

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 7, 2006
Prepared on April 25, 2006

ITEM NUMBER: 14

SUBJECT: Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for On-Site Domestic Mounded Septic Disposal System, Ortnier Residence, 7750 Lovers Lane, Hollister (APN 015-050-021), San Benito County, Resolution No. R3-2006-0048

KEY INFORMATION

Disposal Type: Individual on-site domestic septic system with mounded disposal system
Design Flow: 600 gallons per day
Property: 2-acres, zoned residential
Landowner/Discharger: Willi and Julie Ortnier
Local Oversight Agency: San Benito County Division of Environmental Health
This Action: Adopt Resolution No. R3-2006-0048

DISCUSSION

On February 14, 2006, Water 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 San Benito County Division of Environmental Health (Environmental Health). Environmental Health determined the site is not suitable for a standard on-site subsurface disposal system and does not meet Central Coast Water Board Basin Plan (Basin Plan) requirements because of insufficient vertical separation between standard disposal trench bottom and first encountered groundwater. Consequently, Environmental Health cannot 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 10, 2006, and recommended approval of the exemption request. The Executive Officer approved the Basin Plan exemption and notified the Discharger of this proposed waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements on April 24, 2006.

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 Water Board staff is currently developing statewide regulations for on-site systems. Once these regulations are in place, Water Board staff plans will develop and present a general waiver of waste discharge

requirements to the Water Board for review and adoption. In the meantime, Water Board staff will continue to propose that on-site systems that local agencies can not permit, be authorized by individual waivers of waste discharge requirements, provided the Discharger can demonstrate the system poses no significant threat to water quality.

System Design

The proposed mound system design accommodates shallow groundwater conditions (approximately three feet below the ground surface) at the subject property. The conservatively designed proposed system has a peak daily flow of 600 gallons per day with a 2,343 square foot (sq ft) mound basal area. An equivalent reserved mound basal area of 2,343 sq ft is set aside 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. Environmental Health 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 septic and mounded disposal system design meets requirements of State Water Resource Control Board's 1980 *Guidelines for Mound Systems* and 1998 *Draft Mound System Guidelines*.

Mounded disposal system designs have been successfully applied under similar conditions throughout the state and Central Coast Region 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 to 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 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 7, 2011.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

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

ATTACHMENT

1. Proposed Resolution No. R3-2006-0048

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt Resolution No. R3-2006-0048, as presented

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