



**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: September 10, 2013
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Tme: 15 minutes on 9/10/13
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Takashi M. Wada, MD MPH, Director and Health Officer
Director Public Health Department
Contact Info: Lawrence Fay, Jr., Environmental Health Director (346-8463)
SUBJECT: **Local Agency Management Plan (LAMP) for Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems**

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors consider the following recommendations:

- A) Receive a presentation on the Public Health Department's intention to prepare, within the Environmental Health Services division, a Local Agency Management Plan (LAMP) to regulate Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems.
- B) Approve and authorize the Public Health Department's Director to send a letter to the Regional Water Quality Control Board informing them of the County's intention to prepare a Santa Barbara County LAMP.
- C) Determine that the recommended actions to receive a presentation and authorize a letter to the Regional Water Quality Control Board are administrative or organizational activities of the government and exempt pursuant to CEQA Guideline Section 15378(b)(5)..

Summary Text:

This item is on the agenda to authorize the Public Health Department's Director, as the County Health Officer, to sign a letter of intent addressed to the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) confirming the County's intention to develop a Local Agency Management Plan (LAMP) within the Public Health Department's Environmental Health Services to regulate Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS) beyond the default state standards.

AB 885 (adopted in 2000) established statewide standards for the siting, design, installation and use of OWTS. In 2012, the State Water Resources Control Board adopted statewide onsite sewage system

treatment standards via AB 885. Local jurisdictions may adopt standards that are different (more expansive) from the state regulations by developing a LAMP. LAMP standards must provide the equivalent level of public health and environmental protection as the default state standards. Adoption of a LAMP will enable the County to address conditions specific to Santa Barbara County. The first step in establishing a LAMP is to issue a Letter of Intent to the RWQCB indicating the County's intention to adopt local rules.

Background:

California is divided into nine (9) water quality regions corresponding to the nine major watershed areas or "basins" in the state. Each basin is regulated by an RWQCB that implements state and federal water quality laws. The RWQCBs develop "basin plans" that designate beneficial uses and water quality objectives for both surface water and groundwater in their respective watersheds. The RWQCBs also develop policies and programs to achieve those water quality objectives.

General guidelines for the siting, design and construction of new OWTS are part of each basin plan. Each RWQCB retains primacy over large, and sometimes specialized, systems but generally delegate direct regulatory authority for individual OWTS to local agencies via that jurisdiction's LAMP.

The Public Health Department's (PHD) Environmental Health Services (EHS) has initiated a multi-step process to develop a LAMP which includes:

- Establishment of a Technical Advisory Committee (the Committee) to make recommendations of a technical nature to address standards beyond those contained in the default state standards.
 - The Committee includes industry representatives including engineers/designers, installers, pumpers and manufacturers, real estate and development experts, environmental and agriculture experts, consultants, industry leaders and other partner agencies, including the RWQCB.
 - The Committee's first policy recommendation has been to proceed with developing the LAMP.
 - The Committee's first product will be a set of preliminary LAMP rules regarding OWTS.
 - The Committee's primary focus is to make broad policy recommendations in the context of the state regulations; its secondary focus is to review and comment on the technical standards.
 - The Committee meets every three weeks and is currently scheduled into September 2013.
- Stakeholder and public outreach will include at least two open house meetings (one in north county and one in south county) designed to provide background information, address questions and gather feedback about the LAMP.
- PHD will bring the LAMP to your Board in early 2014 for adoption consideration.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: N/A

Subject: Letter of Intent to Adopt a LAMP

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Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
General Fund			
State			
Federal			
Fees			
Other:	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Narrative:

There is no fiscal impact associated with submitting a letter of intent to the SWRCB for a LAMP. Any costs associated with establishing the committee will be absorbed within existing budgeted appropriation in the EHS division.

Staffing Impacts:

No increase or decrease in staff would result as a result of adopting the proposed resolution.

Special Instructions:

Return one Minute Order to Public Health by emailing PHDcu@sbcphd.org.

Attachments:

Powerpoint Presentation on LAMP

Authored by:

Larry Fay, Environmental Health Services Director