

From: <teri@a-1septicseviceinc.com>
To: <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: 3/21/2012 4:00 PM
Subject: Workshop Apr 4th 10am/Hearing May 2nd 9am

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Dear Water Board,

In the event that discussions involve septic systems located in Santa Cruz County, I would like to have the following included in the discussions.

I have owned and operated a septic service business in the Santa Cruz County for 25 yrs and would like to offer my opinion on what the maintenance schedule should be for pumping and cleaning septic tanks in order to insure prolonged operation.

A 1500 gallon septic tank and leach field is a very common residential on site waste water system for most residences in the Santa Cruz County. We have found that customers that pump their tanks at least once every 2 years don't experience back ups into the house, surfacing effluent or leach field failures. Pumping every 2 years eliminates the possibility of solids building up to the point that they enter the outlet side of the septic tank and then proceed down the leach line. So therefore, in regards to gravity flow standard systems, we are recommending that the board consider adopting a rule that would state all standard, gravity flow septic systems be pumped and cleaned and tank inspected for defects at least once every 2 years.

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When a standard system relies on a lift station (sewage ejector pump and float switches) to elevate the sewage to a tank or effluent to a leach field, we have found that the systems that are checked and cleaned at least once every 6 to 12 months seem to have fewer pump problems such as clogged impellers and stuck float switches.

In summary, we are asking the water board to adopt a rule that all on site waste water systems are pumped, cleaned and inspected at least once every 2 years to eliminate failures that contaminate the San Lorenzo River, the local beaches, and the ground water. Home owners have complained this type of maintenance is too expensive, but when compared to sewer tax or any other utility, it is actually the cheapest maintenance a home owner can pay for on their property and has the most impact as far as the protection of our beaches and water ways.

Thank you for your time and consideration.