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# Assembly California Legislature



**TIM DONNELLY**  
ASSEMBLYMAN, FIFTY-NINTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES  
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JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT  
RULES

May 4, 2012

Charles R. Hoppin, Chair  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street, 24<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

# 72



**SUBJECT: Letter regarding the Final Draft Water Quality Control Policy for Siting, Design, Operation, and Maintenance of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems.**

Dear Chairman and Members of the Board:

This letter is to express my opposition to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Final Draft Water Quality Control Policy for Siting, Design, Operation, and Maintenance of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS), released March 20, 2012. As written, this policy will put unnecessary burdens and undue financial pressure on already stressed family incomes in the Victor Valley and surrounding communities.

Specifically, I would also reiterate some of the concerns conveyed to the SWRCB by the Town of Apple Valley, City of Hesperia, the Mojave Water Agency and other local government agencies in the Victor Valley:

- 1 → • Insufficient notice was provided and insufficient time has been scheduled for appropriate review and thorough understanding of the impact this rule has on these communities;
- 2 → • The draft rule, if adopted, will add unreasonable expense for existing homeowners who find it necessary to replace their OWTS. Replacement of existing OWTS's should not be classified as "NEW";
- 4 → • This rule will restrict land development proposed to be served by OWTS (septic systems) unless lots being created exceed 2.5 acres in size or until a Local Agency Management Program is created and approved to allow smaller lots.
- 5 → • The proposed option of low-interest loans (sec 5.7) to offset these costs is grossly inadequate. With so many homeowners having property values upside down, adding to their debt is obviously not a viable solution;
- 6 → • Implementation of this rule will be burdensome and costly to local municipalities and property owners.

On behalf of the citizens of my district and the people of California as a whole, I thank you in advance for addressing these and the many other concerns expressed to the SWRCB.

Godspeed,

Tim Donnelly  
Assemblyman, 59<sup>th</sup> District