



SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

Paavo Ogren, Director

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November 7, 2013

Kenneth A. Harris Jr., Executive Officer  
California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region  
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-7906

**Subject: Construction Dewatering Disposal to Broderson Site for Los Osos Wastewater Project Collection System**

Dear Mr. Harris:

The purpose of this letter is to follow up on the recent correspondence regarding the construction dewatering for the Los Osos Wastewater Project, specifically the feasibility of dewatering disposal to the percolation area at the Broderson site. We have worked with our contractors to further evaluate the feasibility of disposal options, considering water quality, costs, and schedule. Based on the evaluation, dewatering disposal to the Broderson site could only be utilized for a few weeks and is not feasible. We are also including a summary of the overall dewatering operations and what is anticipated for the rest of the construction period.

Broderson Discharge Infeasibility

The water that is currently disposed to surface waters is from Area B of the collection system, which is primarily the Cuesta-by-the-Sea neighborhood. This is the area that would potentially be connected to the Broderson site for land disposal. The issues that have been considered in evaluating the feasibility of disposal to Broderson include the following:

- For the last month the TDS and Salinity levels from Area B dewatering wells have exceeded drinking water standard. For example, TDS has been in the range of 1,200 to 2,100 ppm. Disposal of water of this quality at Broderson would negatively impact the underlying groundwater.
- The extra, temporary, facilities necessary to connect the dewatering facilities to project pipelines for conveyance to Broderson are estimated to cost \$60,000. The cost estimate includes installing, testing and maintaining extra pumps, valves, fittings, tanks, and temporary electrical power.
- There is approximately 3,000 feet of pipeline trench remaining in Area B that requires dewatering, which constitutes approximately one month of work and dewatering discharges.
- The volume of water that would potentially be discharged to Broderson is approximately 200,000 gallons per day.

Considering the current TDS and Salinity levels in the dewatering discharges, the uncertainty that the water quality would improve and be suitable to discharge to Broderson, the cost of temporary facilities

to connect Area B to the Broderson site, and the relatively short time and low volumes of water that would be discharged at Broderson, it is not feasible to install the temporary facilities at this time or in the future.

### Dewatering Operations Summary

Since dewatering began in July, the project has averaged about 750,000 gallons per day of total dewatering. Of that amount, an average 400,000 gallons is percolated at Mid Town and 150,000 gallons used for construction, for a total of 550,000 gallons per day discharged to land. An average of 200,000 gallons per day has been discharged to areas that flow to surface waters. This is significantly less than planning estimates prepared in 2012, which is likely due, in part, to the exceptional low rainfall that occurred last winter. The contractors have completed pipeline installation in many areas where dewatering was planned, but ultimately not required. Maps depicting the planned and actual dewatering areas are attached. The dewatering disposal quantities are shown in the table below.

<b>Dewatering Disposal Quantities</b>	
<b>Description</b>	<b>Flow (gallons per day)</b>
Estimated dewatering flows in 2012 tech memo	up to 7,100,000
Actual average flows since July 2013	750,000
Average land disposal since July 2013	550,000
Average surface water disposal since July 2013	200,000

Moving forward to the completion of the collection system construction, it is anticipated that the dewatering in Area B will be completed soon and the 200,000 gallons per day of surface water discharge will cease. The remaining dewatering in Area A will continue into early 2014. Unless there is a significant change in water quality or other considerations, this water will be discharged to land, except during rainy periods, when surface water disposal is necessary in order to maintain the storm water capacity of Mid Town or other storm water infiltration basins.

### Conclusion

The County is continuing to work with its contractors to responsibly dispose of water from dewatering operations, complete the project, and ultimately eliminating septic tank discharges. We will continue to submit regular reports of dewatering quantity and quality to your staff. Please do not hesitate to contact John Waddell at (805) 788-2713 with any additional questions

Sincerely,



DAVE FLYNN  
Deputy Director of Public Works




### Attachment

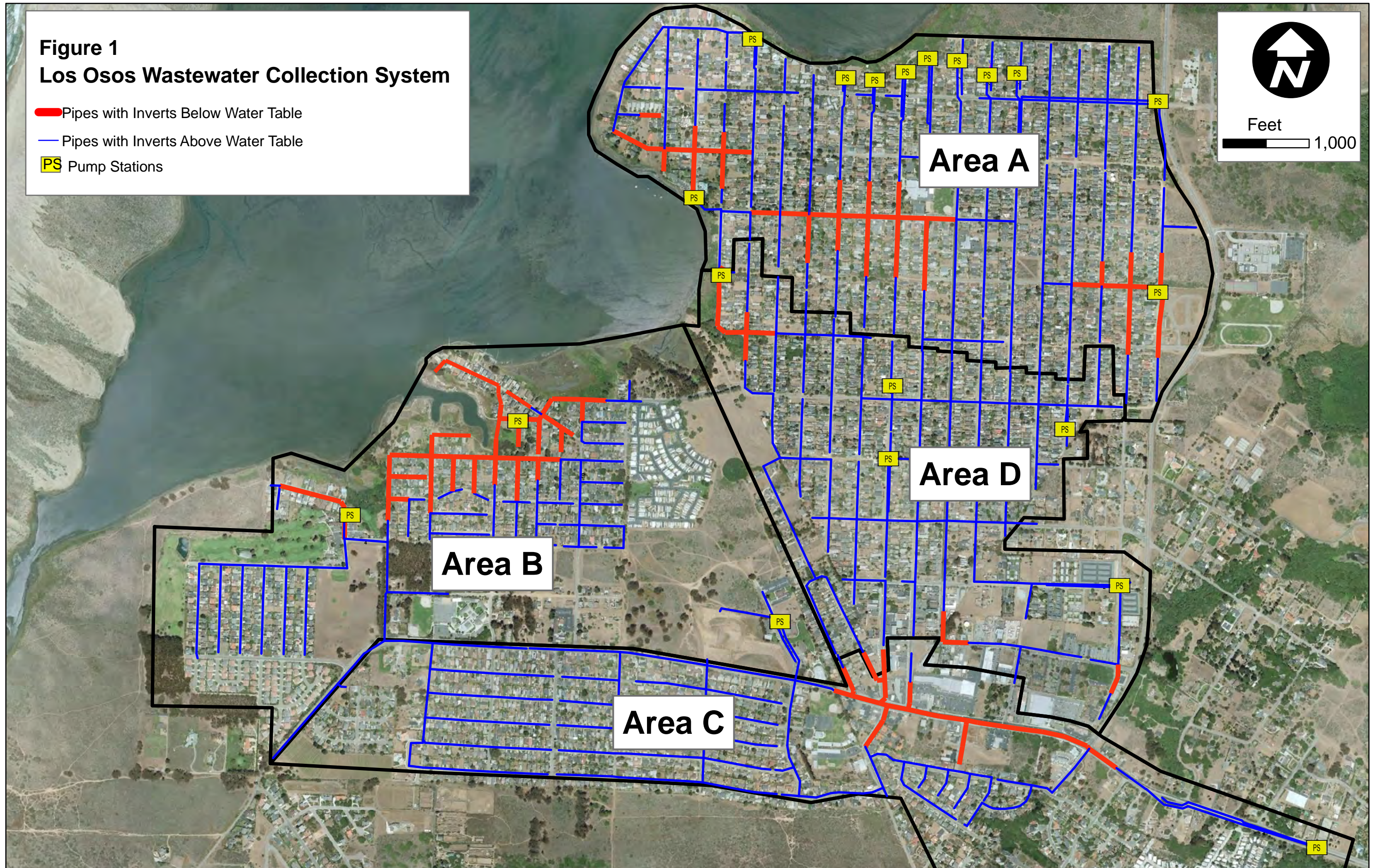
c: John Waddell, Los Osos Wastewater Project Manager  
David LaCaro, Regional Water Board staff

File: LOWWP 300448.03.4

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**Figure 1**  
**Los Osos Wastewater Collection System**

-  Pipes with Inverts Below Water Table
-  Pipes with Inverts Above Water Table
-  Pump Stations



11/1/13

