California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Central Coast Region

895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101, San Luis Obispo, California 93401-7906
(805) 549-3147 • Fax (805) 543-0397
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast

Linda S. Adams.
Secretary for Environmental Protection

Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

October 10, 2008

Dear Interested Party:

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Scoping Meeting and Public Workshop on Development of an Implementation Policy for Regulation of Onsite Wastewater Systems throughout the Central Coast Region

PURPOSE

Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) staff will hold a CEQA scoping meeting and public workshop to discuss development of an implementation policy for regulation of onsite wastewater systems (septic systems).

BACKGROUND

California Water Code section 13260 requires any person who discharges waste, except into a publicly owned treatment facility, to submit a report of waste discharge to the Water Board. California Water Code §13263 authorizes the Water Board to regulate waste discharges that could affect the quality of State waters, including discharges from onsite wastewater systems. Historically, the Water Board has worked cooperatively with local permitting agencies (cities and counties), which incorporated state requirements into local permits, making separate permits from the Water Board unnecessary. This cooperative approach was implemented through a general waiver of waste discharge requirements. Pursuant to Water Code §13269(b)(2), the Central Coast Water Board's general waiver for discharges from onsite wastewater systems expired on June 30, 2004. Since expiration of the waiver, discharges from onsite systems have not been formally authorized by the Central Coast Water Board. The Central Coast Water Board plans to develop an implementation policy to ensure Basin Plan criteria for onsite wastewater systems are implemented to protect water resources.

CEQA SCOPING MEETING AND PUBLIC WORKSHOP CONDUCT AND SCHEDULE

This meeting and workshop will provide participants with an explanation of the project, an opportunity to comment on the project, and an opportunity to comment on the appropriate scope and content of the environmental analysis and environmental documentation for the project to be prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.) and the Water Board's certified regulatory program for basin planning (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15251, subdivision (g); and Title 23, Section 3775 et seq).

Interested persons are specifically requested to provide information about:

- How they or responsible parties would foreseeably comply with the implementation policy;
- Reasonably foreseeable significant environmental impacts associated with compliance;
- Specific evidence supporting that such impacts are reasonably foreseeable, and describing the magnitude of the impacts;
- Reasonable alternative means of compliance that would have less significant adverse environmental impacts;

- Reasonable mitigation measures that would minimize any unavoidable significant adverse environmental impacts associated with the means of compliance.

Water Board staff will consider issues raised and comments provided, both on the appropriate scope and content of the environmental documentation and on the implementation policy in the final reports that will be presented to the Water Board. Water Board staff will accept oral comments at the public workshop and written comments received by November 18, 2008. Water Board staff will not prepare written responses to each individual comment received, but will incorporate written responses to all significant environmental points in the final reports that will be provided to the Water Board. Water Board staff will prepare written responses to individual comments submitted during the formal public comment period that will be conducted prior to hearing by the Water Board planned for March 2009.

WORKSHOP TIME AND LOCATION
Friday, November 14, 2008 1:00pm - 4:00pm
Central Coast Water Board Hearing Room
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Individuals requiring special accommodations should contact Burton Chadwick at 805/542-4786 at least five working days prior to the meeting. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-800-735-2929 or voice line at 1-800-735-2922.

CONTACT INFORMATION
Questions regarding this workshop, CEQA Scoping, or the implementation policy should be directed to Sorrel Marks at 805/549-3695 or smarks@waterboards.ca.gov. Please mail written comments to Sorrel Marks at 895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-7906. A draft staff report will be available by December 9, 2008, at the Water Board website at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/. The staff report will also available by request at the Central Coast Water Board office; please contact Sorrel Marks at 805/549-3695.

Please bring the above information to the attention of anyone interested in this matter.

Sincerely,

for Roger W. Briggs
Executive Officer

Attachment: Agenda for CEQA scoping meeting and workshop

cc: Frances McChesney, State Water Resources Control Board-OCC

S:\WQ Control Planning\Onsite\Waiver\CEQA Scoping Public Notice.doc
File: Program\Basin Plan\Amendment\Onsite Implementation Policy

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Agenda for
California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Scoping Meeting and Public Workshop on the Development of an Implementation Policy for Regulation of Onsite Wastewater Systems throughout the Central Coast Region

Date: November 14, 2008 Time: 1:00 pm –4:00 pm
Location: Central Coast Water Board Hearing Room
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Contact: Sorrel Marks
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101, San Luis Obispo, CA. 93401-7906
Phone: 805/549-3695 Fax: 805/543-0397 E-mail: smarks@waterboards.ca.gov

A. Introduction
   1. Purpose of workshop
   2. Workshop Procedures
   3. Onsite Implementation Policy
      - Background
      - Objectives
      - Content
   4. Explanation of Water Board's CEQA Process
B. Conditions for Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements
C. Work Outstanding
D. Implementation Policy Development Schedule
E. Questions & Comments
F. Resources for further information

S:\WQ Control Planning\Onsite\Waiver\CEQA Scoping Agenda.doc
File: Programs\Basin Plan\Amendments\Onsite Implementation Policy