



Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency

Healthy People, Healthy Communities

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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State Water Resources Control Board Workshop: New Statewide Regulations for Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) has proposed regulations that will establish statewide minimum requirements for the placement, permitting, and operation of all new and replacement onsite waste water treatment systems (OWTS). Based on case studies for Merced and Los Angeles County, the SWRCB estimates that implementation of the proposed regulations will cost California home owners and businesses between \$350-\$400 million per year.

The SWRCB is holding eleven workshops throughout the State to receive public comment on the proposed regulations and on the adequacy of the associated draft Environmental Impact Report. The nearest workshop to Mendocino County will be:

January 27, 2009, 7:00 p.m.
Wells Fargo Center for the Arts
Merlot Theater
50 Mark West Springs Road
Santa Rosa, CA

All individuals that may be interested in or impacted by the proposed regulations are encouraged to attend and provide comment. The public comment period closes on February 9, 2009. The projected date of adoption of the regulations is January, 2010.

The following is a generalized summary of some of the more significant elements of the proposed regulations:

1. There are no provisions addressing parcels that were created before the effective date of the regulations. This may result in some parcels being unable to meet the new requirements and not be developed.
2. The regulations will require mandatory sampling for general minerals from onsite water wells every five years.



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3. All OWTS owners will be required to have their septic tank inspected for solids accumulation every five years.

4. Supplemental or advanced treatment systems will be required where site restrictions prohibit the installation of conventional OWTS. All supplemental treatment systems must be certified by an independent third party testing lab and meet prescribed effluent standards. Ongoing effluent monitoring will be required along with regular maintenance inspections.

If you would like additional information please contact the Division of Environmental Health at 463-4466.

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