

commentletters - "Comment Letter -- OWTS Policy"

From: Laurel <lw.reply@solsticehouse.com>
To: <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: 5/4/2012 10:48 AM
Subject: "Comment Letter -- OWTS Policy"
Attachments: CA Water Board Comment OWTS.pdf

#49

To: State Water Control Board

May 4, 2012

Re: OWTS

Water Board Members,

I am writing to express my deep concern and objection to the new OWTS Policy. This regulation appears to threaten the future of my family and entire community.

Silverado is a small, rural community in eastern Orange County. Geographically, it is a narrow canyon through which flows Silverado Creek. This canyon has been home to Native Americans, miners in the 1800's, and now families choosing to live away from the busy and dirty cities of the greater metropolitan area. We choose to live a more rustic and rural lifestyle, where our kids can grow up experiencing nature firsthand. There are dangers and challenges to living in a wilderness interface area. Wildfires and floods have done damage in our community, and we live here knowing that we share the environment with predators and dangerous neighbors such as rattlesnakes. These challenges are a small cost to live in such a beautiful and natural setting.

Being so far from the services of the big city, sewer services are not available here. Our septic system allows us to live in this amazing place. This new regulation will effect our home and that of nearly all of our neighbors.

How troubling that this new governmental edict, by a non-elected body, could well put us all out of our homes.

The Final Draft of the OWTS did not apparently offer any mechanism for questioning validity of the classification of our Creek as an impaired waterway. Nor does it seem to allow for any negotiation for the long established septic systems in our area to be "grandfathered in." Given that the properties here were developed so long ago, and that the canyon is so narrow and steep, it would be impossible to bring most of these houses up to the modern codes and rules of compliance.

Please consider the ramifications to all of the residents of California, who have invested in their homes and put family roots down in rural areas, that will be adversely affected by this regulation.

Sincerely troubled,

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