

The following Basin Plan Amendment language, shown below, is intended to be removed in Chapter 4 of the Basin Plan, after the “Action Plan for Storm Water Discharges,” and before the “Policy on Disposal of Solid Wastes,” upon adoption of the Amendment.

Staff proposes removing the section “Policy on the Control of Water Quality with Respect to On-Site Waste Treatment and Disposal Practices Specific to the Russian River Watershed, Including the Laguna De Santa Rosa”. After adoption of the Russian River pathogen indicator bacteria TMDL, OWTS within the Russian River must comply with requirements specified in the OWTS Policy.

Staff proposes retaining the section of the existing On-site Policy entitled “Region-Specific Maintenance Responsibilities” (see page 4-12.00). This language is not new language; it is being retained for application regionwide.

ONSITE WASTEWATER SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Requirements for siting, design, operation, maintenance, and management of onsite wastewater systems are specified in the State Water Resources Control Board’s *Water Quality Control Policy for Siting, Design, Operation, and Maintenance of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems* (OWTS Policy). The OWTS Policy defines OWTS as individual disposal systems, community collection and disposal systems, and alternative collection and disposal systems that use subsurface disposal. OWTS do not include “graywater” systems pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 17922.12. The OWTS Policy sets forth a tiered implementation program with requirements based upon levels (tiers) of potential threat to water quality. The OWTS Policy includes a conditional waiver of waste discharge requirements for on-site systems that comply with the policy.

The requirements of an Advanced Protection Management Program in the Russian River Watershed will be in accordance with the Russian River pathogen indicator bacteria TMDL.

The OWTS Policy, including future revisions, is incorporated into this Basin Plan and shall be implemented according to the policy’s provisions. A copy of the OWTS Policy can be found on the State Water Resources Control Board website.

Region-Specific Maintenance Responsibilities

Maintenance, monitoring, and repair of individual waste treatment and disposal systems shall be the responsibility of:

1. The individual property owner; or
2. A legally responsible entity of dischargers empowered to carry out such functions. That legally responsible entity shall be a public agency, unless demonstration is made to the Regional Water Board that an existing public agency is unavailable and formation of a new public agency is unreasonable. If such a demonstration is made, a private entity must be established with adequate financial, legal, and institutional resources to assume responsibility for waste discharge.