
Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Attn: Supervisor Salud Carbajal

Re: Wastewater Treatment Plant Effluent Removal Remediation Project
Request to Waive Fees

Dear Supervisor Carbajal and Board of Supervisors:

The Cuyama Community Services District (CCSD) has received Notice of Violations from the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board for being out of compliance with State Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Waste Discharge Requirements. The District is currently operating under its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit, which expired on May 11, 2012.

To reach compliance, the Water Board has mandated that the District change the effluent disposal method to land discharge. This mandatory change has prompted the CCSD to undertake an extensive WWTP Effluent Removal Remediation Project, which in effect will move the location of disposal ponds to an adjacent property. The Water Board is awaiting the issuance of a new permit, pending the completion of this WWTP Effluent Removal Remediation Project.

Currently, the CCSD has nearly completed the initial planning for the Project with financial assistance from a Clean Water State Revolving Fund Small Community Grant. The District is ready to move forward with the next step toward installation of the project; however, substantial County fees are required to continue with the process.


This letter serves as a formal request to you and the Board of Supervisors to waive all Planning & Development fees associated with the transition to Waste Discharge Requirements, thereby allowing CCSD to come into compliance with the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board regulations and hopefully achieve retroactive forgiveness of violation fees to date.

The expense of the County fees that are required to proceed with the project would place a significant financial burden on the CCSD, as we are a small district with limited funds serving a small disadvantaged low-income community. In fact, Santa Barbara County just adopted a new disadvantaged designation incorporating New Cuyama into the Santa Barbara County Comprehensive Plan Land Use Element in February of this year.

It is important to note that the CCSD does not see an option to raise customer water/sewer rates to generate funds for this expense. Unfortunately, in recent years the CCSD has already had to raise base rates to meet other operational and compliance needs. Thus we are already seeing that a majority of our customers are already struggling to pay their monthly bill.

Thank you for your consideration. The Cuyama Community Services District Board of Directors and Staff appreciate your consideration and any assistance that Santa Barbara County is able to provide in order for the District to better serve the community and remain in compliance with our local, State and Federal regulatory agencies.

Sincerely,



U.S. Wilson
Manager

USW/viv
