



Environmental Management Department

ONSITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS PROGRAM

Information 2008

What is an Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS)?

- A system for the treatment and dispersal of wastewater, specifically sewage, designed to fit on an individual lot. (aka septic system)
 - Residential type waste only.

BACKGROUND

Nationally

- One third of the residences in the nation use some type of onsite or small community system.
- Federal EPA has guidelines for system design and maintenance

California

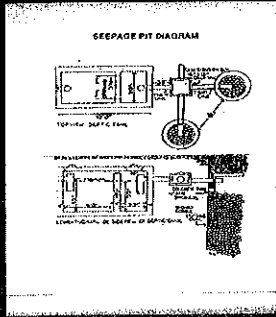
- California is one of three states in the nation that does not have state wide regulations.

BACKGROUND

Sacramento

Code section 6.32 developed the 1960's

The predominate system is standard septic tank and a leaching pit field

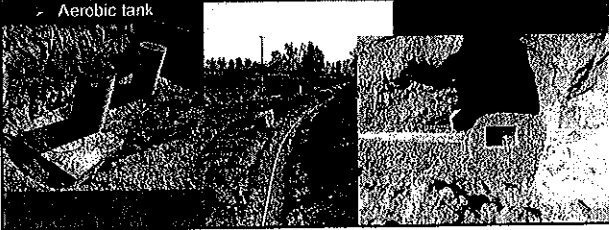


STATUTORY AUTHORITY

- PORTER COLOGNE WATER QUALITY CONTROL ACT
- SACRAMENTO COUNTY CODE SECTION 6.32
- Historical practice grants the county the authority to oversee on-site program. Local ordinance and regulations are reviewed by RWQCB to ensure compliance with Basin Plan.

OWTS TYPES

- Standard system is a gravity feed tank and leach field but other options are:
- Pressure dosing leach field
- At grade leach field
- Shallow leach field
- Deep pit leach field
- Aerobic tank



Changes Ahead

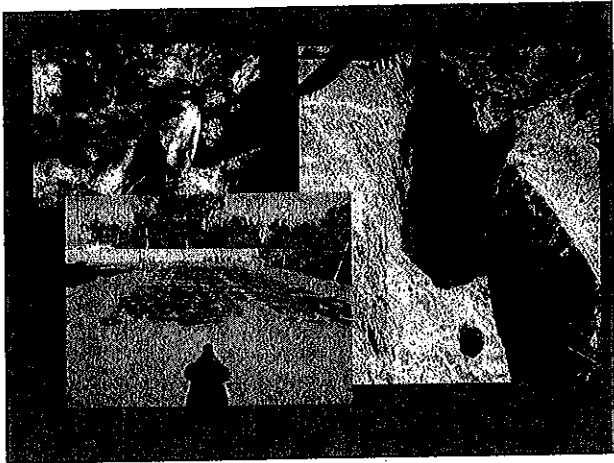
- Statewide Regulations – AB885
- Wastewater Advisory Committee
- Revised Onsite Wastewater Ordinance
- Revised Onsite Wastewater Manual (rules and regulations)

Statewide Regulations

- AB885 – Passed 2000, required SWRCB to promulgate Regulations
- Current implementation schedule for the new regulations is sometime in 2009
- Draft release for CEQA review Spring of 2008

Key Changes

- Soils Test on each lot
- Requires private well testing every 5 years
- Rule out shallow systems prior to using deep designs
- No option for local variance
- Requires periodic inspections of tank
- Proposed implementation date is 2009



Revised Onsite Wastewater Ordinance

➤ Key Impacts

- Conformance with State Regs (currently in draft)
- Operations and Maintenance standards
- Address gaps in regulations (holding tanks...)
- Provide enforcement options

Wastewater Advisory Committee Goals

- Advise on Revised Onsite Wastewater Ordinance
- Review, evaluate and advise on new technology, practices and equipment
- Provide mechanism for ongoing dialog between regulators and stakeholders



Wastewater Advisory Committee Potential Representatives

Real Estate Industry	Building Industry
Regional Water Board	Environmental Consultant
Sacramento Environmental Commission	Septic Tank Pumper/Manufacturer
On-Site Wastewater Consultant/Engineer	On-Site Wastewater Vendor/Proprietor
Citizen-at-Large	Onsite Wastewater Contractor

Questions?

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