

ITEM: 18

SUBJECT: Approval of Sacramento County Environmental Management Department Local Agency Management Program

BOARD ACTION: *Resolution*

BACKGROUND: The State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board's) *Water Quality Control Policy for Siting, Design, Operation, and Maintenance of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems* (hereafter the OWTS Policy) mostly regulates small domestic OWTS. The OWTS Policy has general purposes; to allow continued use of OWTS under Local Agency oversight; establish minimum risk-based standards for OWTS regulation; and require Local Agencies to begin assessing water quality. Local Agencies must now seek Regional Water Board concurrence on their proposed water quality monitoring and protection. The OWTS Policy has four risk-based tiers, with the higher tiers being subject to increasingly stringent requirements. Tiers 0 and 1, respectively, cover: properly functioning existing OWTS and low-risk new and replacement OWTS. Neither warrant extensive changes in local codes and ordinances, however, Tier 1 provides conservative standards that define low-risk. Tier 2 gives Local Agencies an option to propose alternatives to Tier 1, which are implemented through Local Agency Management Programs (LAMPs). Tiers 3 and 4, respectively, cover: OWTS near impaired water bodies and failing OWTS. To implement the OWTS Policy, Regional Water Board staffs will apply greatest effort level on Tier 2 LAMP reviews. As waivers of Waste Discharge Requirements, subject to California Water Code §13269, LAMPs shall be in the public interest, not exceed five years in duration, and include monitoring requirements. Local Agencies must submit draft LAMPs to Central Valley Water Board staff for review by 13 May 2016. During review, staff must solicit comments from the State Water Board Division of Drinking Water (DDW) on proposed setbacks and notifications to local water purveyors. The Central Valley Water Board must approve tentative LAMPs by 13 May 2017. Local Agencies must begin implementing LAMPs by 13 May 2018, submit their first Water Quality Assessment Reports by 13 May 2023, and submit further such reports every five years thereafter with appropriate recommendations. On 17 March 2014, the Sacramento County Environmental Management Department (SCEMD) submitted an early draft LAMP. Central Valley Water Board and DDW staffs have reviewed the LAMP, and find it sufficient to meet objectives of the OWTS Policy.

ISSUES: SCEMD and staff have a mutual understanding that, should the Central Valley Water Board approve the LAMP prior to the 13 May 2016 deadline, staff will not require implementation ahead of schedule.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve SCEMD's LAMP.

Mgmt. Review: BJS
Legal Review: PEP
10, 11 December 2015
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Rancho Cordova, CA