

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL COAST REGION

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 7, 2007  
Prepared on June 29, 2007

ITEM NUMBER: 12

SUBJECT: **Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for On-Site Domestic Mounded Septic Disposal System, Mills Residence and Pet Boarding Facility, 1580 Rocks Road, San Juan Bautista (APN 197-081-23), San Benito County, Resolution No. R3-2007-0067**

KEY INFORMATION

Disposal Type: Individual on-site domestic septic system with mounded disposal system  
Design Flow: 900 gallons per day (GPD) pet boarding facility + 600 GPD domestic wastewater  
Property: 8.59-acres, zoned agriculture/residential  
Landowner/Discharger: Phil and Faye Mills  
Local Oversight Agency: San Benito County Division of Environmental Health  
**This Action: Adopt Resolution No. R3-2007-0067**

SUMMARY

This waiver of waste discharge requirements serves as a Basin Plan Exemption for repair and expansion of an existing septic system at 1580 Rocks Road in San Benito County. The discharge is a combination of domestic and pet sewage from a pet boarding facility. Due to shallow bedrock, the discharger requested a Basin Plan Exemption and proposes to install a septic and mounded disposal system design which meets requirements of State Water Board's 1980 *Guidelines for Mound Systems* and 1998 *Draft Mound System Guidelines*. Mounded disposal system designs have been successfully applied under similar conditions throughout the state and have proven to protect beneficial uses of groundwater.

DISCUSSION

On January 16, 2007, Water Board staff received a Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD); Supplemental Form for Regional Board Subsurface Disposal Exemption Submittal (Supplemental Form) for a proposed on-site domestic mounded septic disposal system at the above-referenced property from the San Benito County Division of Environmental Health (Environmental Health). Environmental Health determined the site is not suitable for a standard on-site subsurface disposal system and does not meet Basin Plan requirements because of insufficient vertical separation between standard disposal trench bottom and bedrock (less than five feet at the site). Consequently, Environmental Health cannot issue a permit without an

exemption from the Central Coast Water Board Basin Plan (Basin Plan) prohibition. The Environmental Health and San Benito County Planning & Building Departments certified the Supplemental Form on January 12, 2007, and recommended approval of the exemption request. The Executive Officer approved the Basin Plan exemption and notified the Discharger and requested parties of this proposed waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements on June 29, 2007.

Waste discharge requirements for on-site wastewater disposal system Basin Plan exemptions were formerly waived under Resolution No. 89-04, *Waiver of Regulation of Specific Types of Waste Discharges*. This waiver policy expired June 30, 2004. State Water Board staff is currently developing statewide regulations for on-site systems. Once these regulations are in place, Water Board staff will develop and present a general waiver of waste discharge requirements to the Water Board for review and adoption. In the meantime, Water Board staff will continue to propose that on-site systems, which local agencies can not permit because of Basin Plan prohibitions, be authorized by individual waivers of waste discharge requirements, provided the Discharger can demonstrate the system poses no significant threat to water quality.

### **System Design**

Bedrock is five feet below the ground surface at the subject property. The proposed mound system design accommodates this shallow bedrock. The conservatively designed proposed system has a peak daily flow of 1,500 GPD (900 GPD from pet boarding facility and 600 GPD from residence) with 4,777 square feet (sq ft) of mound basal area. An equivalent reserved mound basal area of 4,777 sq ft is set aside on the property. The mound system is located more than 100 feet away from domestic water supply wells, water courses, and springs. There are no reservoirs located at the property.

Semiannual inspection of the septic tank, pumping system, alarm system, and groundwater depth monitoring are required for the first two years then annually for the life of the system. The owner is also required to have the system inspected by a licensed septic tank contractor annually for solids buildup and pump the system as necessary. Environmental Health staff will provide regular inspection and oversight of the sewage disposal system and will monitor the system after all rainfall events resulting in greater than one inch of precipitation.

The proposed septic and mounded disposal system design meets requirements of State Water Board's 1980 *Guidelines for Mound Systems* and 1998 *Draft Mound System Guidelines*.

### **Conditional Waiver**

The proposed discharge of domestic sewage to a mounded disposal system is subject to various conditions and monitoring and reporting requirements as specified in the attached Waiver Resolution.

The proposed septic system, if operated and maintained in accordance with the Environmental Health permit requirements and the waiver conditions, will be in the public interest. This waiver is conditional and can be terminated at any time. This waiver expires on September 7, 2012.

**CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)**

Individual subsurface disposal systems for domestic residences are categorically exempt from CEQA under CEQA Guideline 15303.

**ATTACHMENT**

1. Proposed Resolution No. R3-2007-0067

**RECOMMENDATION**

Adopt Resolution No. R3-2007-0067 as presented.

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