

PUBLIC INFORMATION

To: Interested Parties
From: **Environmental Health Division**
Subject: OWTS (Onsite Wastewater Treatment System)
Draft Policy related to AB 885

BACKGROUND

- In August 2000, the State Legislature approved AB885 requiring the State Water Resources Control Board to draft and implement statewide standards for septic system construction, operation, and maintenance.
- In 2009, the State Water Board released draft regulations to satisfy the AB885 requirement. Due to public concern with specific sections in the document, the Water Board withdrew the draft regulations and began working on a new document acceptable to the public and local regulatory agencies.
- On September 30, 2011, the Water Board released a new version of the draft regulations entitled Water Quality Control Policy for the Siting, Design, Operation, and Maintenance of septic systems to satisfy the AB885 REQUIREMENT.

The policy is available for public comment on the State Water Board's website at: www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/owts/index.shtml.

HOW THIS AFFECTS YOU

- The majority of the 17,845 septic systems in Tuolumne County do not meet the ideal construction and design requirements the State is proposing in its new Policy, and will require these systems to be placed in a more stringent regulatory tier when a repair is needed.
- The requirements for repairing existing septic systems that do not meet the ideal construction and design requirements specified in the policy are not well defined, and could result in additional costs to the property owner for the installation of groundwater monitoring wells, advanced wastewater treatment components, or required operating permit fees.
- Existing septic systems may be impacted depending on the regulatory tier.

PUBLIC INFORMATION ANNOUNCEMENT

OWTS Draft Policy related to AB 885

COMMENT PERIOD

- The initial comment period for this draft policy ends on November 14, 2011. Four workshops are planned at various locations in California; however, there is not one presently scheduled for our area. Consequently, the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors has sent a letter to the Board Chair of the State Water Resources Control Board requesting that a workshop be scheduled in Sacramento. There is no guarantee a workshop will be scheduled in Sacramento, therefore you are urged to review the policy and submit your comments to the California State Water Resources Control Board before November 14, 2011.
- Please email comments on the policy to:
owts_commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov.
- On the subject line indicate “Comment Letter – Draft OWTS Policy Documents” and indicate the contact person to whom the Water Board could contact should they need further information. Comments may also be submitted by mail or hand delivery addressed to:

OWTS Policy
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)

CONTACT

If you have any questions regarding this notice, please contact Tuolumne County Environmental Specialists Rob Kostlivi at (209) 533-5633.

CRA website: <http://www.tuolumne.ca.us>.

Click on: Environmental Health; State Water Board AB 885; Now Available For Public Review.