

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

RESOLUTION NO. R5-2007-0108

ALLOWING AN EXEMPTION FOR AN ENGINEERED RESIDENTIAL  
WASTEWATER DISPOSAL SYSTEM UNDER  
WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER NO. 85-039  
FOR  
967 SIERRA BROOKS DRIVE (LOT NO. 81)  
SIERRA BROOKS SUBDIVISION UNIT 2A, LOYALTON  
SIERRA COUNTY

WHEREAS, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (hereafter "Regional Water Board") proposes to grant an exemption for an engineered residential wastewater treatment and disposal system for Lot No. 81 at 967 Sierra Brooks Drive, Loyalton (APN 016-200-050) in the Sierra Brooks Subdivision under the terms and conditions of Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order No. 85-039; and

WHEREAS, Discharge Prohibition A.1. of WDRs Order No. 85-039 states, in part: "An exemption may be approved by the Regional Board if a report is prepared by a civil engineer registered in the State of California, supporting the engineering conclusion that a septic tank/leaching system on the parcel(s) in question will provide adequate treatment and disposal....The report must be approved by the Sierra County Health Department and the Regional Board before an exemption may be issued"; and

WHEREAS, the primary concern with residential wastewater disposal on this lot (and many other lots in the subdivision) is inadequate groundwater separation and high housing density. Evidence of seasonal high groundwater at 20 inches below ground surface (bgs) was reported for this lot. Order No. 85-039 requires a minimum of 60 inches of soil separation between the bottom of leachline trenches and water, rock, or the first impervious layer; and

WHEREAS, the proposed engineered on-site wastewater treatment and disposal system will consist of a septic tank, recirculating textile filter, pump tank, and pressure-dosed mound system for a three-bedroom residence. Wastewater will be pre-treated in a 1,500-gallon septic tank equipped with a recirculating textile filter. Pretreated septic tank effluent will be pumped to an engineered mound leaching system for disposal. The mound will be constructed of silty sand, and there will be a minimum of 40 inches of this engineered fill below the bottom of the distribution trenches. The three distribution trenches will be three feet wide by 54 feet long. The distribution pipes will have a minimum depth of 10 inches of gravel bedding, 2 inches of gravel cover, and 12 inches of capping fill. Pressure distribution of effluent to the trenches will provide even distribution across the disposal area. The design is based on an average percolation rate of 27.8 minutes per inch and a peak flow of 450 gallons per day; and

WHEREAS, Regional Water Board staff has reviewed the engineered residential wastewater treatment and disposal system design report submitted by Coombs Engineering Inc., dated 23 March 2007;

WHEREAS, the Sierra County Health Department has reviewed and approved the engineered system design report, including the conditions recommended by Regional Water Board staff; and

WHEREAS, Regional Water Board staff has reviewed the design report and concurs that the engineered system design, with conditions, will provide adequate treatment and disposal of domestic wastewater for the proposed residence; and

WHEREAS, the engineered system design and conditions recommended by Regional Water Board staff should ensure the long-term protection of water quality; and

WHEREAS, the action to grant this exemption under WDRs Order No. 85-039 for this existing facility is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), in accordance with Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR), Section 15301; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Water Board considered all testimony and evidence at a public hearing held on 2 August 2007 in Sacramento, California.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, finds as follows for the residence at 967 Sierra Brooks Drive:

1. The engineered system shall be installed as described in the engineered system design report submitted on 23 March 2007, and in accordance with the following conditions:
  - a. The septic tank and pump tank shall be manufactured in accordance with the American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM) C1227 Standard Specification For Precast Concrete Septic Tanks;
  - b. Tank lids and all tank penetration points shall be sealed to prevent groundwater inflow;
  - c. A minimum set back distance of 10 feet shall be maintained between all property lines and the base of the mound system; and
  - d. The bottom of each distribution trench shall be level.

2. The engineered system shall be operated and maintained in a manner consistent with the following conditions:
  - a. Erosion of the mound fill shall be prevented and controlled to the maximum practical extent;
  - b. Vegetation grown on the mound must be selected and maintained to prevent invasive root systems growing within the disposal trenches; and
  - c. The engineered wastewater treatment system shall be operated and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.
3. The following additional conditions shall apply:
  - a. The residence shall contain no more than three bedrooms;
  - b. All plumbing fixtures associated with the dwelling shall be low-flow fixtures;
  - c. During construction of the proposed residence and wastewater disposal system, a stub-out shall be provided for future connection to a community collection system;
  - d. A 100% replacement mound area shall be reserved until a community wastewater collection, treatment and disposal system is available;
  - e. The residence shall be connected to a community wastewater collection, treatment and disposal system if the alternative system fails and a community system is operational; and
  - f. Conditions of this Resolution and those required by Sierra County Health Department shall be recorded as a Deed Restriction to notify future owners that this property uses an engineered on-site residential wastewater treatment and disposal system, and that maintenance as recommended by the manufacturer shall be performed by a licensed contractor.
4. An exemption under Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 85-039 is granted for the engineered residential wastewater disposal system, with the above conditions, for Lot No. 81 at 967 Sierra Brooks Drive, Loyalton (APN 016-200-050) in the Sierra Brooks Subdivision.

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I, PAMELA C. CREEDON, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, on 2 August 2007.

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PAMELA C. CREEDON, Executive Officer

BPK:08/02/2007