

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 7-8, 2005

Prepared on June 15, 2005

ITEM NUMBER: 22

SUBJECT: Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for On-Site Domestic Mounded Septic Disposal System, Durden Residence, Lucy Brown Lane and Highway 156 (APN 018-014-032), San Benito County, Resolution No. R3-2005-0080

KEY INFORMATION

Disposal Type:	Individual on-site domestic septic system with mounded disposal system
Design Flow:	450 gallons per day
Property:	4.39 Acre agricultural/residential
Landowner/Discharger:	John and Michelle Durden
Local Oversight Agency:	San Benito County Division of Environmental Health

DISCUSSION

On March 7, 2005, Regional Board staff received a Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD): Supplemental Form for Regional Board Subsurface Disposal Exemption Submittal (Supplemental Form) for a proposed on-site domestic mounded septic disposal system at the above-referenced property from the design engineer, Adam White. The San Benito County Division of Environmental Health (SBCDEH) determined the site is not suitable for a standard on-site subsurface disposal system and does not meet Basin Plan requirements because of insufficient vertical separation between standard disposal trench bottom and first encountered groundwater. Consequently, SBCDEH is not authorized to issue a permit without an exemption from the Basin Plan prohibition. The San Benito County Environmental Health, Planning & Building, and Engineering Departments certified

the Supplemental Form on February 18, 2005 and recommended approval of the exemption request.

Based on information provided in the ROWD, the Executive Officer approved the Basin Plan exemption and notified the Discharger of this proposed waiver of waste discharge requirements on April 22, 2005.

Waste discharge requirements for on-site wastewater disposal system Basin Plan exemptions were formerly waived under Resolution No. 89-04, *Waiver of Regulation of Specific Types of Waste Discharges*. This waiver policy expired June 30, 2004. State Board staff is currently developing state-wide regulations for on-site systems. Once these regulations are in place, Regional Board staff plans on bringing a general waiver of waste discharge requirements to the Regional Board for review and approval. In the meantime, we

propose that on-site systems that local agencies cannot permit be authorized by individual waivers of waste discharge requirements, provided the Discharger can demonstrate the system poses no threat to water quality.

System Design.

The proposed mound system was designed to accommodate shallow groundwater conditions (approximately 32 inches below the ground surface) at the subject property. The proposed system was conservatively designed for a peak daily flow of 450 gallons per day with a 2,232 square foot (sq ft) mound basal area. An equivalent reserve mound basal area of 2,232 sq ft was also designated on the property. Semiannual inspection of the septic tank, wet well, alarm system, and depth to groundwater monitoring are required for the life of the system. The owner is also required to have the system inspected by a licensed septic tank contractor at least every two years for solids buildup and pump the system as necessary. SBCDEH staff will provide regular inspection and oversight of the sewage disposal system and will monitor the system after all rainfall events resulting in greater than one inch of precipitation.

The proposed mound system design meets applicable portions of the 1980 State Water Resources Control Board *Guidelines for Mound Systems* and 1989 Final Draft California State Water Resources Control Board *Guidelines for the Design, Installation and Operation of Mound Sewage Disposal Systems*. The SBCDEH approved the initial mound system design and had the design engineer forward the Supplemental Form to the Regional Board for final review and approval on March 7, 2005. In addition, the San Benito County Environmental Health, Planning & Building, and Engineering Departments all certified the Supplemental Form and recommended conceptual approval of the exemption request.

Mounded disposal system designs have been successfully applied under similar conditions throughout the state since prior to 1980.

Conditional Waiver

The waiver of waste discharge requirements and discharge of domestic sewage to the proposed on-site mounded disposal system is subject various conditions and monitoring and reporting requirements as specified in the attached waiver resolution.

The proposed on-site domestic mounded septic disposal system, if operated and maintained in accordance with the San Benito County Division of Environmental Health permit requirements and the waiver conditions, will be in the public interest. This waiver is conditional and can be terminated at any time. This waiver expires on July 8, 2010.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

Individual subsurface disposal systems for domestic residences are categorically exempt from CEQA under CEQA Guideline 15303.

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt Resolution No. R3-2005-0080

ATTACHMENT

1. Proposed Resolution No. R3-2005-0080

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