

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
BOARD AGENDA LETTER**



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

**Agenda
Number:**

Prepared on: November 29, 2005
Department: General Services
Budget Unit:
Agenda Date: December 13, 2005
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time: N/A
Continued Item: NO
**If Yes, date
from:**

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Supervisor Firestone, 3rd District
**STAFF
CONTACT:** David Smyser, 568-2192
SUBJECT: Los Olivos Business District

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors set a hearing for January 10, 2006 for 45 minutes to consider the following:

- A. Authorize the lease/purchase of a portable restroom unit for downtown Los Olivos and approve the necessary budget revision to fund the expenditure.
- B. Direct staff to initiate discussions with the merchants in Los Olivos regarding the formation of a Business Improvement District in order to pursue a permanent public restroom solution, and to formalize the manner in which Los Olivos merchants promote their businesses and procure other downtown public amenities.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

Goal No. 4: A community that is economically vital and sustainable.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

Los Olivos currently has a merchants association that serves as the informal governance structure to make marketing decisions and spend small amounts of money collected by the association for items that benefit their members and promote business in Los Olivos. One item they fund is the rental and servicing of four port-a-potties. These units are located in the County right-of-way and are "allowed" without the benefit of a license or easement and were intended as a "temporary solution".

Subject: Los Olivos Business District

Date: December 13, 2005

Page 2

The association has requested the County's assistance in purchasing new, "semi-permanent" restrooms. The restrooms proposed are ADA compliant, have running water, are air-conditioned, and in general, are much nicer than the standard port-a-potty. In addition, one company contacted offers a lease/purchase option which enables the County to contribute a specific amount as a down payment, and allows the association to pay the remaining lease payment using the funds they are using to pay for the existing port-a-potties.

As stated above, it is acknowledged that this solution is not permanent. Both the County and the association agree that the preferred solution would be to have permanently installed restrooms located on publicly-owned land in downtown Los Olivos. In contemplating this preferred solution, it occurred to the 3rd District Office and the association that the time may be right to create a Los Olivos Business Improvement District in an effort to formalize the association's collective endeavors. Such a district is formed pursuant to Section 36600 of the Streets and Highways Code and is initiated by a written petition in which property or business owners in the proposed district who will pay more than 50% of the assessments proposed to be levied indicate their desire for the County to form the district.

Mandates and Service Levels:

None.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

It is proposed that the County contribute \$20,000 toward the purchase of the restrooms. The remaining amount would be leased by the County and reimbursed by the association.

Fiscal impacts associated with the formation of a Business Improvement District will be discussed in a future Board Letter should the merchants agree to pursue this option.