

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 13-14, 2014

Prepared on November 5, 2014

ITEM NUMBER: 24a

SUBJECT: Discussion of Local Agency Management Plans Pursuant to State Policy for Onsite Wastewater Treatment

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DISCUSSION

The State Water Resources Control Board adopted a policy that establishes siting, design, operation, and maintenance criteria for Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS) on June 19, 2012. The Central Coast Water Board subsequently amended our Basin Plan to incorporate the policy. The policy divides the regulation of OWTS into multiple tiers, as follows:

Tier	Description
0	Existing OWTS
1	Low-Risk New or Replacement OWTS
2	Local Agency Management Programs (LAMP) for New or Replacement OWTS
3	OWTS Requirements in Impaired Areas
4	OWTS Requiring Corrective Action

The policy allows for local agencies such as counties and cities to adopt programs to manage OWTS within their jurisdictions. Santa Barbara County has worked with Central Coast Water Board staff as well as a local advisory committee to develop a draft Local Agency Management Program (LAMP) pursuant to the Tier 2 requirements of the policy.

Pursuant to Section 9 of the OWTS Policy, LAMPs approved by regional water boards under Tier 2 can provide alternatives to Tier 1 standards to achieve the same policy purpose, which is to protect water quality and public health. In the current draft LAMP, the County proposes a few alternatives to Tier 1 criteria, however; County staff continues to publicly vet and fine tune the LAMP.

Central Coast Water Board staff reviewed Santa Barbara County's draft LAMP and provided comments on July 9, 2014 (see Attachment 1). The Central Coast Water Board discussed the draft LAMP at a regular meeting on August 1, 2014. Water Board staff sent additional comments to the County on November 3, 2014 (see Attachment 2).

Staff's November 3, 2014 letter transmitted comments from the Water Board and staff regarding areas within the County where OWTS are known to be causing water quality problems. Staff considers the draft LAMP deficient because it lacks a strategy for dealing with known problem areas.

County staff had planned to present the draft LAMP to the County Board of Supervisors for approval on November 4, 2014. Because of our November 3 letter, the County postponed the approval hearing. This staff report and Water Board discussion are an opportunity to provide further comments and clarification to the County.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Central Coast Water Board staff comment letter dated July 9, 2014.
2. Central Coast Water Board staff comment letter dated November 3, 2014.

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