

ITEM: 9  
SUBJECT: Adoption of Statewide Order for Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems  
BOARD ACTION: *Information Item Only.*

BACKGROUND: On June 19, 2012, the State Water Resources Control Board adopted a Policy for regulation of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS Policy). This was the culmination of over 12 years of work by the SWRCB. In 2000, the California Legislature passed Assembly Bill 885 that required the SWRCB to adopt regulations or standards for the operation of OWTS in California. At the time, California was one of the few states that did not have a Statewide OWTS policy.

A previous version of the OWTS Policy was released in 2008, however due to extensive comments from the Stakeholders and the Public, the policy was placed on hold. In 2011, the SWRCB redrafted the policy, which takes a risk-based approach, addressing the septic systems that threaten water sources serving the general public. The adopted policy relies extensively on local county and city programs to regulate OWTS. The adopted version of the OWTS Policy contains a 5 tier approach to regulating OWTS, from Tier 0 – properly functioning OWTS to Tier 4 – OWTS which require corrective action.

The OWTS Policy will require each Regional Board to update its Basin Plan to be in compliance with the OWTS Policy or adopt policy/guidelines that are as restrictive as the SWRCB policy; and to review and approve all of the local area management plans concerning OWTS in its respective Region.

RECOMMENDATION: None – Information Item Only

Mgmt. Review \_\_\_\_\_ bjs \_\_\_\_\_

Legal Review \_\_\_\_\_

4/5 October 2012

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