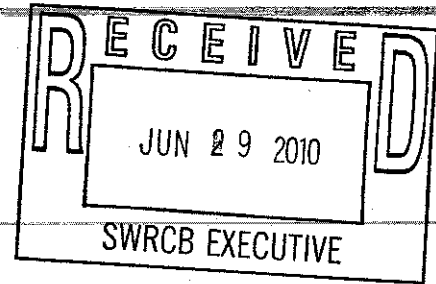


commentletters - Comment Letter-Malibu Septic Prohibition

From: Kevin Poffenbarger <kevin@epd-net.com>
To: <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: 6/29/2010 11:38 AM
Subject: Comment Letter-Malibu Septic Prohibition



Dear Sir or Madam,

I am President of a civil and environmental engineering firm that is actively engaged in the design of septic systems in the proposed prohibition area as well as throughout California. Whenever a potential new client is geographically situated close to a sewer, our firm always recommends that they invest the additional capital in abandoning their septic system and tying into the sewer. We recommend this not because a sewer is more effective at protecting public or environmental health, rather out of the long-term convenience of not having to be responsible for water use. In reality, given the water issues that face this state, properly managed decentralized wastewater systems are not only more environmentally conscientious but also impose water conservation upon the homeowner. Whereby I agree with the intent of the prohibition, I also firmly believe that should you approve the prohibition as currently proposed you will ensure 30-years or more of litigation, lack of agreement, lack of funding, and ongoing pollution in the Malibu watershed. This is unacceptable. Prohibiting new discharge is an ineffective tool to accomplish change, which has been demonstrated across the state.

Significant advanced wastewater treatment infrastructure already exists in the proposed prohibition area, which was constructed at considerable expense. This existing infrastructure improves water quality today rather than in 30-years. The opportunity exists to encourage additional advanced treatment systems to improve water quality today while developing a long-term solution that will ensure water quality in the future. The failure is not in the alternative, advanced treatment systems, rather in the responsible public entities to cooperate and work efficiently to manage the systems already in place. Rather than voting to approve the prohibition and ensuring taxpayer dollars will be wasted on litigation, I encourage you to consider allocating a fraction of these resources towards contracting an independent, qualified private entity to produce a solution that can be implemented in the near future.

Warmest Regards,
Kevin Poffenbarger, RCE 69089
EPD Consultants, Inc.
411 N Harbor Blvd Ste 304
San Pedro, CA 90731
Phone: 310.241.6565
Fax: 310.241.6566
www.epd-net.com