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State Water Resources Control Board

Division of Water Quality

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Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor

POLICY FOR SITING, DESIGN, OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT OF ONSITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS (OWTS)

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF SCOPING DOCUMENT AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS FOR CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT SUBSTITUTE ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) is initiating the development of a State Policy for Water Quality Control for Siting, Design, Operation, and Management of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS Policy). The adoption of policies for water quality control has been certified as an exempt regulatory program under the California Environmental Quality Act, so the State Water Board will be preparing substitute environmental documentation to analyze the potential environmental impacts of the proposed OWTS Policy.

Notice is hereby given that the State Water Board has completed an OWTS Policy Scoping Document for public review. Public scoping meetings are planned at the locations and times listed below to gather input from public agencies and interested persons on the scope and content of the substitute environmental documentation that will be prepared for the proposed OWTS Policy. Recipients of this notice are encouraged to inform others who are interested in OWTS issues about this notice.

Monday, May 2, 2011 –1-5 p.m.

Byron Sher Auditorium
Joe Serna Jr./Cal EPA Building
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Thursday, May 5, 2011 – 1-5 p.m.

Riverside County Supervisor Chambers
County Administration Center
4080 Lemon Street
Riverside, CA 92501

Although a quorum of the State Water Board may be present, the State Water Board will not take an action during the meeting. Additional public workshops will be scheduled in the future to take comments on the terms of the proposed OWTS Policy and the contents of the draft substitute environmental documentation. These workshops will be conducted after the proposed OWTS Policy and draft substitute environmental documentation are released for

California Environmental Protection Agency

public comment. State Water Board staff anticipates that these workshops will be scheduled in Fall, 2011.

The purpose of the scoping document and scoping meetings is to seek input from public agencies and members of the public on the range of project actions, alternatives, reasonably foreseeable methods of compliance, significant impacts to be analyzed, cumulative impacts, if any, and mitigation measures that will reduce impacts to a less than significant level; and to eliminate from detailed study issues found not to be important. Scoping may also assist in resolving concerns of affected federal, state, and local agencies and other interested persons.

The OWTS Policy Scoping Document contains a general framework for the proposed OWTS Policy, as well as the environmental setting and preliminary discussion of potential environmental impacts. The OWTS Policy Scoping Document may be viewed and downloaded from the State Water Board's website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/owts/ .

Paper copies of the OWTS Policy Scoping Document are available upon request by writing to Jeanie Mascia, Division of Water Quality, State Water Resources Control Board, P.O. Box 2231, Sacramento, CA 95812, or by contacting Ms. Mascia at (916) 323-2871 or jmascia@waterboards.ca.gov.

As reflected in the OWTS Policy Scoping Document, State Water Board staff has made a preliminary determination that the following issues are of concern and should be addressed in the substitute environmental document.

- Hydrology (including groundwater and surface water hydrology)
- Geology and soils
- Water Quality
- Public Health
- Biology (focusing on biological resources associated with aquatic, wetland, and riparian habitats)
- Utilities and service systems
- Cumulative Impacts (focusing on how the proposed project may contribute to cumulative impacts along with past, existing, or reasonably foreseeable related actions by others)

The OWTS Policy Scoping Document is being made available for a 45 day public review and comment period. Comment letters should be limited to environmental issues concerning the scope of the substitute environmental documentation for the proposed OWTS Policy and **must be received by 12:00 noon on Thursday, May 19, 2011**. After the deadline, State Water Board staff will not accept additional scoping comments.

Please send comments on the OWTS Policy Scoping Document to Jeanie Mascia, by email at, owts_commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov (if 15 megabytes in size or less). Electronic submission of comments by email is preferred. Please indicate in the subject line, "**Comment Letter – OWTS Policy Scoping Document.**" Please identify a contact person who would be

available to answer any questions regarding your comments. Comments may also be submitted by mail or hand delivery addressed to:

Jeanie Mascia
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 2231, Sacramento, CA 95812 (by mail)
1001 I Street, 15th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814 (by hand delivery)

Hand and special deliveries should also be addressed to Ms. Mascia at the address above. Couriers delivering comments must check in with lobby security and have them contact Ms. Mascia at (916) 323-2871.

Interested persons are encouraged to subscribe to an email list serve for future notices about the OWTS Policy at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml, under Water Quality Topics choose Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS)-Septic Systems. The email list serve will be the primary method for providing future notices related to the proposed OWTS Policy. Persons without access to email may request paper copies of future notices by contacting Ms. Mascia.

Parking and accessibility at the Sacramento location

A parking garage is located across from the Joe Serna Jr./Cal-EPA building with entrances on 10th and 11th Streets between "I" and "J" Streets. Metered parking spaces are also available in the vicinity of the building. For a map, refer to the State Water Board Web site:
<http://www.calepa.ca.gov/EPABldg/location.htm>.

Please note: All visitors to the Cal/EPA Building are required to sign in and receive a badge at the Visitor Services Center located inside the main entrance (10th and I Street entrance). Valid picture identification may be required due to the security level. Please allow up to 15 minutes for receiving clearance before proceeding to the Byron Sher Auditorium on the 2nd floor.

The Cal/EPA Building is accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to contact Marie Hoffman at (916) 341-5908 or mhoffman@waterboards.ca.gov at least five working days prior to the meeting. Persons with hearing or speech impairments can contact us by using the California Relay Service Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD). TDD is reachable only from phones equipped with a TDD Device.

HEARING IMPAIRED RELAY SERVICE: TDD to voice 1 800-735-2929; voice to TDD 1-800-735-2922.

Parking and accessibility at the Riverside location

A parking garage is located adjacent to the County Administration Center with an entrance on Lemon and another on Lime Streets. Metered parking spaces are also available in the vicinity of the building.

The County Administration Center is accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to contact Ms. Hoffman at (916) 341-5908 or mhoffman@waterboards.ca.gov at least five working days prior to the meeting. Persons with hearing or speech impairments can contact us by using the California Relay Service Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD). TDD is reachable only from phones equipped with a TDD Device.

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