



# NEWS

# RELEASE

## Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board

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For Immediate Release

*June 27, 2000*

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### **Regional Water Board Protects Groundwater Through New Database**

RIVERSIDE - The Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board is developing a database that will support local septic tank development and conversions while still protecting the area's water quality. This environmental balancing act will be accomplished by using a database to list residents who want to eliminate their current septic tank systems and connect their houses to an available sewer through the Regional Board's current Offset Program. These listings will be made available to developers who want to add septic tank systems to their own properties, but must "offset" these additions by eliminating old discharges of nitrate to groundwater.

This allows developers to proceed with their proposed developments and identify homeowners who are looking for someone to help pay the costs of such sewer conversions. Under a 1989 regulation, developers wishing to add new units with septic tanks must convert an equivalent number of existing septic systems in the general area to the sewer so that the overall density of units with septic tanks is equal to, or less than, one dwelling unit per one-half acre. For example, this database would be helpful for individuals who want to construct a second dwelling with a septic tank on their half-acre property but are unable to do so because they cannot locate another property to implement an acceptable offset.

Although developers normally pay most, if not all, of the expenses for such sewer line conversions, it has often been difficult for them to locate candidate properties, until now. Homeowners who would like to have their name and address included on a list that would be available to project proponents and or developers can contact Susan Beeson at (909) 782-4902 or visit the Regional Board's Web site at <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb8>.

The Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board is part of the California Environmental Protection Agency. The Board implements state and federal water protection programs in the Santa Ana River drainage basin.

