

Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region

Executive Officer's Summary Report
8:30 A.M., Thursday, August 23, 2012
Santa Rosa

- ITEM: 12
- SUBJECT: Update on the State Water Board's Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Policy (*Charles Reed*)
- BOARD ACTION: This is an informational item. No action will be taken by the Regional Board.
- BACKGROUND: In 2000, the California Legislature passed Assembly Bill 885 (AB 885) that required the State Water Board to adopt regulations or standards for the operation of onsite wastewater treatment systems (OWTS). On June 19, 2012, the State Water Board adopted the Water Quality Control Policy for Siting, Design, Operation, and Maintenance of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS Policy). The stated goal of the Policy is to ensure proper functioning OWTS for the protection of public health and the environment.
- The OWTS Policy is structured to be largely self-implementing, requiring actions to be completed by the property owner, such as complying with local codes and ordinances and maintaining the OWTS in good working condition. The Policy will be overseen by the State Water Board and the regional water boards. Local agencies (e.g., county and city departments and independent districts) will continue to oversee local siting approval and compliance with basin plans and local ordinances, as required under existing law.
- DISCUSSION: Staff will provide a general overview of the new OWTS Policy. Staff will highlight major changes to Regional Water Board functions and duties required by the Policy and describe the actions required to implement the statewide Policy in the North Coast Region.
- The OWTS Policy grants an explicit exemption to comply with requirements in the Policy for the Russian River Watershed until the Regional Water Board adopts the Pathogen Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Russian River. Staff will discuss the implications of the Policy on the regulation of OWTS within the Russian River Watershed.