

MENDOCINO COUNTY
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
LAMP DEVELOPMENT

LOCAL AGENCY
MANAGEMENT PLAN

BACKGROUND ON AB 885

- **2000 - Governor Gray Davis signed into law Assembly Bill 885**
 - Required the State Water Quality Control Board (SWQCB) to adopt standards & regulations for permitting Onsite Waste Water Treatment Systems (OWTS)
- **2012 - The SWQCB adopted a policy that implements tiers of requirements for siting, design, operations, and maintenance of OWTS based on potential threats to water quality**
 - This policy is so restrictive that only a small fraction of properties in Mendocino County could qualify for an OWTS

LAMP OUTREACH

- Over the past 2 years EH has participated in regularly joint meetings between Mendocino County, Sonoma County, Humboldt County, and the NCRWQCB focused on LAMP development
- EH has held semi-annual Stakeholder meetings with local designers and contractors to discuss areas of improvement.
- EH held three Public Meetings in Ukiah, Willits, and Fort Bragg in 2015 to educate and discuss the proposed LAMP with the regulated community

LAMP SCOPE OF WORK

- Mendocino County LAMP speak specifically to sub-surface waste disposal
- The State Water Quality Control Board maintains jurisdiction over all surface application designs
- The County currently has no jurisdiction over:
 - Facilities receiving high strength waste (wineries, dairies, distilleries)
 - Large mobile home parks with onsite sewage disposal
 - Sewage treatment ponds
 - Sewer treatment facilities
 - Wetlands disposal systems
 - Land application of treated sewage sludge

BACKGROUND ON AB 885

- Tier 0 - All existing systems that are working properly
- Tier 1 - State design criteria for all new systems proposed
- Tier 2 - Mendocino County LAMP alternative design criteria
- Tier 3 - Systems that have failed and must be repaired
- Tier 4 - New or repair systems within impaired waterways
 - In Mendocino County the Russian River watershed has been identified as an impaired waterway

MENDOCINO COUNTY LAMP

- Tier 2 allows the County to propose alternate design criteria from those in Tier 1 provided the County can demonstrate that they are equally as protective as the standards required by the State
 - Mendocino County is fortunate that it has maintained a high level of protection of ground water and will not need to reinvent the existing policies
- The County's objective is to develop a LAMP that is based upon existing policies and practices that will achieve compliance with the law and not place undue expense and difficulties on the citizens of the County
 - The Mendocino County LAMP is a consolidation of the practices and policies that have been in place for several years. No new regulations are being imposed on the public as a result of the Mendocino County LAMP

LAMP IMPROVEMENTS

- **The Mendocino County LAMP proposes changes that will ease the burden on homebuilders and developers**
 - **The Wet Weather Testing Protocol has been updated to address the current drought conditions**
 - **The LAMP addresses inefficiencies in the current repair policy**
 - **Proposed to increase the County's authorization to issue permits from 10 bedrooms maximum to approximately 65 bedrooms**
 - **Increasing the County's authority has the potential to improve the County's ability to comply with State mandated Low-Income Housing requirements**
 - **Will enable the County to permit both farmworker housing as well as multi-unit dwelling quickly and cost efficiently**

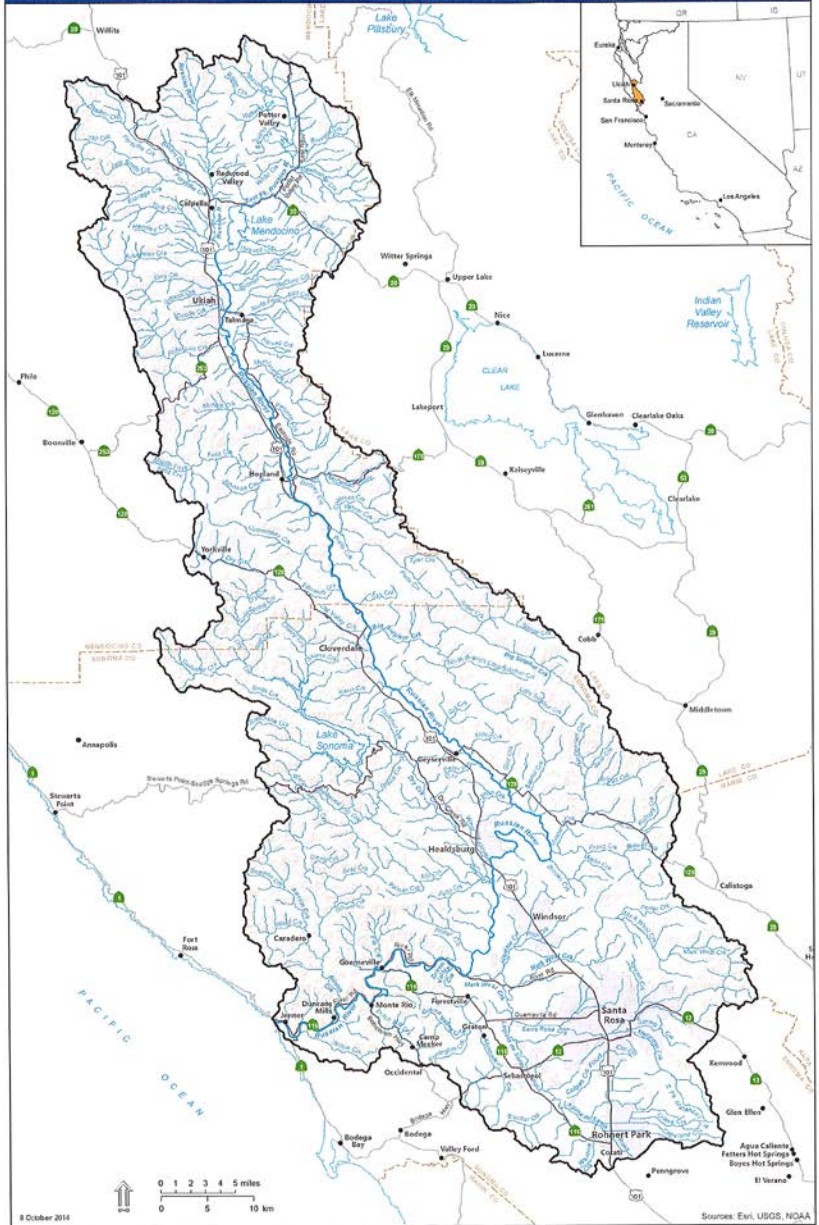
NEW STATE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

- DEH must submit an annual report the following items to the RWQCB:
 - Variances
 - Septic Failures
 - Septic Repairs
 - Septic Complaints
 - Ground Water Data
- DEH must conduct an audit of the program every 5 years and submit the report to the RWQCB

IMPAIRED WATERWAYS

- The Water Board is currently developing an action plan for the Russian River watershed. They have a draft Russian River TMDL
- In Mendocino County the Water Board has identified several Low Priority Area communities:
 - Talmage
 - Redwood Valley
 - Sites within 600 ft. of main stream Russian River, Commisky Creek, Dry Creek, Feliz Creek, Forsyth Creek, Pieta Creek, Mill Creek, York Creek

Russian River Watershed



POLICY REVIEW & ADOPTION

- The effective date of AB 885 was May 13, 2013
- The local agencies must present their draft LAMP to the RWQCB for review and approval
- County Code will need to be revised with new LAMP tiers upon final approval of the LAMP by the Board of Supervisors and the RWQCB
- The Regional Water Board has until May 13, 2017 to review and approve the County LAMP
- The County will have until May 13, 2018 to adopt the revised LAMP and update applicable county code sections

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QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION