

Planning Commission 9/23/2015

**TALKING POINTS:
ONSITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS ORDINANCE UPDATE**

The Problem:

- AB885 (2000) required SWRCB to adopted statewide Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) standards. Statewide standards finally completed May 2013.
- Current (1996) County OWTS Ordinance is not consistent with new statewide standards.

Our Approach:

- Maintain approach of current OWTS Ordinance, keeping what works, update as needed.
- Update OWTS Ordinance to be compliant with statewide setbacks and siting criteria.
- Update Ordinance to include required elements of Local Agency Management Program (LAMP).
- Improve Onsite Systems Manual (OSM) for use by OWTS practitioners and County staff.

Timeline:

- 2014-15 Technical Advisory Committee and County staff updated Ordinance and OSM
- 9/2015 Administrative Draft OWTS Ordinance approved by County Counsel for outreach
- 9/2015 Begin outreach to interested parties
- 12/2015 County Board of Supervisors for approval of OWTS Ordinance
- 5/2016 OWTS Program justification (LAMP) to RWQCB for consideration and approval

The Update:

- Conventional = 2 compartment septic tank with gravity flow to trench-based dispersal system
- Alternative = advanced treatment of wastewater and/or effluent dispersal other than gravity-fed
- Alternative OWTS may be required:
 - In areas of State-identified impaired water bodies
 - To mitigate more stringent State-imposed setbacks or siting criteria
 - For OWTS that must pump uphill for effluent dispersal
 - For OWTS on steep slopes where pressure-dosing distribution of effluent is required
- Setbacks/Siting consistent with State requirements
 - Greater default depth to groundwater
 - Varying setbacks from different types of drinking water sources
 - Setbacks/treatment in proximity to impaired water bodies
 - Setbacks from unstable land masses
- Clarification to concepts and language in current ordinance
 - Setbacks from cut slopes/embankments and steep slopes
 - Alternative treatment and alternative distribution technologies
 - Requirements for operating permits
 - Monitoring and reporting program (septic pumper program update)
 - Geotechnical investigation and report requirements
 - Second Dwelling Units
- Updated Draft OWTS Ordinance reviewed for CEQA compliance
- Updated Draft OWTS Ordinance available at:

