



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Public Health  
Department No.: 041  
For Agenda Of: 12/19/06  
Placement: Administrative  
Estimate Time: N/A  
Continued Item: YES  
If Yes, date from: 12/05/2006  
Vote Required: Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Director(s) Elliot Schulman, MD, MPH, Director & Health Officer  
Contact Info: Rick Merrifield, 681-4900  
**SUBJECT: Alternate Project Description for Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Remediation Program**

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**County Counsel Concurrence:**

As to form:  Yes  No  N/A

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence:**

As to form:  Yes  No  N/A

**Other Concurrence:** N/A

As to form:  Yes  No  N/A

**Recommended Action(s):**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Direct Public Health Department staff to seek approval from the State Water Resources Control Board for the Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Remediation Program (Attachment A) as an alternate project description for use of the 2000–2001 budget allocation for onsite sewage disposal incentives.
- B. Direct the Public Health Department to proceed with the disbursement of those monies to fund projects that are described in the proposal, upon approval of the project description from the State Water Resources Control Board.
- C. Direct the Public Health Department to limit the scope of project components so that they address or include only communities or focus areas that have demonstrated significant interest. Prior to implementation of project components, the Director of Public Health and/or Environmental Health shall notify the member(s) of the Board of Supervisors representing the community or focus area(s) affected. As this program is intended to benefit interested communities, nothing in this program is to be considered as initiating a mandate upon areas or communities not wishing to participate.

## **Alternate Project Description for Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Remediation Program**

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### **Summary:**

The proposed project description for the Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Remediation Program (Attachment A) replaces a previous project description that was approved by the State Water Resources Control Board in 2001 as a spending plan for \$1,750,000 of a \$2,000,000 State budget allocation.

Revising this project description will allow for support to infrastructure improvements related to onsite sewage disposal in Santa Barbara County, utilizing State funds provided for that purpose. The revised project description still targets the bulk of the available funding to the conversion of private septic systems to public sewer. In addition, it provides funding to reduce impacts and improve reliability of onsite wastewater systems for areas where connection to the public sewer is not a viable option.

### **Background:**

In fiscal year 2000-2001, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) allocated \$2,000,000 to the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department to be used for onsite sewage disposal incentives in Santa Barbara County. This funding supported two projects: the "Septic System Sanitary Survey for Santa Barbara County," prepared by Questa Engineering (\$250,000), and the Onsite Sewage Disposal Remediation Project (\$1,750,000). The Sanitary Survey, completed in 2003, examined 24 problematic areas for onsite sewage disposal in the county and provided recommendations for future improvements. A summary of the recommendations from the Sanitary Survey is in Appendix 1.

The original project description for the septic remediation program focused entirely on conversion of septic tank systems to public sewer connections with two main components: engineering feasibility studies and a low interest loan program for sewer connections. The engineering studies have proven to be highly successful — out of a total of \$300,000 designated for these studies, approximately \$246,000 has been encumbered and additional requests have been received that exceed the remaining amount. Additional funding for engineering studies is included in the proposed project description.

The low interest loan program for sewer connections was ultimately determined to be infeasible. The proposed project description will replace that component with other projects to encourage conversion to public sewer as well as projects that will reduce impacts and improve reliability of onsite wastewater systems for areas where connection to the public sewer is not a viable option.

The original project description is included as Appendix 2. A list of the sewer engineering studies funded and requested to date is included as Appendix 3. The estimated costs for both the original and proposed project descriptions are shown in Appendix 4. Since the proposed program description is an amendment of an ongoing project, the costs in Appendix 4 include both past and proposed expenditures.

### **Performance Measures:**

#### **Deliverables:**

- Submit alternate project description to State Water Resources Control Board by January 2007.
- Issue purchase order to City of Santa Barbara for preliminary engineering design for sewer extension into adjacent unincorporated areas by June 2007.
- Contract for a programmatic environmental impact report to address typical impacts of septic-to-sewer conversion projects in urbanized and semi-rural areas to be completed by December 2007.
- Provide funding for at least three preliminary engineering studies for sewer extensions to areas currently served by private septic systems by January 2008.

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- Contract for a feasibility study/preliminary design for a septage treatment facility (treatment facility for septic tank pumpings) to be completed by September 2007.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted:  Yes     No

**Fiscal Analysis:**

Of the original \$2,000,000 State allocation, \$578,215 has been expended or encumbered, leaving a balance of \$1,421,785 to put toward additional infrastructure improvements. A full accounting of these expenditures to date is outlined on Appendices 3 and 4. The remaining balance is designated in the Public Health Department Special Revenue Fund.

There are no facilities impacts, additional staff or General Fund support needed for this project.

**Staffing Impact(s):**

**Legal Positions:**

N/A

**FTEs:**

N/A

**Special Instructions:**

None

**Attachments:**

- Attachment A: Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Remediation Program
- Appendix 1: Summary Chart of Sanitary Survey Recommendations
- Appendix 2: Original Onsite Sewage Disposal System Remediation Program Project Description
- Appendix 3: List of Sewer Engineering Studies Funded and Requested to Date
- Appendix 4: Estimated costs for the Proposed Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Remediation Program

**Authored by:**

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