

From: <KMabie@aol.com>
To: <Smarks@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: 4/8/2008 10:11:45 AM
Subject: Basin Plan amendment & waiver for onsite systems

Hello Sorrel,

I am a septic systems consultant based in Santa Cruz County, working on the private side for 20 years in the Central Coast area including Monterey Co, Santa Cruz Co, San Benito Co. Santa Clara Co and San Mateo Co. We have designed thousands of systems including many enhanced treatment systems. I also worked for Santa Cruz Co from 1972 to 1987, working on the Basin Plan updates in the 80's with Angela Charpentier.

I didn't see the drafts until recently, but basically agree with John Ricker's comments. I especially don't understand the need for change in the existing slope and setback requirements. I even feel that there could be room for variances based on professional evaluation (licensed geologist and geotechnical engineer) for slopes from 30% to 50%. This is done this way in the SF region Basin Plan.

I don't know if you are pulling this standard from other jurisdictions, or where it evolved from, but it does not fit in the topography of Santa Cruz County, and will only make site evaluation more complicated, and render more properties unbuildable. Quite frankly, in Santa Cruz Co. we have some of the toughest site criteria in all the aforementioned counties that I have worked in. I have not seen any failure of a septic system in all these years, based on the current setback standards. I design many repairs per year, and I feel I would have seen some evidence of a weak standard in my experience. I guess I have to ask where this proposal evolved from, and what literature sources back it up? I would be happy to discuss this matter with you. My company is Environmental Concepts, and my phone is (831)684-1555. Thank you, Ken Mabie

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