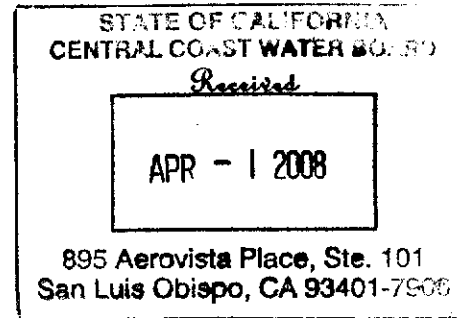


Regional Water quality Control Board  
 Central Coast Region  
 895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101  
 San Luis Obispo, CA 93402

Chairman Young & Board &  
 Staff



Re: **Public Comment** on R-3-2008-0005 & 0006 Onsite Wastewater Systems Basin Plan Amendment

Dear Sirs:

The proposed revision to the Basin Plan criteria and waiver for onsite systems appears to include citizens living in Shandon, Tempelton, Santa Margarita, Arroyo Grande, Nipomo as well as Los Osos. To my knowledge, these citizens have *no clue* this Resolution is under consideration, even though *they and their property will be directly affected by its laws*.

While this revision has been quietly circulating among various *governmental agencies*, to my knowledge, no individual citizens whose property will be affected by this has even received so much as a postcard of any hearings, or town hall informational meetings as to just what this proposal entails, or ways to access the revision or when and how to properly submit public input.

(This public media silence is especially puzzling considering the skillful and close way the RWQCB has always worked with the *Tribune* to get their "facts" and point of view out. In this case, there's been dead silence in the media. Why?)

That's another reason that what I see going on here is another "Stealth Resolution," one that quietly skates by on fulfilling the technical letter of the law while missing its spirit entirely. Public comment is supposed to actually include the PUBLIC, not just a quick, cursory run by a few governmental agencies and some buried public notices. A brief informal quizzing of members of the Los Osos "public" – a "public" that is far more informed about all things "onsite" than anyone living in Shandon, for example, – tells me that folks living outside the PZ out here who will also be directly impacted by this resolution, *don't know anything about it at all*.

Therefore, I have to protest this process and request that you hold off on voting on this draft until you can set up a procedure to at least send out postcards to all "the public" that will be impacted by this (i.e. all the septic tank permit holders throughout the county) so they actually are given an opportunity to get informed and make their public comments. After all, it's their property and their lives that will be impacted the most.

Apparently, you folks learned nothing from your costly Los Osos fiasco. *An informed, educated "public" is your ally, not your enemy*, to be skirted around with stealth proposals. Yes, a lot of public comment is silly and wastes time, but a lot is – again – actually valuable and can often prevent costly blunders later down the line. And spending time on the front end of public policy always saves a whole lot of time – and lawsuits – on the back end.

Sincerely,

Ann Calhoun  
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