

California State Senate



SENATOR SHARON RUNNER
SEVENTEENTH SENATE DISTRICT

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#73

May 4, 2012

RECEIVED
5-4-12
SWRCB Clerk

State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: ONSITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS – POLICY CHANGES PER AB 885

Dear Board Members:

I am writing on behalf of the Town of Apple Valley. In recent letters, emails, and conversations with local officials, I have heard considerable consternation surrounding the proposed onsite wastewater treatment systems (OWTS) regulations.

1 → One of Apple Valley's top concerns pertains to the draft rule, which, if adopted, will add unreasonable expense for existing homeowners who find it necessary to replace their OWTS, unless their Local Agency Management Program (LAMP) is approved. They strongly believe that replacement of existing OWTS's should not be classified as "new."

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3 → Additionally, while the rule permits a 5-year grace period, upon its implementation, it will require all new septic systems be designed by a "qualified professional" unless the local agency agrees to create and pay the cost of creating a LAMP. Creating more apprehension is the fact that approval of the LAMP is not guaranteed since it must be approved by the Water Board/ Regional Board and the process for approval is not clearly defined. This rule puts current homeowners in limbo should their septic system fail and there is not a LAMP in place. Finally, until a LAMP is created and approved, this rule will restrict land development proposed to be served by an OWTS unless lots being created exceed 2.5 acres in size.

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I appreciate your willingness to work with all the stakeholders affected by the proposed OWTS regulations, especially the Town of Apple Valley, whose leaders have expressed grave concerns regarding the proposed changes. It is my hope that you will continue working closely with local officials, constituents, and organizations to address their concerns. Please don't hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

Sharon Runner
Senator, 17th District