

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL COAST REGION  
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401**

**RESOLUTION NO. R3-2008-0005**

**AMENDING THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN  
REVISING ONSITE WASTEWATER SYSTEM CRITERIA**

WHEREAS, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region (hereafter Central Coast Water Board) finds:

1. The Central Coast Water Board updated its policy regarding siting and design of onsite wastewater systems on September 16, 1983, by adopting Resolution No. 83-12.
2. The Central Coast Water Board adopted the current Water Quality Control Plan, Central Coastal Basin (Basin Plan) on September 8, 1994. The Basin Plan includes beneficial use designations, water quality objectives, implementation plans for point source and nonpoint source discharges, prohibitions, and statewide plans and policies. The text and requirements specified in Resolution No. 83-12 are included in the Basin Plan as provisions of Chapters 4 and 5.
3. The Central Coast Water Board periodically revises and amends the Basin Plan. The Central Coast Water Board determined that the Basin Plan requires further revision and amendment to clarify and strengthen criteria for onsite wastewater systems throughout the region. The Central Coast Water Board will regulate discharges from onsite wastewater systems using waste discharge requirements (WDRs) or waiver of WDRs, in conjunction with memoranda of understanding with local jurisdictions.
4. In December 2007, Water Board staff contacted State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) staff to inquire if the proposed amendment to the Basin Plan required external scientific review to comply with Health and Safety Code Section 57004. Due to the limited nature of the proposed revisions (primarily incorporating language from external documents subjected to scientific review) additional external scientific review of these proposed revisions is not required.
5. Public Notice - Interested persons and the public have been informed of the Central Coast Water Board's intent to revise the Basin Plan criteria for onsite wastewater systems. Efforts to inform the public and solicit public comment include a public meeting/workshop, several individual meetings with vested stakeholders, and a number of telephone conversations with interested parties. Notice of public hearing was given by advertising in newspapers of general circulation within the Region, by posting on the Water Board website, and by mailing a copy of the notice to all persons requesting such notice and applicable government agencies. Central Coast Water Board staff responded to oral and written comments received from the public.

6. Economic Considerations - The Central Coast Water Board considered costs associated with implementing the revised criteria specified in this Basin Plan amendment, Resolution No. R3-2008-0005.
7. Anti-Degradation – State Water Board Resolution No. 68-16 *Statement of Policy with Respect to Maintaining High Quality of Waters in California* (Resolution No. 68-16) requires Regional Water Boards, in regulating the discharge of waste, to maintain high quality waters of the State until it is demonstrated that any change in quality will be consistent with maximum benefit to the people of the State, will not unreasonably affect beneficial uses, and will not result in water quality less than that described in a Regional Water Board's policies (e.g., quality that exceeds applicable water quality standards). Resolution No. 68-16 also states, in part:

*Any activity which produces or may produce a waste or increased volume or concentration of waste and which discharges or proposes to discharge to existing high quality waters will be required to meet waste discharge requirements which will result in best practicable treatment and control of the discharge necessary to assure that (a) a pollution or nuisance will not occur and (b) the highest water quality consistent with maximum benefit to the people of the State will be maintained.*

This Resolution is consistent with the provisions of the State Water Board Resolution No. 68-16. The regulation of discharges from onsite wastewater systems has been a component of the Water Board's regulatory oversight for several decades, and the clarifying and strengthening language provided in this resolution provides more regulatory oversight compared to that described in Resolution No. 83-12. Compliance with the Basin Plan criteria will result in the best practicable treatment or control of the discharges. Therefore, the Basin Plan amendment will result in improved water quality protection throughout the region and maintains the level of water quality necessary to protect existing and anticipated beneficial uses.

8. CEQA - The Central Coast Water Board concurs with the analysis contained in the Supplemental Environmental Documents, including the Environmental Checklist, the staff report, and the responses to comments and finds that the analysis complies with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act and the State Water Board's regulations, as set forth in the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 23, §3775 et seq. with respect to certified regulatory programs. The Central Coast Water Board finds that the proposed amendments to the Basin Plan will not have a significant effect on the environment. The project (adopting this Resolution) consists of amending an existing regulatory program implemented by a regulatory agency by making the existing program more stringent and providing greater environmental protection.
9. The proposed amendment is a revision of onsite wastewater system criteria specified in the Basin Plan (Chapters 4 and 5) and applicable throughout the Region. The revisions to Chapters 4 and 5 of the Basin Plan are shown on Attachments A and B (respectively) to this Resolution. Attachments A and B identify significant additions/deletions shown with underline/strikeout. Text that is simply moved is not identified as a proposed change.
10. Area of Applicability - The effect of this amendment will be throughout the Region, where onsite systems are used for treatment and disposal of wastewater.

11. The Basin Plan amendment must be submitted for review and approval by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) and the State Office of Administrative Law (OAL). The Basin Plan amendment will become effective upon approval by OAL. The subject Resolution will become effective immediately.
12. The amendment to the Basin Plan will result in no potential for adverse effect, either individually or cumulatively, on wildlife and is therefore exempt from fee payments to the Department of Fish and Game under the California Fish and Game Code.
13. On May 9, 2008, in San Luis Obispo, California, the Central Coast Water Board held a public hearing and heard and considered all public comments and evidence in the record.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:**

1. Pursuant to California Water Code §13240, the Water Board, after considering the entire record, including oral testimony at the hearing, hereby adopts the Basin Plan amendments shown in Attachments A and B to this Resolution.
2. The Central Coast Water Board's Executive Officer is directed to forward copies of the Basin Plan amendments to the State Water Board in accordance with the requirements of California Water Code §13245.
3. The Central Coast Water Board requests that the State Water Board approve the Basin Plan amendments in accordance with the requirements of California Water Code §13245 and §13246, and forward it to OAL for approval. The Central Coast Water Board shall file a Notice of Decision with the Secretary of Resources and the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (State Clearinghouse) after approval by OAL.
4. The Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer is authorized to sign a Certificate of Fee Exemption (included as Attachment C to this Resolution).
5. If, during its approval process, the State Water Board or OAL determines that minor, non-substantive corrections to the language of the amendment are needed for clarity or consistency, the Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer may make such changes, and shall inform the Central Coast Water Board of any such changes.

I, Roger W. Briggs, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of the Resolution adopted by the Central Coast Water Board, on May 9, 2008.



Roger W. Briggs, Executive Officer

Attachments:     A - Revised Basin Plan Chapter 4 (onsite sections only)  
                      B - Revised Basin Plan Chapter 5 (onsite sections only)  
                      C - Certificate of Fee Exemption  
                      D - Report for Basin Plan Amendment (including the Environmental Checklist)

## CHAPTER 4. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

### VIII.D. INDIVIDUAL, ALTERNATIVE AND COMMUNITY ONSITE WASTEWATER SYSTEMS

~~On-site sewage disposal wastewater systems and other similar methods for liquid waste disposal are sometimes viewed as interim solutions in urbanizing areas, yet may be required to function for many years. On-site systems can be a viable long-term waste disposal method with proper siting, design, construction, and management. In establishing on-site system regulations, agencies must consider such systems as permanent, not interim systems to be replaced by public sewers. The reliability of these systems is highly dependent on land and soil constraints, proper design, proper construction, and proper operation and maintenance.~~

~~If on-site sewage treatment facilities are not carefully managed, problems can occur, including:~~

- ~~• odors or nuisance;~~
- ~~• surfacing effluent;~~
- ~~• disease transmission; and,~~
- ~~• pollution of surface and groundwaters.~~

~~Odors and nuisance can be objectionable and annoying and may obstruct free use of property. Surfacing effluent (effluent which fails to percolate and rises to the ground surface) can be an annoyance, or health hazard to the resident and neighbors. In some cases, nearby surface waters may be polluted.~~

~~On-site sewage disposal systems are a potential mechanism for disease transmission. Sewage is capable of transmitting diseases from organisms which are discharged by an infected individual. These include dysentery, hepatitis, typhoid, cholera, and gastro-intestinal disorders.~~

~~Pollution of surface or groundwaters can result from the discharge of on-site system wastes. Typical problem waste constituents are total dissolved solids, phosphates, nitrates, heavy metals, bacteria, and viruses.~~

~~Subsurface disposal Onsite wastewater systems may be used to treat and dispose of wastewater from: (1) individual residences; (2) multi-unit residences; (3) institutions or places of commerce; (4) industrial sanitary sources; and, (5) small communities. All individual and multi-unit residential, developments are subject to criteria in this section of the Basin Plan. commercial, institutional and industrial developments with a discharge flow rate less than 2,500 gallons per day and community systems not regulated by waste discharge requirements must comply with these criteria. Community systems must also comply with criteria relating to this subject within the Basin Plan. Community systems are defined for the purposes of this Basin Plan as: (1) residential wastewater treatment systems for servicing more than 5 units or more than 5 parcels; or, (2) commercial, institutional or industrial systems ~~to treat~~ treating sanitary wastewater equal to or greater than 2,500 gallons per day (average daily flow). Community systems of this type and size may be subject to waste discharge requirements.~~

~~Conventional onsite wastewater systems consist of septic tanks and leachfield or seepage pits and are typically designed to treat and dispose of domestic wastewater.<sup>EPA</sup> Alternatives to conventional onsite system designs have been are used when site constraints prevent the use of conventional systems. Examples of alternative systems include (but are not limited to) enhanced treatment systems, mound and or evapotranspiration disposal systems, or at-grade disposal systems. Remote subdivisions, commercial centers, or industries may utilize ~~conventional collection systems with community treatment systems and subsurface disposal fields for sanitary wastes.~~~~

~~Conventional, alternative and community systems can pose serious water quality problems if improperly designed, installed, and/or managed. Failures have occurred in the past and are usually attributed to the following:~~

- Systems are inadequately or improperly sited, designed, or constructed.
- Long term use is not considered.
- Inadequate operation and maintenance.

The following definitions are used throughout this section of the Water Quality Control Plan.

Alternative onsite system consists of additional (beyond conventional) treatment and/or disposal features engineered to overcome site constraints. A conventional onsite system that requires a pump to reach the leach area is not considered "alternative".<sup>EPA</sup>

Application area shall be calculated no greater than the trench bottom and side walls below the bottom of the leach pipe, minus the first foot on each side. In seepage pits the application area refers to the total gravel depth in a seepage pit, minus any impervious, bedrock or clay lenses encountered in the sidewalls.<sup>UPC</sup>

At-grade disposal systems consist of distribution pipe and bed at the native ground surface level and cover provided by filled material. At-grade disposal systems are similar to mound systems without the sand layer.<sup>UCD</sup>

Conventional onsite system consists of a septic tank and leachfield or seepage pit.<sup>EPA</sup>

Detrimental Water Quality Impact is any significant increase in pollutant concentrations or impairment of beneficial uses of a water body.

Drainfield is used interchangeably with leachfield, leach area or disposal area.

Effective trench depth means depth below the bottom of the leach trench distribution piping minus the first foot.

Engineered systems are treatment and disposal systems that require special design features to overcome site limitations (topography, soil conditions, shallow groundwater or setback variances).<sup>EPA</sup>

Existing onsite system is any onsite system approved and/or installed prior to adoption of these criteria on May 9, 2008.

Failed or failing onsite system is any system that displays symptoms of inadequate dispersion, treatment or assimilation of wastewater. These may include, but are not limited to, surfacing effluent, lush growth above the leach area, sluggish house drains, impacts to surface or groundwater from the onsite discharge, odors, frequent pumping, or backflow into tank when pumped.<sup>EPA</sup>

Fill is material deposited to raise the existing or excavated ground level.

Inflow and infiltration refers to non-wastewater (stormwater, groundwater, streams, seawater) entering the wastewater system through cracks, roof drains or other openings.

Impervious Low permeability material is defined as having a percolation rate slower than 120 minutes per inch or having a clay content (% passing 200 sieve) of 60 percent or greater.

Local governing jurisdiction shall refer to the local governing jurisdiction, typically city or county, vested with legislative authority for onsite wastewater system permitting.

Monitoring shall refer to any sort of quality or performance assessment, including visual inspections.

New onsite system is an onsite wastewater system placed on property that has not previously been developed, or expansion of an existing onsite system to accommodate an increase in wastewater generation, after adoption of these criteria (May 9, 2008). Repair or replacement of an existing onsite system does not constitute a new onsite system.

Onsite disposal area shall include the direct application area (trench, pit, bed) and surrounding 100' radius from any point in the application area that may be influenced by discharge from the disposal system.

Reservoir - A pond, lake, tank, basin, or other space either natural or created in whole or in part by the building of engineering structures, which is used

for storage, regulation, and control of drinking supply water recreation, power, flood control, or drinking.

**Septage** is material removed from a septic tank; usually the accumulated scum, sludge and liquid within the tank.

**Sidewall** is the side portion of the leach area below the bottom of the distribution piping, or total gravel depth beneath the first hole in the central pipe of a seepage pit.<sup>UPC</sup>

**Threatened condition** is one that if left uncorrected may cause or contribute to water quality or public health impacts.

**Watercourse** - A natural or man-made artificial channel for passage of water. A running stream of water. A natural stream fed from permanent or natural sources, including rivers, creeks, runs, and rivulets. There must be a stream, usually flowing in a particular direction (though it need not flow continuously) usually discharging into some stream or body of water.

### **VIII.D.1. CORRECTIVE ACTIONS FOR EXISTING SYSTEMS**

Individual disposal systems can be regulated with relative ease when they are proposed for a particular site. For new systems, regulations generally provide for good design and construction practices. A more troublesome problem is presented by older septic tank systems where design and construction may have been less strictly controlled or where land development has intensified to an extent that percolation systems are too close together and there is no room left for replacement leaching areas. Where this situation develops to an extent that public health hazards and nuisance conditions develop, the most effective remedy is usually a sewer system. Where soil percolation rates are particularly fast, groundwater degradation is possible, particularly increases in nitrate concentrations.

Sewer system planning should be emphasized in urbanizing areas served by septic tanks. A first step would be a monitoring system involving surface and groundwaters to determine whether

problems are developing. Where septic tank systems in urbanized areas are not scheduled for replacement by sewers and where public health hazards are not documented, septic tank maintenance procedures are encouraged to lessen the probability that a few major failures might force sewerage of an area which otherwise could be retained on individual systems without compromising water quality. Often a few systems will fail in an area where more frequent septic tank pumping, corrections to plumbing or leach fields, or in-home water conservation measures could help prevent failure. Improvements of this kind should be enforced by a local septic tank maintenance district or local governing jurisdiction.

A septic tank subjected to greater hydraulic load can fail due to washout of solids into percolation areas and plugging of the infiltrative surface. In some cases, excess wash water could be diverted to separate percolation areas by in-home plumbing changes. Dishwashers, garbage grinders, and washing machines could be eliminated. Water saving toilets, faucets, and shower heads are available to encourage low water use. Water use costs may also be structured to encourage more frugal use of water.

### **VIII.D.1. LOCAL GOVERNING JURISDICTION ACTIONS**

#### **VIII.D.1.a. DISCLOSURE AND COMPLIANCE OF EXISTING ONSITE WASTEWATER SYSTEMS**

It is incumbent upon local governing jurisdictions to should provide develop and implement programs to ensure conformance with this Basin Plan and local regulations. Such programs shall include (but are not be limited to) inspection programs-procedures to:

- should Ensure site suitability tests are performed as necessary, and that tests are performed in accordance with standard procedures;
- Inspections should also Ensure proper system siting, design, construction and installation; and

- Adequately inform home property owners regarding proper installation, operation and ongoing maintenance of their onsite wastewater systems.

~~Proper design and construction should be certified by the inspector. Concerned homeowners can be a tremendous asset in assuring proper construction. When a septic system permit is issued by the local agency, a handout specifying proper construction techniques should be made available to the general public. Systems must be inspected by the local agency before covering (backfilling).~~

Local agencies can use staff inspectors or individuals under contract with the local government. Either way A standard detailed checklist ~~should~~ shall be completed by the inspector to verify the onsite wastewater system was constructed in conformance with the Basin Plan and local governing jurisdiction requirements.

~~Site suitability determinations should specify: (1) whether approval is for the entire lot or for specific locations of the lot; (2) if further tests are necessary; and (3) if alternatives are necessary or available.~~

~~Where agency approval is necessary from various departments, final sign-offs should be on the same set of plans.~~

Property owners should be aware of the nature and requirements of their onsite wastewater disposal system. Plans should be available in city or county offices showing placement of soil absorption systems. ~~Since this is only feasible for new construction, Local agencies should require onsite wastewater system as-built plans as a condition of new construction final inspection. Plans would be kept on file for future use of property owners.~~

Prospective property buyers should be informed of any enforcement action affecting parcels or houses they wish to buy. ~~For example, a parcel in a discharge prohibition area may be unbuildable for an indefinite period, or a developed parcel may be subject to significant user charges from a future sewer system. Local agencies should have ensure the terms of the enforcement action prohibition area are entered into the county record for each affected parcel. When a prospective buyer conducts a title search, terms of the prohibition would appear in the preliminary title report.~~

All onsite wastewater system owners need to be aware of proper operation and maintenance procedures. Local governing jurisdictions shall mount a continuing public education program to provide homeowners with onsite wastewater system operation and maintenance guidelines. Basin Plan information should be available at local governing jurisdiction health and building departments.

Dual leaching capabilities provide an immediate remedy in the event of system failure. For that reason, dual leachfields are considered appropriate for all systems. Furthermore, should wastewater flows increase, this area can be used until the system is expanded. ~~But system expansion may not be possible if land is not set aside for this purpose. For these reasons, Dedicated system expansion areas are also appropriate. To protect this set-aside area from encroachment, the local governing jurisdiction should shall require restrictions on future use of the area as a condition of land division or building permit approval. For new subdivisions, Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions (CC&R's) or additional map sheets recorded with the Parcel or Tract Final Map might provide an appropriate mechanism for protecting a set aside area. Future buyers of affected property would be notified of property use restrictions by reading the CC&R's or Final Map.~~

~~Local agencies should conduct an on-site system inspection program, particularly in areas where system failures are common or where systems with poor soils are approved. An agency inspector should periodically check each septic tank for pumping need and each system for proper operation. Homeowners should be alerted where evidence of system failure exists. Where nuisance or a potential public health hazard exists, a followup procedure should insure the situation is corrected. On-site systems should be constructed in a location that facilitates system inspection.~~

~~Another approach is periodically to mail homeowners a brochure reminding them how to maintain and inspect their on-site system. Homeowners should be notified that they should periodically check their septic tank for pumping need. Homeowners should also be notified of other problems indicative of system failure. Some examples include wet spots in drainfield area, lush grass growths, slowly draining wastewater, and sewage odors.~~

Many existing systems do not comply with current or proposed standards. Repairs to failing systems should ~~shall~~ be done under permit from the local governing jurisdiction. ~~To the extent practicable~~ The local governing jurisdiction should ~~shall~~ require failing systems to be brought into compliance with Basin Plan recommendations, requirements and prohibitions; or repair criteria consistent with locally implemented onsite management plan (approved by the Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer). ~~This could be a condition of granting a permit for repairs.~~

~~Land use changes on properties with commercial, institutional or industrial uses should not be approved by the local governing jurisdiction until the existing onsite system meets criteria of this Basin Plan and local ordinances. A land use permit or business license could be used to alert the local agency of land use changes.~~

Within the following sections, criteria are specified for RECOMMENDATIONS, REQUIREMENTS and PROHIBITIONS.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Inform property buyers of the existence, location, operation, and maintenance of onsite disposal systems. Prospective home or property buyers should also be informed of any enforcement action (e.g., Basin Plan prohibitions) through the County Record.
2. Conduct public education programs to provide property owners with operation and maintenance guidelines.
3. It may be appropriate for onsite systems to be maintained by local onsite maintenance districts.
4. Standard soil percolation testing procedures should be adopted. ~~Approve permit applications after checking plans for erosion control measures. Inspect systems prior to covering to assure proper construction.~~

#### REQUIREMENTS

5. Wastewater Management Plans should ~~shall~~ be prepared and implemented for urbanizing and high density areas served by onsite wastewater systems. ~~Areas that should be addressed immediately include (but are not limited to):~~

~~portions of San Martin, San Lorenzo Valley, Carmel Valley, Carmel Highland, Prunedale, El Toro, Shandon, Templeton, Santa Margarita, Garden Farms, Los Osos/Baywood Park, Arroyo Grande, Nipomo, upper Santa Ynez Valley, and Los Olivos/Ballard.~~

6. Local governing jurisdictions should ~~shall~~ require replacements or repairs to failing systems to be in substantial conformance (to the greatest extent practicable) with Basin Plan recommendations, requirements and prohibitions or the local onsite wastewater management plan.
7. Local governing jurisdictions shall ensure that alternative onsite system owners are provided an informational maintenance or replacement document by the system designer or installer. This document shall cite homeowner procedures to ensure maintenance, repair, or replacement of critical items within 48 hours following failure.
8. Local ordinances shall be updated to reflect Basin Plan criteria.

#### PROHIBITIONS

9. Alternative systems are prohibited unless consistent with a locally implemented onsite wastewater management plan approved by the Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer or waste discharge requirements issued or waived by the Water Board. <sup>UPC, EPA</sup>

### **VIII.D.2 1.b. ONSITE WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT PLANS**

Onsite wastewater management plans should ~~shall~~ be implemented in urbanizing areas to investigate and mitigate long-term cumulative impacts resulting from continued use of individual, alternative, and community onsite wastewater systems. <sup>EPA</sup> A wastewater disposal study should be conducted to determine the best Wastewater Management Plan that would provide site or basin specific wastewater re-use. This study should identify basin specific criteria to prevent water quality degradation and public health hazards and provide an evaluation of the effects of existing and proposed developments and changes in land use. Onsite wastewater management plans should be a comprehensive



planning tool to specify onsite disposal system limitations to prevent ground or surface water degradation. Onsite wastewater management plans should shall include (but not be limited to) the following elements:

- Survey and evaluation of existing onsite systems.
- Contain a Water quality (ground and surface water) monitoring program.<sup>EPA</sup>
- ~~Identify sites suitable for conventional septic systems.~~
- Projections of onsite disposal system demand and determination of sites and methods to best meet demand.
- Project maximum population densities for each subdrainage basin to control degradation or contamination of ground or surface water.
- Recommend establishment of septic tank maintenance districts, as needed.
- Recommendations and requirements for existing onsite wastewater system inspection, monitoring, maintenance and repairs.<sup>EPA</sup>
- Recommendations and requirements for new onsite wastewater systems.<sup>EPA</sup>
- Identify Alternative means of disposing of sewage in the event of disposal system failure and/or irreversible degradation from onsite disposal systems.
- Education and outreach program.<sup>EPA</sup>
- Enforcement options.<sup>EPA</sup>
- Septage management.<sup>EPA</sup>
- Program administration, staffing, records keeping, installation and repairs tracking, and financing.<sup>EPA</sup>

~~For areas where watershed-wide plans are not developed, conditions could be placed on new divisions of land or community systems to provide monitoring data or geologic information to~~

~~contribute to the development of a Wastewater Management Plan.~~

~~Wastewater disposal alternatives should identify costs to each homeowner. A cost-effectiveness analysis, which considers socio-economic impacts of alternative plans, should be used to select the recommended plan.~~

Onsite wastewater disposal zones, as discussed in Section 6950-6981 of the Health and Safety Code, may be an appropriate means of implementing onsite wastewater management plans.

Onsite wastewater management plans shall be approved by the Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer.

#### **VIII.D.2 1.c. SEPTIC TANK ONSITE WASTEWATER SYSTEM MAINTENANCE DISTRICTS**

It may be appropriate for community onsite systems to be maintained by local ~~sewage disposal~~ onsite wastewater system maintenance districts. These special districts could be administered through existing local governments such as County Water Districts, Community Services Districts, or County Service Areas

~~Septic tank~~ Onsite wastewater system maintenance districts are responsible for onsite system operation and maintenance in conformance with this Water Quality Control Plan. Administrators should ensure proper construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of onsite wastewater systems. Maintenance districts should establish septic tank onsite system surveillance, maintenance and pumping programs, ~~where appropriate~~; provide repairs to plumbing or leachfields, and encourage water conservation measures.

#### **VIII.D.2. CRITERIA FOR NEW SYSTEMS**

Onsite wastewater system problems can be minimized with proper site location, design, installation, operation and maintenance. The following section ~~recommends~~ includes criteria for all new individual subsurface onsite wastewater

disposal systems and ~~community sewage disposal systems~~. Local governing jurisdictions should incorporate these criteria and guidelines into their local ordinances. These ~~recommendations~~ criteria will be used by the Central Coast Water Board for Water Board regulated systems and exemptions.

Local agencies may authorize alternative onsite systems consistent with locally implemented onsite wastewater management plans approved by the Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer.<sup>UPC, EPA</sup>

For any onsite system, limited disposal options are available for septage (solids periodically removed from septic tanks). As a component of a wastewater management plan, long-term septage disposal plans shall be considered and developed by local onsite system management districts.<sup>EPA</sup>

Onsite wastewater system criteria are arranged in sequence under the following categories: site suitability, system design, construction, ~~individual system maintenance~~, community system design, and local agencies. ~~Mandatory criteria are listed in the "Individual, Alternative, and Community Systems Prohibitions" section. Within each category, criteria are specified for~~ RECOMMENDATIONS, REQUIREMENTS and PROHIBITIONS.

#### VIII.D.2.a. SITE SUITABILITY

~~Prior to permit approval, site investigation should determine on-site suitability:~~

##### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. For new land divisions, onsite disposal systems and expansion areas should be protected from encroachment by provisions in covenants, conditions, and restrictions (CC&Rs), recorded in Final Maps or similar mechanisms.
2. Percolation test holes (at least ~~one~~ three per system) should be drilled with a hand auger. A hole could be hand augered or dug with hand tools at the bottom of a larger excavation made by a backhoe.
3. Natural ground slope of the disposal area should not exceed 20 percent.

4. An excavation should be made to detect mottling or presence of underground channels, fissures, or cracks. Soils should be excavated to a depth of 4-5 feet below drain field bottom.

##### REQUIREMENTS

5. At least one soil boring or excavation per onsite system shall be performed to determine soil suitability, depth to groundwater, and depth to bedrock or impervious layer. Soil borings are particularly important for seepage pits. The soil boring or excavation should extend at least 10 feet below the drain field bottom at each proposed location and be performed during or shortly after the wet season to characterize the most limiting conditions.
6. For leachfields, at least three percolation test locations ~~should~~ shall be used to determine system acceptability.
7. Percolation tests shall be continued until a stabilized rate is obtained.
8. Percolation tests ~~should~~ shall be performed at a ~~proposed subsurface disposal system sites and~~ depth corresponding to the bottom of the subsurface disposal area.
9. If no restrictive layers intersect, and geologic conditions permit surfacing, the setback distance from a cut, embankment or steep slope (greater than 30 percent) should be determined by projecting a line 20 percent down gradient from the sidewall at the highest perforation of the discharge pipe. The leachfields ~~should~~ shall be set back far enough to prevent this projected line from intersecting the cut within 100 feet, measured horizontally, from the sidewall. If restrictive layers intersect cuts, embankments or steep slopes, and geologic conditions permit surfacing, the setback shall be at least 100 feet measured from the top of the cut.
10. Prior to permit approval, site investigation shall determine onsite system suitability (consistency with recommendations, requirements and prohibitions specified in this section). Seepage pits should be utilized only after careful consideration of site suitability. ~~Soil borings or excavations should be inspected either by~~

~~permitting agency or individual under contract to the permitting agency~~

11. Distances between trench bottom and highest seasonal usable groundwater, including perched groundwater, shall not be less than the separation specified by appropriate percolation rate:

Percolation Rate (minutes/inch)	Distance (feet)
<1	50 <sup>1</sup>
1-4	20 <sup>1</sup>
5-29	8
>30	5

<sup>1</sup> Unless a set-back distance of at least 250 feet to any domestic well or subsurface water is assured.

Onsite disposal in soils with percolation rates faster than one minute per inch are prohibited without additional treatment.

12. ~~Natural ground slope of the disposal area should not exceed 20 percent. Onsite disposal systems on slopes greater than 20% shall be designed by a certified professional.~~

**PROHIBITIONS**

13. ~~For new land divisions (including lot splits) served by onsite systems, lot sizes less than one acre should not be permitted are prohibited unless authorized under an onsite management plan approved by the Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer. While new septic tank systems should generally be limited to new divisions of land having a minimum parcel size of one acre, where soil and other physical constraints are particularly favorable, parcel size shall not be less than one half acre. For the purpose of this prohibition, secondary units are considered "de-facto" lot splits and shall not be constructed on lots less than two acres in size unless consistent with onsite management plans.~~<sup>LO 1994</sup>

14. Onsite wastewater disposal shall not be located in areas subject to inundation from a 40 25-year flood.
15. Onsite disposal systems shall not be installed where natural ground slope of the disposal area exceeds 30 percent.<sup>EPA</sup>

16. Leachfields are prohibited in soils where percolation rates are slower than 120 min/in unless parcel size is at least two acres. Disposal systems designed to accommodate slow percolation rates (such as evapotranspiration systems) shall be evaluated as alternative systems.

17. Onsite discharge is prohibited on any site unable to maintain subsurface disposal.

18. Onsite discharge is prohibited where lot sizes, dwelling densities or site conditions cause detrimental impacts to water quality.

19. Onsite discharge is prohibited within a water supply reservoir watershed where parcel size is less than 2.5 one acre, unless consistent with an onsite wastewater management plan approved by the Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer.

20. Onsite discharge is prohibited in any area where continued use of onsite systems constitutes a public health hazard, an existing or threatened condition of water pollution, or nuisance.

21. Onsite discharge is prohibited where soils or formations with channels, cracks, fractures, or percolation rates allow inadequately treated waste to surface or degrade water quality.\*

\* Unless a setback distance of at least 250 feet to any domestic water supply well or surface water is ensured.

22. Seepage pits are prohibited in soils or formations containing 60 percent or greater clay (a soil particle less than two microns in size) unless parcel size is at least two acres.

23. For seepage pits, distances between pit bottom and usable groundwater, including perched groundwater, shall not be less than separation specified by appropriate soil type:

Soil Type	Distance (feet)
Gravels <sup>2</sup>	50 <sup>1</sup> additional treatment required
Gravels with few fines*	20 <sup>1</sup>
Other	10

<sup>1</sup> Unless a setback distance of at least 250 feet to any domestic water supply well or surface water is ensured.

<sup>2</sup> Gravels - Soils with over 95 percent by weight coarser

~~than a No. 200 sieve and over half of the coarse fraction larger than a No. 4 sieve.~~

\* Gravels with few fines - Soils with 90 percent to 94 percent coarse fraction larger than a No. 4 sieve.

24. Onsite discharge in soils with percolation rates faster than one minute per inch is prohibited without additional treatment consistent with an onsite management plan implemented by the local governing jurisdiction and approved by the Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer.

25. Onsite discharge is prohibited in fill unless specifically engineered as a disposal area.

### VIII.D.2.b. ONSITE SYSTEM DESIGN

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Dual disposal fields (200 percent of original calculated disposal area) ~~are recommended~~ should be installed.<sup>EPA</sup>
2. For commercial and institutional systems, pretreatment may be necessary if wastewater is significantly different from domestic wastewater.
3. Distance between drainfield trenches should be at least two times the effective trench depth. Distance between seepage pits (nearest sidewall to sidewall) should be at least 20 feet.
4. Application area should be no greater than the area calculated using trench bottom and sidewalls minus the first foot below the distribution pipe.<sup>UPC</sup> ~~In clayey soils, systems should be constructed to place infiltrative surfaces in more permeable horizons.~~
5. Seepage pit application rate should not exceed 0.3 gallons per day (gpd) per square foot.

#### REQUIREMENTS

6. Onsite wastewater treatment tanks shall be water-tight, and designed to remove nearly 100 percent of settleable solids and should provide a high degree of anaerobic decomposition of colloidal and soluble organic solids.<sup>EPA</sup>
7. The minimum design flow rate ~~should~~ shall be 375 gallons per day for a 3-bedroom house, and 75 gpd should be added for each additional

bedroom.

8. Drainfield design ~~should~~ shall be based only upon usable permeable soil layers.
9. Leachfield loading application rate ~~should~~ shall not exceed the following:

<u>Percolation Rate</u> (minutes/inch)	<u>Loading Rate</u> (gpd/sq.ft.)
1 - 20	0.8
21 - 30	0.6
31 - 60	0.25
61 - 120	0.10

10. If curtain drains divert groundwater to subsurface soils, the upslope separation from a leachfield or pit ~~should~~ shall be at least 20 feet and the down slope separation shall be at least 50 feet.
11. Onsite system tank design ~~must~~ shall allow access for inspection and cleaning. Septic tanks must be accessible for pumping.
12. For commercial, institutional, industrial and community systems, design ~~should~~ shall be based on daily peak flow.
13. Dual disposal systems shall be installed (200 percent of original calculated disposal area) for community systems.
14. ~~Dual disposal fields (200 percent of original calculated disposal area) are recommended. Commercial systems, institutional systems, or domestic industrial systems should~~ All onsite disposal systems shall reserve an expansion area (additional 100% disposal capacity) to be set aside and protected from all uses except future drainfield repair and replacement.<sup>UPC</sup> Community systems shall install dual drainfields (200% disposal capacity) and reserve replacement area (3<sup>rd</sup> 100% disposal capacity).
15. Community systems shall provide duplicate individual equipment components for components subject to failure (such as pumps).
16. Distances between trench/pit bottom and bedrock or other low permeability material ~~impermeable layer~~ shall be at least ten feet.

17. Where site conditions permit migration of wastewater to water, setback distances from disposal trench/pit shall be at least:

	<u>Minimum Setback Distance (feet)</u>
Domestic water supply wells in unconfined aquifer	100
Watercourse (where geologic conditions permit water migration)	100
<u>Drinking water supply reservoir spillway elevation</u>	200
Springs, natural or any part of a man-made spring	100

18. Community systems shall be designed with adequate capacity to accommodate the build-out population.

19. Community wastewater treatment and disposal facilities shall be operated by a public agency. If a demonstration is made to the Central Coast Water Board that an existing public agency is unavailable and formation of a new public agency is unreasonable, a private entity with adequate financial, legal, and institutional resources to assume responsibility for waste discharges may be acceptable.

**PROHIBITIONS**

20. Onsite discharge to leachfields is prohibited where soil percolation rates are slower than 60 minutes per inch unless the system is designed for an effluent application rate of 0.1 gpd per square foot of application area, or less.

21. Discharge ~~should~~ shall not exceed 40 grams per day of total nitrogen, on the average, per acre served by onsite system overlying groundwater recharge areas, except where a local governing jurisdiction has adopted a Wastewater Management Plan subsequently approved by the Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer.

22. Community system seepage pits are prohibited unless additional treatment is provided consistent with an onsite management plan

implemented by the local governing jurisdiction and approved by the Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer. Such seepage pits shall have at least 15 vertical feet between pit bottom and highest usable groundwater, including perched groundwater.

23. Inflow and infiltration shall be precluded from the system unless design specifically accommodates such excess flows.

24. Onsite wastewater systems are prohibited in any subdivision unless the subdivider clearly demonstrates the installation, operation and maintenance of the onsite system will be properly functional and in compliance with all Basin Plan criteria.

25. Curtain drains that discharge to ground surface or surface water are prohibited within 50 feet down slope of onsite system disposal areas.

**VIII.D.2.c. DESIGN FOR ALTERNATIVE AND ENGINEERED SYSTEMS**

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Mound systems, evapotranspiration systems, and other alternative onsite systems should be designed and installed in accordance with guidelines available from the State Water Resources Control Board. For evapotranspiration systems, each month of the highest precipitation year and lowest evaporation year within the previous ten years of record should be used for design.

**REQUIREMENTS**

2. Alternative onsite wastewater systems shall be designed by a registered civil engineer certified professional competent in sanitary engineering alternative onsite wastewater system design.<sup>EPA</sup>

3. Alternative and engineered onsite wastewater systems shall be located, designed, installed, operated, maintained, and monitored in accordance with a locally implemented onsite management plan approved by the Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer.<sup>UPC, EPA</sup>

**PROHIBITIONS**

4. Alternative and engineered onsite wastewater systems are prohibited, except where

consistent with a locally implemented onsite management plan approved by the Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer.<sup>UPC, EPA</sup>

### VIII.D.2.d. CONSTRUCTION

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Construction activities should follow recommendations and precautions described in the Environmental Protection Agency's Design Manual: Onsite Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems.<sup>EPA</sup>
2. ~~Subsurface disposal~~ Onsite wastewater systems should have a slightly sloped finished grade to promote surface runoff.
3. Surface runoff should be diverted around open trenches/pits to limit siltation of trench bottom area.
4. Work should be scheduled only when infiltrative surfaces can be covered in one day to minimize windblown silt or rain clogging the soil.
5. In clayey soils, work should be done only when soil moisture content is low enough to avoid smearing of infiltrative surfaces.
6. Bottom and sidewall areas should be left with a rough surface. Any smeared or compacted surfaces should be removed.
7. Bottom of trench or bed ~~leach~~ distribution piping should be level throughout to prevent localized overloading.
8. ~~Two inches of coarse sand should be placed on the bottom of trenches to prevent compacting soil when leachrock is dumped into drainfields. Fine sand should not be used as it may lead to system failure.~~
9. Properly constructed distribution boxes or junction fittings should be installed to maintain equal flow to each trench. Distribution boxes should be placed with extreme care outside the leaching area to ensure settling does not occur.
10. Risers to the ground surface and manholes should be installed over the septic tank

inspection ports, access ports and distribution boxes.

11. Drainfields should include inspection pipes to check water level.
12. Nutrient and heavy metal removal should be facilitated by planting ground cover vegetation over shallow subsurface drainfields. The plants must have the following characteristics: (1) evergreen, (2) shallow root systems, (3) numerous leaves, (4) salt resistant, (5) ability to grow in soggy soils, and (6) low or no maintenance. Plants downstream of leaching area may also be effective in nutrient removal.

#### REQUIREMENTS

13. Prior to backfilling, the distribution system ~~should~~ shall be tested to check the hydraulic loading pattern.
14. Disposal systems ~~should~~ shall be inspected by the permitting agency prior to covering to ensure proper construction. Designers and/or installers of engineered onsite wastewater systems shall provide a letter to the permitting authority stating that the onsite system was installed in conformance with the approved plans.

### VIII.D.2.e. ONSITE SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Septic tanks should be inspected every two to five years to determine the need for pumping.
2. Septic tanks should be pumped whenever: (1) the scum layer is within three inches of the outlet device, (2) the sludge level is within eight inches of the bottom of the outlet device, or (3) every 5 years; whichever is sooner.<sup>EPA</sup>
3. Drainfields should be alternated when drainfield inspection pipes reveal a high water level or every six months, whichever is sooner.

#### REQUIREMENTS

4. Onsite wastewater systems shall be maintained in accordance with approved onsite management plans. Where onsite management plans have not been approved by

the Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer, onsite systems shall be maintained as described in the following specifications.<sup>EPA</sup>

5. Disposal of septage (solid residue pumped from septic tanks) shall be accomplished in a manner acceptable to the Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer.
6. Records of maintenance, pumping, septage disposal, etc. shall be maintained by the onsite system owner and available upon request.<sup>EPA</sup>

#### VIII.D.2.f. USE CONSIDERATIONS

##### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Water conservation and solids reduction practices should be implemented by all onsite system users. Garbage grinders should not be used in homes with septic tanks. Where grinders are used, septic tank capacity and inspection/pumping frequency should be increased.<sup>EPA</sup>
2. Metering and water use costs should be used to encourage water conservation in areas served by onsite systems.
3. Bleach, solvents, fungicides and any other toxic material, grease and oil should not be discharged into onsite wastewater systems.
4. Self-regenerating water softeners should not be used where discharge is to onsite systems. If water softening is necessary, use of canister-type softeners will protect the treatment and disposal systems and underlying groundwater from unnecessary accumulation of salts.

##### PROHIBITIONS

5. Self-regenerating water softener brine discharge to onsite wastewater systems is prohibited unless consistent with a salts minimization plan approved by the Water Board Executive Officer and implemented by the local governing jurisdiction.

#### VIII.D.2.g. ONSITE WASTEWATER SYSTEM PROHIBITION AREAS

In order to achieve water quality objectives, protect present and future beneficial water uses, protect public health, and prevent nuisance, discharges are prohibited in the following areas:

##### PROHIBITIONS

1. Discharges from individual sewage disposal systems are prohibited in portions of the community of Nipomo, San Luis Obispo County, which are particularly described in Basin Plan Appendix A-27.
2. Discharges from individual sewage disposal systems within the San Lorenzo River Watershed shall be managed as follows: Discharges shall be allowed providing the County of Santa Cruz, as lead agency, implements the "Wastewater Management Plan for the San Lorenzo River Watershed, County of Santa Cruz, Health Services Agency, Environmental Health Service., February 1995 and "San Lorenzo Nitrate Management Plan, Phase II Final Report", February 1995, County of Santa Cruz, Health Services Agency, Environmental Health Service (Wastewater Management Plan) and assures the Central Coast Water Board that areas of the San Lorenzo River Watershed are serviced by wastewater disposal systems to protect and enhance water quality, to protect and restore beneficial uses of water, and to abate and prevent nuisance, pollution, and contamination.
3. Discharges from individual and community sewage disposal systems are prohibited, effective November 1, 1988, in the Los Osos/Baywood Park area depicted in the Prohibition Boundary Map included as Attachment A of Resolution No. 83-13, which can be found in Basin Plan Appendix A-30.

#### VIII.D.2.h. SUBSURFACE DISPOSAL EXEMPTIONS

The Central Coast Water Board or Executive Officer may grant exemption to prohibitions for: (1) engineered new onsite disposal wastewater systems for sites unsuitable for standard systems;

and (2) new or existing onsite systems within the specific prohibition areas cited above. Such exemptions may be granted only after presentation by the discharger of sufficient justification, including geologic and hydrologic evidence that the continued operation of such system(s) in a particular area will not individually or collectively, directly or indirectly, result in pollution or nuisance, or affect water quality adversely.

Individual, alternative, and community systems shall not be approved for any area where it appears that the total discharge of leachate to the geological system, under fully developed conditions, will cause: (1) damage to public or private property; (2) ground or surface water degradation; (3) nuisance condition; or, (4) a public health hazard. Interim use of septic tank systems may be permitted where alternate parcels are held in reserve until sewer systems are available.

Requests for exemptions will not be considered until the local entity has reviewed the system and submitted the proposal for Central Coast Water

Board review. Dischargers requesting exemptions must submit a Report of Waste Discharge. Exemptions will be subject to filing fees as established by the State Water Code.

Discharges from onsite wastewater systems regulated by waste discharge requirements or waiver of such requirements may be exempt from the requirements of this chapter. The waste discharge requirements order or waiver will act in lieu of exemption, and separate exemption is not required.

Further information concerning individual, alternative, or community onsite sewage disposal systems can be found in Chapter 5 in the Management Principles and Control Actions sections. State Water Resources Control Board Plans and Policies, Discharge Prohibitions, and Central Coast Water Board Policies may also apply depending on individual circumstances.



## CHAPTER 5. PLANS AND POLICIES

### III. REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES

#### III.F. INDIVIDUAL, ALTERNATIVE AND COMMUNITY ONSITE DISPOSAL SYSTEMS

The Regional Board intends to discourage high-density development on septic tank disposal systems and generally will require increased size of parcels with increasing slopes and slower percolation rates. Consideration of development will be based upon the percolation rates and engineering reports supplied. In any questionable situation, engineer-designed systems will be required.

Further information concerning onsite disposal systems can be found in Chapter Four.

#### V.D. INDIVIDUAL, ALTERNATIVE AND COMMUNITY SEWAGE ONSITE DISPOSAL SYSTEMS

Unsewered areas having high density (one acre lots or smaller) should be organized into septic tank management districts and sewerage feasibility studies should be encouraged completed in potential problem areas. Local implementation should be encouraged by Regional Board action.

#### V.H.3. SEPTIC TANK MANAGEMENT AGENCIES

1. Local governing jurisdictions County governments should revise septic tank ordinances to ~~conform~~ be consistent with Basin Plan recommendations and requirements, and State Board guidelines.
2. Formation of septic tank management districts within existing local agencies should be accomplished in areas where directed by Regional Board action.

### VI. REGIONAL BOARD POLICIES

Formal specific policies adopted by the Regional Board are presented below according to various categories.

#### VI.A. SEWERAGE FACILITIES AND SEPTIC TANKS IN URBANIZING AREAS IN THE CENTRAL COAST REGION

Resolution 69-01: Adopting Policy Statement Regarding Sewerage Facilities and Septic Tanks in Urbanizing Areas in the Central Coast Region. This policy prohibits septic tank or community systems unless particular criteria are satisfied. Resolution 69-01 states Regional Board policy to support local jurisdictions in their efforts to prohibit subdivisions using onsite wastewater disposal, unless water quality protection is demonstrated by the implementation of specified onsite system criteria. The Resolution also states Regional Board intention to take enforcement actions, if local jurisdictions fail

to manage onsite wastewater systems in a water quality protective manner.

## **VI.J. INTERPRETATION OF MINIMUM PARCEL SIZE REQUIREMENTS FOR ONSITE SEWAGE SYSTEMS**

Resolution No. 91-04 – Interpretation of Basin Plan's Minimum Parcel Size for Onsite Sewage Systems. This policy clarifies Regional Board minimum parcel size requirements for onsite systems contained in Chapter Four of this document. A copy of this policy is shown in the appendix.

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**

**CERTIFICATE OF FEE EXEMPTION**

**De Minimis Impact Finding**

**Project Title/Location Name and Address of Project Proponent:**

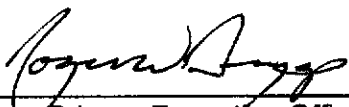
AMENDMENT OF "WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN - CENTRAL COASTAL BASIN"  
REGARDING REVISED ONSITE WASTEWATER SYSTEM CRITERIA

Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board  
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101  
San Luis Obispo, California 93401  
San Luis Obispo County  
Contact: Sorrel Marks (805/549-3695 or [smarks@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:smarks@waterboards.ca.gov))

**Project Description:** The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region (Central Coast Water Board), will hold a public hearing to receive comments and consider adoption of a resolution amending the Water Quality Control Plan, Central Coast Basin (Basin Plan). The proposed amendment to the Basin Plan includes revisions to onsite wastewater system criteria specified in Chapters 4 and 5 of the Basin Plan.

**Findings of Exemption:** Please see the attached Environmental Checklist for description and findings.

**Certification:** I hereby certify that the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region, has made the above findings of fact and that based upon the Environmental Checklist, written report, and record of hearing finds that the project will not individually or cumulatively have an adverse effect on wildlife resources, as defined in Section 711.2 of the Fish and Game Code.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Roger Briggs, Executive Officer  
Regional Water Quality Control Board

5-22-08  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT  
SUBSTITUTE ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT  
REPORT FOR BASIN PLAN AMENDMENT  
REGARDING ONSITE WASTEWATER SYSTEMS  
(RESOLUTION NO. R3-2008-0005)**

The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Coast Water Board) is proposing an amendment to the *Water Quality Control Plan, Central Coast Basin* (Basin Plan). The Basin Plan serves as the cornerstone for protection of waters of the State through identification of beneficial uses of surface and ground waters, establishment of water quality objectives to protect beneficial uses, and establishment of an implementation plan to achieve those objectives.

The California Resources Agency has certified the Basin Planning process as an exempt regulatory program for the purposes of complying with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines [§15251, Title 14, California Code of Regulation (CCR)]. The Water Board is exempt from the requirement to prepare an environmental impact report or negative declaration. Any Regional Board exempt regulatory program must satisfy the documentation requirements of §3775(a), Title 23, CCR. This report constitutes a substitute environmental document as set forth in §3775(a), Title 23, CCR. It contains the following:

1. A description of proposed activity and proposed alternatives,
2. An environmental checklist and a description of the proposed activity,
3. An environmental evaluation, and
4. A determination with respect to significant environmental impacts.

The environmental analysis contained in this Report for Basin Plan Amendment and accompanying documents, including the Environmental Checklist, the staff report and the responses to comments complies with the requirements of the State Water Board's certified regulatory process, as set forth in CCR, Title 23, §3775 et seq. All public comments were considered.

**I. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY**

The purpose of this Resolution is to update and revise the Basin Plan sections pertaining to onsite wastewater system requirements. This section describes the changes proposed and alternatives to this proposal.

Chapters IV and V of the Water Quality Control Plan, Central Coast Basin (Basin Plan) specify criteria for siting, design and ongoing management of individual and community onsite wastewater disposal systems (commonly called septic systems). The Basin Plan criteria also recommend a variety of management measures intended to ensure long-term success of properly functioning systems and prevent water quality impacts from such systems. The existing Basin Plan criteria for onsite wastewater systems were last updated in 1983. During the past 25 years, implementation of those criteria has

demonstrated revisions are needed to clarify vague language and, in some cases, strengthen language from recommendations to requirements. The proposed project (adoption of Resolution No. R3-2008-0005) will update and revise existing Basin Plan criteria for onsite wastewater systems. Most of the proposed revisions provide clarifying language to existing requirements without substantially changing such requirements. However, some revisions replace discretionary language of recommendations (should) with mandatory language of requirements (shall). By adopting the proposed resolution, language in the Basin Plan will be strengthened and clarified in a manner expected to result in improved long-term water quality protection in areas served by onsite wastewater systems. The proposed revisions are also expected to improve consistency and customer service by reducing the need for subjective interpretation of imprecise language. Updating the Basin Plan criteria for onsite wastewater systems will complete a Triennial Review list priority task, which has been backlogged for more than a decade.

### Alternatives to this Project

#### 1. Incomplete adoption of the proposed amendment

The Central Coast Water Board could amend only a portion of the existing Basin Plan criteria for onsite wastewater systems. The Basin Plan criteria could be amended with some of the proposed revisions or amended with different revisions. This alternative is not recommended as it would result in addressing only some of the needed clarifications or strengthening of the existing Basin Plan language and would not achieve the goals of effective long-term water quality protection in a clear and efficient manner. Adoption of different criteria can only be addressed relative to specified alternate criteria, such discussion is included in the response to comments included in the staff report. This alternative is not recommended.

#### 2. Take no action

The proposed revisions to the Basin Plan criteria for onsite wastewater systems are needed to clarify vague and imprecise requirements and to strengthen requirements needed to protect water quality. Updating the onsite criteria has been prioritized on the Central Coast Water Board's Triennial Review List for many years. Failing to take action would result in ongoing confusion regarding requirements, utilization of staff time to individually clarify and interpret requirements, and inadequate long-term water quality protection in areas served by onsite wastewater systems. This alternative is not recommended.

## II. APPLICABLE INFORMATION

### 1. Lead Agency Name and Address

Central Coast Water Board  
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-7906

### 2. Contact Person and Phone Number: Sorrel Marks (805) 549-3595

### 3. Project Location: Central Coast Region

**4. Project Sponsor's Name and Address**

Central Coast Water Board  
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-7906

**5. Other Public Agencies whose Approval is Required**

State Water Resources Control Board approval is required for this Basin Plan amendment. Although formal approval by local jurisdictions is not required for Basin Plan amendments, cooperative implementation by local permitting authorities (cities, counties, community services districts) is necessary to effectively protect water quality. Local jurisdictions likely to be affected by the proposed project include: Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and Ventura Counties, and the cities and special districts therein.

**ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST****III. EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>1. AESTHETICS -- Would the project:</b>				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, But not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings with a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>2. AGRICULTURE RESOURCES -- Would the project:</b>				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>3. AIR QUALITY -- Would the project:</b>				

a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is not attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>4. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES -- Would the project:</b>				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>5. CULTURAL RESOURCES -- Would the project:</b>				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>6. GEOLOGY AND SOILS -- Would the project:</b>				
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iv) Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>7. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS -- Would the project:</b>				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code §65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>8. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY --Would the project:</b>				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner, which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner, which would result in flooding on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Create or contribute runoff water, which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>9. LAND USE AND PLANNING -- Would the project:</b>				
a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>10. MINERAL RESOURCES -- Would the project:</b>				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally -important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>11. NOISE -- Would the project result in:</b>				
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>12. POPULATION AND HOUSING -- Would the project:</b>				
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

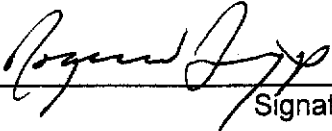
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>13. PUBLIC SERVICES --Would the project result in:</b>				
a) Substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>14. RECREATION:</b>				
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>15. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC -- Would the project:</b>				
a) Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Result in inadequate parking capacity?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

<b>16. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS --Would the project:</b>				
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>17. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE</b>				
a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**IV. ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION** (of checklist questions answered Potentially Significant Impact, Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation, or Less than Significant Impact): Not applicable.

**V. PRELIMINARY STAFF DETERMINATION**

- The proposed project **COULD NOT** have a significant effect on the environment, and, therefore, no alternatives or mitigation measures are proposed.
- The proposed project **MAY** have a significant or potentially significant effect on the environment, and therefore alternatives and mitigation measures have been evaluated.

 _____ Signature	<u>5-22-08</u> Date
<u>Roger W. Briggs</u> Printed Name	<u>RWQCB J</u> For