



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
GOVERNOR



MATTHEW RODRIGUEZ  
SECRETARY FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

---

## San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board

June 15, 2016

Ms. Milasol Gaslan, P.E.  
Senior Water Resources Control Engineer  
California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Santa Ana Region  
3737 Main Street, Suite 500  
Riverside, CA 92501-3339

**In reply refer to / attn:**  
**656901:oosibodu**

**Subject: San Diego Water Board's Comments on the Local Agency  
Management Plan for Orange County**

Ms. Gaslan:

Enclosed are the comments from the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (San Diego Water Board) on the draft Local Agency Management Plan (LAMP)<sup>1</sup> for Orange County. The draft LAMP was provided to the San Diego Water Board by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region on May 3, 2016. Pursuant to the State Board *Water Quality Control Policy for Siting, Design, and Maintenance of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems* (OWTS Policy), local agencies can develop LAMPs establishing minimum standards that are different from those specified in Tier 1 of the OWTS Policy. The draft LAMP contains the minimum standards that Orange County Public Works (OCPW) will utilize to regulate onsite wastewater treatment systems (OWTS) in Orange County.

The San Diego Water Board comments on specific sections of the draft LAMP and implementation of the OWTS Policy are provided below. The comments only apply to portions of Orange County within the jurisdiction of the San Diego Water Board. The San Diego Water Board is requesting that OCPW either submit a revised version of the LAMP or a written response that addresses the comments below.

---

<sup>1</sup> Prepared by GEI Consulting Engineers and Scientists on behalf of Orange County Public Works and dated March 21, 2016.

### Specific Comments on the Draft LAMP

1. Section 4.1.9 of draft LAMP: The LAMP increases the minimum lot size for new properties proposing to use OWTS from 0.5 acres to 1 acre. Section 7.8, Table 1 of the OWTS Policy establishes a minimum lot size of 2.5 acres in areas with an annual average rainfall between 0 to 15 inches. The LAMP should be revised to include a written rationale that justifies using smaller minimum lot sizes than those established in the OWTS Policy. It is the understanding of the San Diego Water Board that the lot size densities specified in the OWTS Policy are the minimum lot sizes required to ensure that an OWTS discharge will not cause the concentration of nitrate in groundwater to exceed 45 milligrams per liter.
2. Section 4.3 of draft LAMP: Please include an organizational chart or further clarify and describe the roles of the various departments of the County (i.e., OCPW, Orange County Health Care Agency, Orange County Development Services, etc.) in the permitting, installation, and maintenance and oversight of new and existing OWTS.
3. Section 4.3.2 of draft LAMP: Please note, OCPW is also required to maintain a water quality assessment program to determine the general operation status of OWTS discharges. The San Diego Water Board is interested in these data as they allow the OCPW to assess the extent to which groundwater and local surface water quality may be adversely impacted (see section 9.3.2 of the OWTS Policy). The focus of the assessment should be areas with characteristics listed in section 9.1 of the OWTS Policy. The assessment program should include monitoring and analysis of water quality data, review of complaints, variances, failures, and any information resulting from inspections. The assessment may use existing water quality data from other monitoring programs and establish the terms, conditions, and timing for monitoring done by the local agency. At a minimum this assessment will include monitoring data for nitrates and pathogens, and may include data for other constituents which are needed to adequately characterize the impacts of OWTS on water quality.

Unless another arrangement is made by the San Diego and Santa Ana Water Boards, OCPW shall submit an annual report to the San Diego Water Board by February 1 each year summarizing the status of the required items in sections 9.3.1 and 9.3.2 of the OWTS Policy. The annual report must include the required items in sections 9.3.1 and 9.3.2 of the OWTS Policy for areas of Orange County located within the jurisdiction of the San Diego Water Board. Every fifth year, OCPW must submit an evaluation of the monitoring program and an assessment of whether water quality is being impacted by OWTS, identifying any changes in

the LAMP that will be undertaken to address impacts from OWTS. The first report will commence one year after approval of OCPW's LAMP (see section 9.3.3 of the OWTS Policy). In addition to summarizing monitoring data collected pursuant to section 9.3.2 of the OWTS Policy, all groundwater monitoring data generated by OCPW shall be submitted in EDF format for inclusion into the Geotracker database, and surface water monitoring shall be submitted to CEDEN in a SWAMP comparable format.

Comments on Implementation of Specific Sections of the OWTS Policy

1. Section 9.2.4 of the OWTS Policy: Please revise the draft LAMP to include any educational, training, certification, and/or licensing requirements that will be required of OWTS service providers, site evaluators, designers, installers, pumpers, maintenance contractors, and any other person relating to OWTS activities pursuant to Section 9.2.4 of the OWTS Policy. Also revise the draft LAMP to include OWTS service provider qualification requirements.
2. Section 9.2.8 of the OWTS Policy: Please describe any consideration that was given to the implementation of South Orange County Wastewater Authority's Salt and Nutrient Management Plan for the San Juan groundwater basin in the development of the draft LAMP pursuant to section 9.2.8 of the OWTS Policy.

In the subject line of any response, please include reference **656901:osibodu**. Please contact Mr. Fisayo Osibodu at 619-521-8036, or at [Olufisayo.Osibodu@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Olufisayo.Osibodu@waterboards.ca.gov) if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,



JOHN R. ODERMATT, M.Sc., P.G  
Senior Engineering Geologist  
Groundwater Protection Branch - Land Discharge Unit

JRO: oo