



# News Advisory

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD | 1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 | Mailing Address: P. O. Box 100, Sacramento, CA 95812-0100 | [www.waterboards.ca.gov](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov)

## Proposed Final Draft Statewide Septic System Policy Released *Public Comment Period Begins, Three Meetings Scheduled*

**For Immediate Release**  
**March 21, 2012**

**Contact: George Kostyrko**  
**(916) 341-5254**

### **WHAT: FINAL Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (Septic Systems) Draft Now Available**

- The State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board) has drafted a revised policy to meet the legal mandate that requires the State Water Board to develop statewide standards for septic systems, also known as onsite wastewater treatment systems (OWTS). This final draft is the result of multiple public workshops, comments received by stakeholders from all over the state, and collaboration with Regional Water Quality Control Boards staff and local government health representatives. Approximately 2% of existing small onsite septic systems will be affected by this final draft, which emphasizes local management of onsite systems. The final draft policy can be found by visiting the OWTS website at:  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/owts/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/owts/index.shtml)
- The written public comment period ends at Noon, Friday May 4, 2012.

### **WHERE & WHEN: Three Public Meetings to Solicit Public Comments**

- Three public meetings are scheduled in Sacramento to hear public comments on the final draft policy before scheduled adoption by July 2012. Locations and dates include:
  - **Staff Workshop**  
**Wednesday, April 4, 2012 – 10:00 AM** Joe Serna Jr. –Cal/EPA Headquarters Building  
Coastal Hearing Room 1001 I Street, Second Floor Sacramento, CA 95814
  - **State Water Board Hearing**  
**Wednesday, May 2, 2012 - 9:00 AM** Joe Serna Jr. - Cal/EPA Headquarters Building  
Coastal Hearing Room 1001 I Street, Second Floor Sacramento, CA 95814
  - **State Water Board Adoption Meeting**  
**Tuesday, June 19, 2012 - 9:00 AM**  
Joe Serna Jr. - Cal/EPA Headquarters Building Coastal Hearing Room  
1001 I Street, Second Floor Sacramento, CA 95814

**BACKGROUND:** The State Water Board began work on this latest policy following public workshops conducted in 2008. As a result of public feedback, the State Water Board went back to the drawing board with the goal of developing standards that meet the need to protect surface and groundwater quality while impacting the minimum number of OWTS owners. Public comments and suggestions were solicited during 2011 on the revised policy. With this final draft policy, it is expected that the majority of OWTS owners in the state will not be affected by the new standards.