

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
WORKSHOP SESSION--DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY  
DECEMBER 9, 2005

**WORKSHOP ITEM 2**

**SUBJECT**

INFORMATIONAL ITEM – THIS IS A PUBLIC WORKSHOP TO DISCUSS THE DEVELOPMENT OF STATEWIDE REGULATIONS OR STANDARDS FOR THE PERMITTING AND OPERATION OF ONSITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS (OWTS).

**DISSCUSSION**

Assembly Bill 885 (2000, Jackson) required the State Water Board to adopt regulations or standards for the permitting and operation of onsite wastewater treatment systems. The legislation was sponsored by Heal the Bay after initial indications showed contamination of Malibu Creek was caused by OWTS. The legislation also received support from the California Association of Environmental Health Administrators, the Center for Marine Conservation, the Planning and Conservation League, Surfers Tired of Pollution, and the Sierra Club.

Division of Water Quality staff met with a stakeholder group of broad representation that resulted in several different draft regulations. In the summer of 2005, the latest version of the draft regulations was publicly released with a Notice of Preparation and an Initial Study (NOP&IS) assessing the environmental impacts of the draft regulations with a 60-day comment period. Five public meetings were held during the 60-day comment period. A scoping report is available at

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/septic\\_tanks/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/septic_tanks/index.shtml)

Division of Water Quality staff reviewed the comments from the Summer 2005 public meetings on environmental impacts from OWTS and the draft OWTS regulations.

**Attached** are the recommended revisions to those draft regulations.

At this workshop, staff will summarize and respond to the major comments received resulting from the NOP&IS. Staff will also make recommendations for revisions to the draft regulations and provide a timeline for adoption of the OWTS regulations. The public will then have an opportunity to provide the SWRCB input on this issue. The State Water Board will not make any decision regarding the OWTS rulemaking at this workshop.