

May 24, 2016

Dear Alameda County Resident,

As you probably know, due to new State requirements, Alameda County Department of Environmental Health (DEH) is in the process of preparing the County's Local Area Management Program (LAMP) for the oversight of onsite wastewater treatment systems (OWTS or septic system). The State initiated these new requirements due to concerns about surface water and groundwater contamination.

The LAMP consists of the following documents:

The Local Agency Management Program for Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems: This document describes the geographical terrain of Alameda County and current baseline environmental conditions. The State Policy requires this document to include an inventory of OWTS in the County, to the extent possible. In addition to maps, tables and figures, it contains an initial assessment of water quality impacts from OWTS in the County. It also provides an outline of the County's proposed LAMP administration.

Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Ordinance: The Ordinance provides the County's local law establishing standards for OWTS within the County in order to prevent environmental degradation including pollution of surface water and groundwater and to protect public health, safety and welfare. This ordinance is consistent with State requirements but the standards in the Ordinance also include local level requirements that are not specifically stated in the State Policy which is the intent of having a local ordinance.

Onsite Wastewater Treatment Manual: This document contains the procedural and technical details to implement the Ordinance and include standards for the design, installation and permitting of OWTS.

Draft LAMP documents have been developed to meet the new State requirements and incorporate much of the County's current OWTS Ordinance and Regulations adopted by the Board of Supervisors in 2007 as well as additional standards necessary to comply with the State's new requirements for a LAMP.

During development of the draft LAMP documents, the DEH held numerous meetings with interested community organizations and individuals to obtain feedback on the proposed LAMP.

On May 10, 2016, the DEH was authorized by the County Board of Supervisors to submit provisional draft LAMP documents to the State to meet the May 13, 2016 submission deadline. It is important to note that this submission was a required step in the State process, and failure to submit would have resulted in implementation of the State standards that provide significantly less flexibility than the current County's current OWTS Ordinance and Regulations and the proposed LAMP.

It is also important to note that the submission is NOT the final set of documents. The DEH will continue to work with residents and stakeholders on modifications to the documents and will conduct numerous community meetings to gain input. Meetings and workshops have been scheduled in May and June in Castro Valley, Livermore, Sunol and Oakland and additional meeting will be scheduled later in the summer. An announcement listing the dates and locations of upcoming meetings is attached for your reference. For additional information about future meetings, please refer to the website at http://www.acgov.org/aceh/landuse/events_announcements.htm.

Finally, we must emphasize that on May 10, 2016 the DEH and Health Care Services Agency heard loud and clear that the current draft provisional documents require simplification and streamlining in order to be effective. The DEH is currently engaged in editing the documents to be responsive to stakeholder and County Supervisors' concerns.

The DEH is balancing the health and safety of septic systems with the very real concerns of our residents, and we are hopeful that we will strike a balance that will enable us to both meet State requirements and community concerns. We look forward to working together to complete this process.

Sincerely,



Ronald Browder, Acting Director
Department of Environmental Health



Public Workshops Schedule

May 18, 2016

Martinelli Event Center
3585 Greenville Rd
Livermore, CA
Session 1, 4:00pm to 6:00pm
Session 2, 6:00pm to 8:00pm

May 20, 2016

Hayward Area Recreation & Park District Board Room
1099 E Street
Hayward, CA
Session 1, 4:00pm to 6:00pm
Session 2, 6:00pm to 8:00pm

May 25, 2016

Sunol Septic Work Group Meeting
Sunol Glen School Cafeteria
11601 Main St
Sunol, CA
6:00pm to 8:00pm

May 26, 2016

Skyline Community Church
12540 Skyline Blvd
Oakland, CA
6:00pm to 8:00pm

May 31, 2016

Supervisor Miley Office
20980 Redwood Road, Suite 250
Castro Valley, CA
8:30am to 10:30 am

June 7, 2016

Martinelli Event Center
3585 Greenville Rd
Livermore, CA
6:00pm to 8:00pm

June 9, 2016

Castro Valley Library
Chabot/Canyon Room
3600 Norbridge Ave
Castro Valley, CA
6:00pm to 8:00pm

June 15, 2016

Skyline Community Church
12540 Skyline Blvd
Oakland, CA
6:00pm to 8:00pm