

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

RESOLUTION NO. R5-2018-0065

ALLOWING AN EXEMPTION FOR AN ENGINEERED RESIDENTIAL
WASTEWATER DISPOSAL SYSTEM UNDER
WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER NO. 85-039
FOR
615 BEAR VALLEY ROAD (LOT NO. 141)
SIERRA COUNTY SERVICE AREA NO. 5, ZONE 5A
SIERRA COUNTY

WHEREAS, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (hereafter "Regional Water Board") proposes to grant an exemption from the current Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order No. 85-039 for an engineered residential wastewater treatment and disposal system for Lot No. 141 at 615 Bear Valley Road, Loyalton (APN 016-160-010) in the Sierra Brooks Subdivision under the terms and conditions of the WDRs; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Water Board adopted Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order No. 85-039 for the Sierra County Service Area No. 5, Zone 5A (Sierra Brooks Subdivision) on 22 February 1985; and

WHEREAS, Order No. 85-039 prescribes minimum site requirements (percolation rate, depth to water, ground slope, and set backs to water bodies and water wells) for sewage disposal on all 389 existing and planned lots within the subdivision; 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 Water Board before an exemption may be issued"; and

WHEREAS, Regional Water Board staff has reviewed the engineered residential wastewater treatment and disposal system design report submitted by Dennis Dodds & Associates, dated 22 March 2018; 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 56 inches (about 4.5 feet) below ground surface (bgs) was reported for this lot. Order No. 85-039 requires a minimum of 60 inches (5 feet) 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, effluent filter, pump tank, and pressure-dosed mound

system for a three-bedroom residence. Wastewater will be pre-treated in a 1,000-gallon septic tank. From the septic tank, effluent will be transferred to a 620-gallon pump tank, pressured dosed through a manifold, and then distributed through two 23-foot long subgrade geotextile sand filters for disposal. The filtration trench will be constructed of clean septic sand, infiltrator panels, and native soil. The trench will be constructed such that there is a minimum of two feet of soil separation between the bottom of the infiltrator panels and evidence of high groundwater. Infiltrator panels will be placed within the trench and spaced evenly. Clean septic sand will be placed between the panels. Filter fabric will cover each panel and there will be a minimum of 12 inches of capping fill placed above the filter fabric. Pressure distribution of effluent to the leachfield should provide even distribution across the disposal area. The design is based on an average percolation rate of 8 minutes per inch and a peak flow of 300 gallons per day. A 100% replacement leachfield area has been identified; 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 subdivision 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 Sierra County Health Department has reviewed and approved the engineered system design report, including the conditions recommended by Regional Water Board staff; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Water Board considered all testimony and evidence at a public hearing held on 2 August 2018 in Rancho Cordova, California.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, finds as follows for the residence at 615 Bear Valley Road:

1. The engineered system shall be installed as described in the engineered system design report submitted on 22 March 2018, 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 inflow and infiltration from surface water and groundwater;
 - c. A minimum set back distance of 5 feet shall be maintained between all property lines and 100 feet from the historical high-water mark of Smithneck Creek;
 - d. The bottom of each distribution bed shall be level;
 - e. Each distribution pipe shall be level; and
 - f. Testing of the siphon system shall be performed to verify even distribution to all distribution lines across primary and alternate disposal areas before the capping fill is placed.
2. The engineered system shall be operated and maintained in a manner consistent with the following conditions:
- a. Erosion of the geotextile sand filter fill shall be prevented and controlled to the maximum practical extent;
 - b. Vegetation grown on the geotextile sand filter must be selected and maintained to prevent invasive root systems growing within the disposal bed; 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 two 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. 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
 - e. Conditions of this Resolution and those required by Sierra County Health Department shall be recorded as a Deed Restriction to notify future owners

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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. 141 at 615 Bear Valley Road, Loyalton (APN 016-160-010) in the Sierra Brooks Subdivision.

I, PATRICK PULUPA, 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 2018.

--original signed by--

PATRICK PULUPA, Executive Officer