

From: "Jim Godfrey" <jim.clinicalcontrols@charterinternet.com>
To: <HPackard@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: Fri, Aug 19, 2005 3:57 PM
Subject: Los Osos contamination

Mr. Harvey Packard

Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

Dear Mr. Packard,

I am writing to you as I understand from your office that Mr. Briggs is on vacation. I think that you, or someone from the RWQCB, should immediately respond to today's article in the Tribune by Ms. Pam Ochs regarding the contamination of Morro Bay and Los Osos.

I have read the article and Ms. Ochs' comparison of the contamination of these two entities is like comparing apples to oranges. On January 24, 2005, I sent a letter to Dr. Maier (attached) asking for warning signs in contaminated areas of Los Osos, not Morro Bay. The bases of this letter are reports containing data provided by the RWQCB and the Morro Bay National Estuary Program. On February 9, 2005, I received a letter from Mr. Lichtenfels, EHS, that permanent warning signs would be installed at three Los Osos back-bay access points.

The microbial and nitrate contaminations in question are in Los Osos and are due to faulty septic systems. I did not address the question of Morro Bay, nor the report by Dr. Kitts, as they not pertinent to the Los Osos wastewater program. The citizens of Los Osos must be continually reminded that there is a serious contamination problem within the community and forget about the pollution caused by various other factions that continually empty into Morro Bay. There are several EPA information sources that link faulty septic systems to infectious disease, i.e. EPA-820-K-97-001. This community would be hard pressed to deal with an infection from a faulty septic system.

I feel that it is imperative that you call and meet with Tad Weber, Silas Lyons and Bill Morem of the Tribune to discuss the seriousness of this situation. Everyone must remind the Los Osos residents to concentrate their efforts on local contamination problems, not problems of the Morro Bay. Sometimes people need to focus on local situations and not mix in other troubles to confuse the issues at hand. Contamination of the Los Osos area will not go away without a sound wastewater structure.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Jim Godfrey

James F. Godfrey

Microbial Biochemist

Clinical Controls International

753 Santa Ysabel

Los Osos, CA 93402

Tel: (805) 528-4039

Fax: (805) 534-1348

Cell: (805) 215-2562

HYPERLINK "mailto:jim@clinicalcontrols.com"jim@clinicalcontrols.com

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Version: 7.0.338 / Virus Database: 267.10.13/78 - Release Date:
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CC: "Bill Morem" <bmorem@thetribunenews.com>