

SEPTIC TANK GUIDELINES

Memorandum of Understanding
Between the
California Water Quality Control Board
Lahontan Region
and
Lassen County

This Memorandum of Understanding is entered into by and between the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region (hereinafter Board), and Lassen County (hereinafter County). Its purpose is to expedite the overall review process for proposed developments and to provide a clear operating policy between the Board and the County on the implementation of the Board's guidelines for wastewater disposal from land developments.

Section 13260 of the California Water Code requires any person discharging waste or proposing to discharge waste that may affect waters of the State, except to a community sewer system, to file a report of waste discharge with the Regional Board of that region. Implementation of this code section has included regulation of individual waste systems wherever warranted.

In 1973 and again in 1974, the Board adopted guidelines to (1) establish the conditions under which waivers of the filing requirement would be in the public interest (pursuant to California Water Code Section 13269); (2) establish minimum criteria for the use of individual systems; and (3) prevent pollution or nuisance caused by the discharges from leaching or percolation systems.

On January 14, 1988, the Regional Board adopted revisions to the "Guidelines for Waste Disposal From Land Developments." In conjunction with these revisions, the Regional Board also adopted the "Regional Board Guidelines for Implementation of Criteria for Individual Waste Disposal Systems." These implementation guidelines list general and specific provisions in considering exemptions to the maximum density criteria (2 EDUs per acre) for individual waste disposal systems in both new and existing land developments.

This requirement also applies to domestic wastewater discharges from new commercial and industrial development with wastewater discharge volumes exceeding two EDU per acre density (500 gal/day/acre based on 250 gal/day/EDU). On June 16, 1988, the State Water Resources Control Board approved the revisions. For purposes of this Memorandum of Understanding gross acreage is that area which encompasses the entire net lot area plus any underlying fee title within the adjacent right-of-ways, if any.

Inasmuch as the County has incorporated into its review criteria the "Minimum Criteria for Subsurface Discharge of Sewage" contained in the Board's guidelines, and has consistently applied these criteria in its review of proposed developments, it is not against the public interest for the Board to reduce its oversight work by eliminating redundant review of proposed projects.

It is agreed that:

- I. The County is authorized to issue construction permits for

projects that utilize individual subsurface disposal systems without Regional Board approval under the following conditions:

A. All of the Following:

1. The on-site soil characteristics comply with the established "Minimum Criteria for Individual Waste Disposal Systems as adopted by Resolution 6-88-15; and
2. The discharge is composed of domestic wastewater only; and

B. One of the Following:

1. The development consists of single-family residences or multiple-family residences, the density does not exceed two equivalent dwelling units (EDU) per acre (500 gallons/acre/day wastewater flow), or
2. The development consists only of a single-family home on an individual lot which has a minimum net area of 15,000 square feet; or
3. The development is non-residential or of mixed occupancy and the wastewater discharge does not exceed 500 gallons/acre/day as determined using Table I-2 and I-3 in the Uniform Plumbing Code and occupant loads as determined by Table 33A in the Uniform Building Code; or
4. The project is in a class that has been designated exempt from Regional Board review in writing under signature of the Regional Board Executive Officer; or
5. The project/development has been granted an exemption by the Board and complies with the County's standards for use of septic tank wastewater disposal systems.

- II. The County shall not issue construction permits without Regional Board approval for the following projects:
- A. Projects that involve domestic wastewater discharge from commercial or industrial development in excess of 500 gallon/acre/day as determined by the Board; or
 - B. Projects that will have industrial wastewater discharges; or
 - C. Projects that exceed the two EDU/acre density requirement for septic tank use (except in exempted areas); or
 - D. Projects that do not comply with the County's standards for use of septic tank wastewater disposal systems; or
 - E. Projects located within existing waste discharge prohibition areas such as the Eagle Lake Basin or Cady Springs areas; or
 - F. Projects utilizing package wastewater treatment plants with on-site disposal; or
 - G. Projects that consist of a single-family home on individual lots that were created out of a subdivision after June 16, 1988 when the lot has a net area of less than 15,000 square feet.
- III. The County, at its discretion, may defer consideration of projects, based on water quality impacts, to the Board for any projects even if it appears that compliance with Section I. of this Memorandum of Understanding has been achieved.
- IV. The County, at its discretion, may require the formation of a public entity (as defined in the State of California Government Code

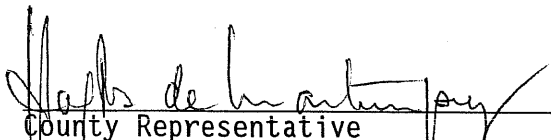
Section 53090 et seq.) to maintain septic systems in residential developments of one hundred (100) lots or more.

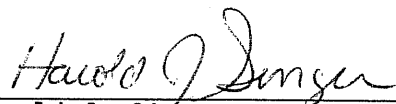
- V. The Board may review permits issued by the County at its discretion. Copies of permits will be made available upon request for review in County offices.
- VI. The Board, upon reviewing permits issued by the County, may require proposals be submitted and/or waste discharge requirements (permits) be obtained for all other types of waste discharges such as stormwater runoff and solid waste leachate.
- VII. The County, on its own initiative or at the request of an applicant and upon providing the information specified in the implementation guidelines, may apply for individual, large scale, or area-wide exemptions.
- VIII. The applicant, for projects found in compliance with the Board's guidelines, will be notified of acceptance by issuance of a County building permit or by issuance of a Board clearance letter.
- IX. The County shall maintain a record of all documents submitted and reviewed under this Memorandum of Understanding. This record shall be kept as a note on the construction permit for each project.

- X. This Memorandum of Understanding shall be effective immediately after execution of this agreement and shall remain in full force until terminated by a prior thirty (30) day written notice by either party.
- XI. This Memorandum of Understanding may be amended as mutually agreed to by the County and the Regional Board.
- XII. All notices and communications under this Memorandum of Understanding shall be addressed to the following:

Representative	Harold J. Singer
City/County	California Regional Water Quality
Department	Control Board, Lahontan Region
Address	P.O. Box 9428
City, State, Zip	South Lake Tahoe, CA 95731-2428

This Memorandum of Understanding is executed on the date of the most recent signature below, by the following authorized representatives of the parties.


County Representative
Title Chairman of the Board of Supervisors


Harold J. Singer
Executive Officer

Date November 28, 1989

Date November 1, 1989

SEPTIC TANK GUIDELINES

Memorandum of Understanding
Between the
California Water Quality Control Board
Lahontan Region
and
Lassen County

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In 1973 and again in 1974, the Board adopted guidelines to (1) establish the conditions under which waivers of the filing requirement would be in the public interest (pursuant to California Water Code Section 13269); (2) establish minimum criteria for the use of individual systems; and (3) prevent pollution or nuisance caused by the discharges from leaching or percolation systems.

LASSEN COUNTY
Board of Supervisors
MAR 25 1991

On January 14, 1988, the Regional Board adopted revisions to the "Guidelines for Waste Disposal From Land Developments." In conjunction with these revisions, the Regional Board also adopted the "Regional Board Guidelines for Implementation of Criteria for Individual Waste Disposal Systems." These implementation guidelines list general and specific provisions in considering exemptions to the maximum density criteria (2 EDUs per acre) for individual waste disposal systems in both new and existing land developments.

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2. The discharge is composed of domestic wastewater only; and

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2. The development consists only of a single-family home on an individual lot which has a minimum net area of 15,000 square feet; or
3. The development is non-residential or of mixed occupancy and the wastewater discharge does not exceed 500 gallons/acre/day as determined using Table I-2 and I-3 in the Uniform Plumbing Code and occupant loads as determined by Table 33A in the Uniform Building Code; or
4. The project is in a class that has been designated exempt from Regional Board review in writing under signature of the Regional Board Executive Officer; or
5. The project/development has been granted an exemption by the Board and complies with the County's standards for use of septic tank wastewater disposal systems.

11. The County shall not issue construction permits without Regional Board approval for the following projects:
 - A. Projects that involve domestic wastewater discharge from commercial or industrial development in excess of 500 gallon/acre/day as determined by the Board; or
 - B. Projects that will have industrial wastewater discharges; or
 - C. Projects that exceed the two EDU/acre density requirement for septic tank use (except in exempted areas); or
 - D. Projects that do not comply with the County's standards for use of septic tank wastewater disposal systems; or
 - E. Projects located within existing waste discharge prohibition areas such as the Eagle Lake Basin or Cady Springs areas; or
 - F. Projects utilizing package wastewater treatment plants with on-site disposal; or
 - G. Projects that consist of a single-family home on individual lots that were created out of a subdivision before June 16, 1988 when the lot has a net area of less than 15,000 square feet.

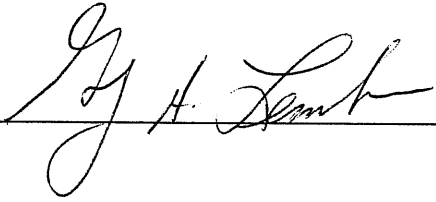
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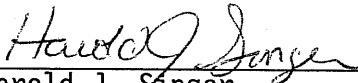
Section 53090 et seq.) to maintain septic systems in residential developments of one hundred (100) lots or more.

- V. The Board may review permits issued by the County at its discretion. Copies of permits will be made available upon request for review in County offices.
- VI. The Board, upon reviewing permits issued by the County, may require proposals be submitted and/or waste discharge requirements (permits) be obtained for all other types of waste discharges such as stormwater runoff and solid waste leachate.
- VII. The County, on its own initiative or at the request of an applicant and upon providing the information specified in the implementation guidelines, may apply for individual, large scale, or area-wide exemptions.
- VIII. The applicant, for projects found in compliance with the Board's guidelines, will be notified of acceptance by issuance of a County building permit or by issuance of a Board clearance letter.
- IX. The County shall maintain a record of all documents submitted and reviewed under this Memorandum of Understanding. This record shall be kept as a note on the construction permit for each project.

The amendment of Item 1. G., changing the word "after" to "before" in the Septic System Memorandum of Understanding with the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board is executed on the date of the last signature below, by the following authorized representatives of the parties.



3-25-91
Date



Mar 11, 1991
Date

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD, LAHONTAN REGION
AND
LASSEN COUNTY

REGULATION OF WASTEWATER DISPOSAL FOR PROPERTIES IN THE CADY SPRINGS WASTE DISCHARGE PROHIBITION AREA

I. INTRODUCTION

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered into by and between the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region (RWQCB), and Lassen County (County). This MOU establishes procedures for the review and regulation of proposed individual wastewater disposal systems, inside the Cady Springs prohibition area. This MOU is specific to the Cady Springs prohibition area and is not to be used for projects outside the Cady Springs prohibition area.

II. BACKGROUND

Cady Springs is a major source of drinking water to the City of Susanville. In 1975 the RWQCB established a prohibition against the discharge of wastes from new leaching or percolation systems in the vicinity of Cady Springs. The prohibition was intended to protect Cady Springs from contamination from human wastes. A hydrogeologic report prepared for California-Pacific Utilities in 1970 provided the basis for the prohibition. The prohibition area was considered the recharge zone for Cady Springs, and included approximately 5,000 acres of land, southwest of Piute Creek and north of the Susan River.

On January 14, 1988 the RWQCB established minimum criteria for proposed individual waste disposal systems inside the Lahontan Region. The RWQCB's criteria included conditions for discharge density, soil types, and minimum distances.

In March of 1991, the RWQCB and Lassen County established an MOU for the regulation of proposed septic systems in Lassen County. The purpose of the MOU was to establish a clear operating policy between the RWQCB and the County for implementing the RWQCB's criteria for individual waste disposal systems. By means of the 1991 MOU, the County agreed to impose the RWQCB's criteria for individual waste disposal systems throughout Lassen County. The MOU contained specific language regarding proposed disposal systems near Cady Springs, and said that the County shall not issue construction permits for septic systems inside the prohibition area without RWQCB approval.

In June of 1993, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) submitted the results of a hydrogeologic study titled, "*Cady Springs Water Quality Phase I Report.*" DWR concluded that the water quality of Cady Springs and the area ground water continues to be

excellent, and that although the ground water area is sensitive because of the nature of the hard rock regime, the potential for negative impact of septic discharge is less than previously thought. DWR based this finding on their determination that the primary recharge source for Cady Springs is deep under flow from the surrounding mountains and not from local deep percolation. Further, DWR found that leaching or percolation systems could be permissible on lots that satisfy strict development standards, and that these standards should be based on the RWQCB's criteria for individual waste disposal systems.

In October 1994, the RWQCB adopted the *Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region* (Basin Plan). The Basin Plan incorporates and updates the RWQCB's criteria for individual waste disposal systems. On April 21, 1995, the RWQCB adopted amendments to the Basin Plan, and thereby revised the Cady Springs discharge prohibition. The revised prohibition is consistent with the findings and recommendations put forth in DWR's report. The adopted amendments became effective on August 17, 1995. This MOU is consistent with the Basin Plan, as amended on August 17, 1995.

III. PROHIBITION AREA

For purposes of this MOU, the Cady Springs prohibition area is defined as follows, and as delineated in Figure 1:

U.S.G.S. Map (7.5 Minute Series), Susanville Quadrangle

T.30.N. and R.11.E.

Including: Sections 1 through 18, 20 through 28, and portions of Sections 19, 29, 33, 34, 35, and 36. The boundary defining the portions of Sections 19, 29, 33, and 34 is based on the surface water divide between Piute Creek and Susan River drainages and the fault trace F_1 as described in DWR's 1993 report titled, *Cady Springs Water Quality Phase I Report*; the portions of those Sections within the Piute Creek drainage and north of the fault are included in the prohibition area. Areas north of the Susan River in Section 36 are included in the prohibition area.

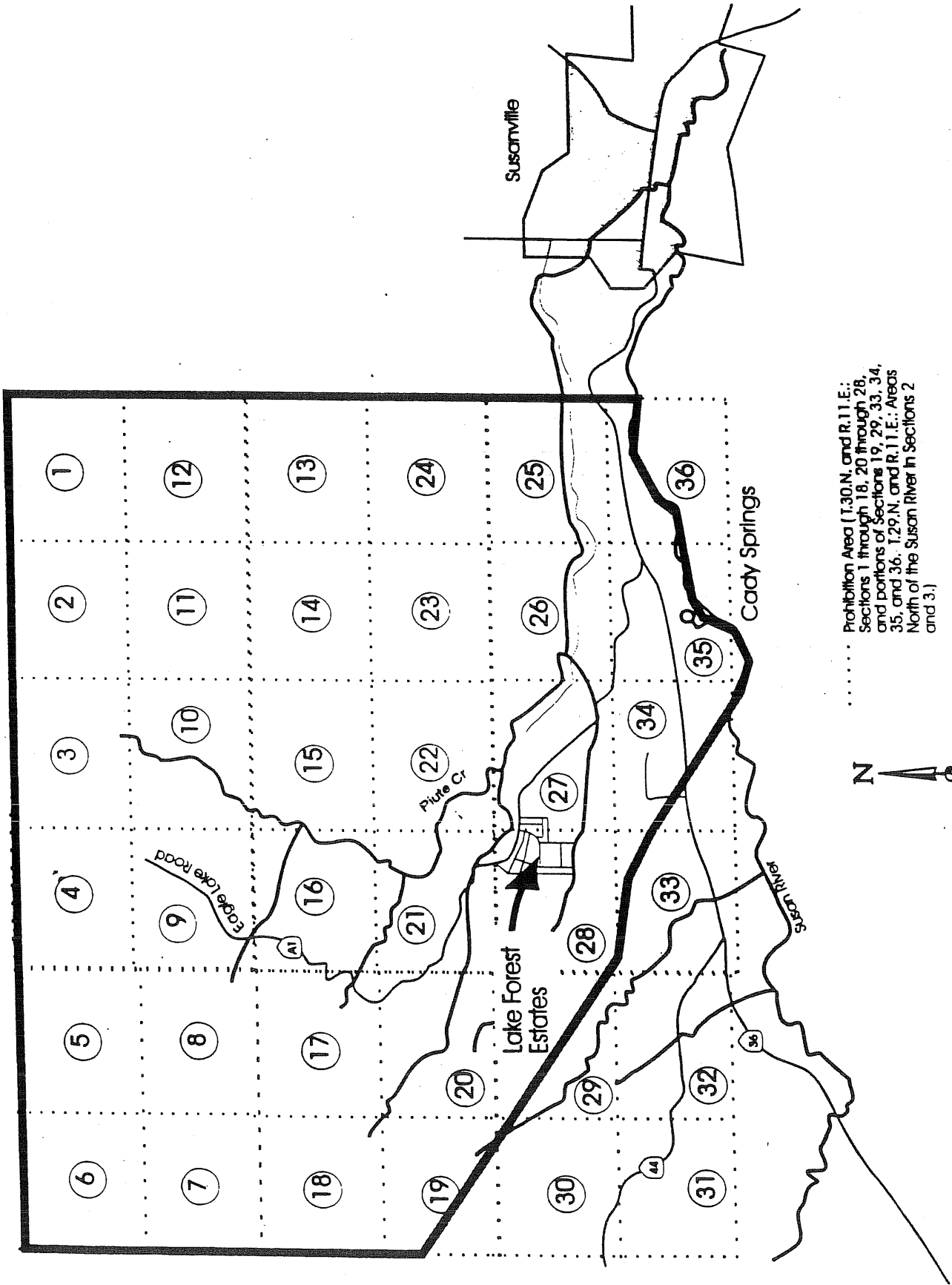
Excluding: Sections 30, 31 and 32.

T.29.N. and R.11.E.

Including: Areas north of the Susan River in Sections 2 and 3.

Excluding: Section 1, and Sections 4 through 36.

CADY SPRINGS PROHIBITION AREA



Prohibition Area (T.30.N. and R.11.E.;
Sections 1 through 18, 20 through 28,
and portions of Sections 19, 29, 33, 34,
35, and 36. T.29.N. and R.11.E.; Areas
North of the Suson River in Sections 2
and 3.)

21 Section Number

IV. AGREEMENTS

It is agreed that:

- A. The County is authorized to issue construction permits for proposed projects inside the Cady Springs prohibition area that use individual leaching or percolation disposal systems, without RWQCB approval, under the following conditions:
1. All of the following:
 - a. The discharge is composed of domestic wastewater only; and
 - b. The proposed disposal system satisfies the RWQCB's criteria for individual waste disposal systems (minimum distances, percolation rates, soil characteristics, depth to ground water, ground slope, expansion area), as prescribed in Chapter 4.4 of the Basin Plan as amended; and
 - c. One of the following:
 - i. The proposed project is residential, inside an "Existing Land Development", the net lot area is 15,000 square feet or more, and the wastewater discharge will not exceed one equivalent dwelling unit (EDU) per net lot area per day. The net lot area is that contained inside the boundaries set forth in the legal lot description; or
 - ii. The proposed project is non-residential or of mixed occupancy, inside an "Existing Land Development", the net lot area is 15,000 square feet or more, and the discharge is composed of domestic wastewater only, and does not exceed one EDU per net lot area per day, as determined using Table I-3 in the Uniform Plumbing Code.
- "Existing Land Development" is defined as those parcels of land that were legally created prior to April 21, 1995.
- B. The County shall determine whether a proposed project satisfies the above-listed exemption criteria. To make this determination, the County shall require, at a minimum, the following:
1. Development of at least three trenches to a depth of ten feet below ground surface or bedrock, whichever distance is less, in the proposed wastewater disposal area. The soil profiles are to be logged onsite by a Registered Civil Engineer or Certified Engineering Geologist and submitted to the County. The

County shall inspect test pits for all proposed onsite disposal systems inside the Cady Springs prohibition area. In cases where the required test pits reveal a consistent presence of consolidated volcanic tuff, and/or consolidated volcanic tuff with fractures, within five feet below the bottom of the proposed leaching trench, the County shall make the determination that the proposed project does not satisfy the exemption criteria.

2. The results of a minimum of three percolation tests. These tests are to be performed by a Registered Civil Engineer, or Certified Engineering Geologist according to the procedures established by the County, at depths and locations specified by the County Environmental Health Department.
 3. Soil grain size analysis may be required if the percolation test results are faster than 15 minutes per inch or if the inspection of the soil profile indicates that adequate soil treatment will not be achieved.
 4. A map of the parcel that delineates the location of the soil profile trenches and the percolation tests. In addition, the parcel map shall delineate: lot size, structures, buildings, surface waters and drainage courses, road cuts, rock outcrops, and any features that are likely to affect the disposal of sewage effluent.
 5. Determination that a minimum five-foot separation exists, and will be maintained, between the bottom of the leachfield system and the top of the groundwater table, throughout the year.
 6. Description of the structure (residential home, commercial establishment) to be served by the proposed sewage disposal system and the anticipated sewage loading rates.
 7. The County may require additional information, as necessary.
- C. The County shall not issue construction permits without RWQCB approval for projects that do not satisfy the exemption criteria.
- D. In the event that the County determines that a proposed project does not satisfy the above-stated exemption criteria (IV.A.1.a, b, c), the County shall provide written notification of such determination to the proposed discharger. Such notification shall inform the project proponent that the project is subject to RWQCB review, and that a Report of Waste Discharge is required by the RWQCB. This written notification shall also include the RWQCB's submittal requirements for a Report of Waste Discharge (Attachment 1).

- E. For proposed projects that do not satisfy the exemption criteria (IV.A.1.a, b, c), an exemption to the prohibition may be granted by the RWQCB Executive Officer after submittal by the proposed discharger of a Report of Waste Discharge that substantiates that the use of the proposed leaching disposal system will not, of itself or in conjunction with the use of other systems in the area, result in a pollution or nuisance, or other adverse effects to water quality or beneficial uses. The RWQCB recognizes the possibility that a disposal system design may be established which consistently satisfies the RWQCB Executive Officer's exemption requirements for projects not satisfying the exemption criteria set forth in agreement A, above. If such a situation should occur, the RWQCB Executive Officer may allow the County, at the County's discretion, sole responsibility for reviewing and approving such exemption applications.
- F. The RWQCB will not issue discharge permits for proposed leaching or percolation systems on "new lots" inside the Cady Springs prohibition area. For purposes of this prohibition, "new lots" are defined as lots created after April 21, 1995 in accordance with the requirements of the California Subdivision Map Act and Lassen County Subdivision Ordinance. An exemption may be granted by the Regional Board for projects on "new lots", provided the project is necessary for public health and safety, or other necessary public services which, by their inherent nature, must be located in close geographic proximity to the served public. Examples of such public services would be schools and post offices. To obtain an exemption, the proposed discharger must submit a Report of Waste Discharge that includes geologic and hydrologic evidence and an acceptable engineering design that sufficiently demonstrate that the use of the proposed leaching system will not, of itself or in conjunction with the use of other systems in the area, result in a pollution or nuisance, or other adverse effects to water quality or beneficial uses.
- G. The County agrees to prohibit amendments to the Lassen County Zoning Ordinance that would allow the creation of "new lots" or an increase in the development potential or allowable density of development on existing lots within the prohibition area. Zoning changes that allow new lots or increase the development potential of existing lots may be allowed if the project proponent proposes an acceptable, non-leaching/non-percolating wastewater disposal system(s) for the project. The County may allow exemptions to this prohibition, provided the project is necessary for public health and safety, or other necessary public services which, by their inherent nature, must be located in close geographic proximity to the served public. Examples of such public services would be schools and post offices.
- H. The County will prohibit the creation of "new lots" within the prohibition area, unless the project applicant proposes an acceptable, non-leaching/non-percolating wastewater disposal system(s) for the "new lots". The County may allow exemptions to this prohibition, provided the project is necessary for public health and safety, or other

necessary public services which, by their inherent nature, must be located in close geographic proximity to the served public. Examples of such public services would be schools and post offices.

- I. The RWQCB and the County agree that alternative treatment systems, such as mound systems and sand filters, may be adequate to mitigate discharges from land developments on sub-size parcels (less than 15,000 square feet net lot area) and/or on parcels with inadequate soils. Alternative treatment systems shall be subject to review and approval by the RWQCB and the County. To obtain an exemption from the RWQCB for an alternative treatment system, the proposed discharger must submit a Report of Waste Discharge that substantiates that the use of the proposed system will not, of itself or in conjunction with the use of other systems in the area, result in a pollution or nuisance, or other adverse effects to water quality or beneficial uses.
- J. The RWQCB and the County, at their discretion, may require monitoring of individual wastewater disposal systems to investigate the quality of the discharge.
- K. The County shall oversee the construction of all onsite disposal systems.
- L. The County, at its discretion, may defer consideration of any project, based upon water quality impacts, to the RWQCB, even if it appears that the proposed project qualifies for an exemption under IV.A. of this MOU.
- M. The County, at its discretion, may require the formation of a public entity (as defined in the California Government Code) to maintain septic systems in residential developments of one hundred lots or more.
- N. The RWQCB may review permits issued by the County at its discretion. Copies of permits will be made available upon request for review in County offices.
- O. The County shall maintain a record of all documents submitted and reviewed under this MOU. This record shall be kept as a note on the construction permit application for each project.
- P. The County and the RWQCB agree to develop a groundwater monitoring program that will include monitoring of domestic water wells inside the Cady Springs prohibition area. The County and the RWQCB agree to work with representatives from other local agencies and interested parties (including the City of Susanville and Lake Forest Estates) in developing a Cady Springs groundwater monitoring program. Nothing contained herein shall obligate the County to expend any County funds to monitor either test or domestic wells with respect to the Cady Springs Prohibition Area. Nothing contained herein shall obligate the RWQCB to expend any RWQCB funds to monitor either test or domestic wells with respect to the Cady Springs prohibition area.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING 8
FOR WASTEWATER DISPOSAL

CADY SPRINGS

This Memorandum of Understanding, between the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region and Lassen County is executed on the date of the last signature below, by the following authorized representatives of the parties.



LASSEN COUNTY DESIGNATED
REPRESENTATIVE



HAROLD J. SINGER
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

11-14-95

DATE

Nov. 3, 1995

DATE

**SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS FOR A
REPORT OF WASTE DISCHARGE
FOR PROPOSED WASTE DISPOSAL SYSTEMS
IN THE CADY SPRINGS PROHIBITION AREA**

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region (RWQCB) adopted the *Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region* (Basin Plan) in October 1994. On April 21, 1995 the RWQCB adopted amendments to the Basin Plan. The Basin Plan, as amended, includes a prohibition against new leaching or percolation waste disposal systems in the vicinity of Cady Springs. The Basin Plan includes exemption criteria. By satisfying the exemption criteria, a proposed leaching or percolation disposal system is considered exempt from the Basin Plan prohibition.

By means of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the RWQCB and Lassen County (County), the RWQCB and the County established procedures for the review of proposed individual wastewater disposal systems inside the prohibition area. The MOU became effective on the date of signing by the designated Lassen County representative. According to the MOU, the County has agreed to make the determination whether a proposed project satisfies the Basin Plan exemption criteria, or whether the project is subject to RWQCB review and approval.

For proposed waste disposal systems that are not exempt from the Cady Springs discharge prohibition, as determined by the County, a Report of Waste Discharge must be submitted to the RWQCB. A Report of Waste Discharge is to include the following information:

1. Government Code Section 84308(c) requires all applicants for waste discharge requirements to include a statement disclosing any contributions made by the applicant to any RWQCB member if the contributions amounted to \$250.00 or more, were made within the last 12 months of the date of application, and were to be used in a federal, state, or local election. A current list of the Regional Board members may be obtained from the Regional Board's office in South Lake Tahoe.
2. Application Form 200 must be completed. Form 200 must be signed by the lot owner responsible for the project and not the engineer, architect, or any other consultant for the project. In the case of a corporation, the report must be signed by the chief executive officer, or equivalent.
3. The appropriate filing fee must be submitted.
4. A minimum of three trenches must be developed to a depth of ten feet below ground surface or bedrock, whichever distance is less, in each proposed wastewater disposal area. The presence of bedrock at less than the 10-foot depth may necessitate additional trenches. The soil profiles are to be logged onsite by a Registered Civil Engineer or Certified Engineering Geologist and submitted to the Regional Board for review. It will be necessary to coordinate

the scheduling of excavation with the County Environmental Health Department to enable an inspection of the profile trenches and to specify the location and depths of percolation tests required, as specified below (No. 5).

5. The results of a minimum of three percolation tests. These tests are to be performed by a Registered Civil Engineer, or Certified Engineering Geologist according to the procedures established by the County, at depths and locations specified by the County Environmental Health Department.
6. Soil grain size analysis may be required if the percolation test results are faster than 15 minutes per inch or if the inspection of the soil profile indicates that adequate soil treatment will not be achieved.
7. A map of the parcel that delineates the location of the soil profile trenches and the percolation tests. In addition, the parcel map shall delineate: lot size, structures, buildings, surface waters and drainage courses, road cuts, rock outcrops, and any features that are likely to affect the disposal of sewage effluent.
8. Determination that a minimum five-foot separation exists, and will be maintained, between the bottom of the leachfield system and the top of the groundwater table, throughout the year. Since the depth to groundwater is largely unknown inside the prohibition area and can vary with season, it may be necessary to excavate soil profile trenches during the Spring to ensure that the five feet of separation can be maintained. Soil mottling may also be an indicator of high water.
9. Description of the structure (residential home, commercial establishment) to be served by the proposed sewage disposal system and the anticipated sewage loading rates.



Lahontan
Regional Water
Quality Control
Board

South Lake Tahoe
Office

2501 Lake Tahoe Blvd.
South Lake Tahoe, CA
96150
(530) 542-5400
FAX (530) 544-2271

February 6, 1998



Pete Wilson
Governor

Doug Ames
Lassen County Health Dept.
555 Hospital Lane
Susanville, CA 96130

Dear Mr. Ames:

**PROPOSED DELEGATION TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS OF ADDITIONAL
RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF REGIONAL BOARD
SEPTIC SYSTEM CRITERIA**

The Regional Board has expressed its desire to delegate approvals for all domestic septic system discharges (including alternative systems and exemptions from the criteria) to local governments. This delegation would not change the Board's existing septic system prohibitions, or septic system location and density criteria, and local governments would be responsible for ensuring compliance with all applicable Regional Board regulations. The Regional Board would still retain responsibility for reviewing discharges of industrial waste to septic systems.

The regulation of septic systems in Lassen County is based on County regulations and siting and density criteria contained in the *Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region* (Basin Plan) (excerpts enclosed). Through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the County issues septic tank permits on behalf of the Regional Board. However, the Regional Board has retained authority to approve of alternative systems and exemptions to the basic criteria. Since this procedure was implemented in 1988, it is evident to me that County staff have successfully and skillfully implemented the program.

I am therefore delegating additional authority to Lassen County and am proposing to revise our MOU such that it would delegate complete authority for approvals of individual domestic waste disposal systems to Lassen County. The following describes what I intend to delegate immediately to Lassen County, and what I plan to delegate in the near future once we revise our MOU with you.

Delegation -- Exemptions for Alternative Systems

Pursuant to the conditions in the section titled "*Permitting Authority*" on page 4.4 - 20 of the Basin Plan, I am immediately delegating authority to Lassen County to approve of alternative systems. My expectation is that the County will use the "Criteria for Alternative Systems" on page 4.4 - 19 and 20 of the Basin Plan.

Proposed Delegation -- Exemptions to Density and Siting Criteria

Pursuant to Sections 3 and 4 in the section titled "*Implementation of Criteria for Individual Waste Disposal Systems*" on page 4.4 - 18 of the Basin Plan, I am prepared to delegate authority in the near future to Lassen County to approve of exemptions to the siting criteria and, in many circumstances, the density criteria. We are drafting a revised MOU to implement this delegation. You should expect to receive the draft of the revised MOU by February 17, 1998. This new MOU would replace the existing MOU with Lassen County. The basis for such delegation would be the commitment from you that Lassen County would use the Basin Plan criteria in evaluating exemption requests.

Please contact me at (530) 542-5412 if you have any comments or questions on this matter.

Sincerely,



HAROLD J. SINGER
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Enclosures

cc: Regional Board Members w/enclosures
Lassen County Community Development Dept./Robert Sorvaag
City of Susanville Planning Dept.

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CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD—
LAHONTAN REGION2092 LAKE TAHOE BOULEVARD
P.O. BOX 9428
SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, CALIFORNIA 95731-2428
(916) 544-3481

March 11, 1991

Jack Jenkins, Chairman
Lassen County Board of Supervisors
Lassen County Courthouse Annex
Susanville, CA 96130

Dear Mr. Jenkins:

AMENDED SEPTIC SYSTEM MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

It has come to our attention that an error was made in the original wording of the above-referenced Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Regional Board and Lassen County. Item II. G. of the MOU should have had the word "before" rather than "after" so that the MOU would accurately reflect the intentions of the Regional Board. Pursuant to item XI of the MOU, we propose that this change be made with the mutual agreement of both parties. If you concur, please substitute the enclosed page containing this correction with the corresponding page in your copy of the agreement.

Also, please have one of the enclosed forms signed and returned to this office within 60 days of receipt. We thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. If you have any questions or comments, please contact David Himebaugh or Dr. Ranjit Gill.

Sincerely,

HAROLD J. SINGER
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Enclosure

cc: septic system mailing list
sh**LASSEN COUNTY
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE****WILLIAM D. BIXBY
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**VIRGINIA E. LAWRENCE
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
(916) 257-8311 EXT. 333707 NEVADA ST.
SUSANVILLE, CA 96130
FAX (916) 257-4898

11. The County shall not issue construction permits without Regional Board approval for the following projects:
 - A. Projects that involve domestic wastewater discharge from commercial or industrial development in excess of 500 gallon/acre/day as determined by the Board; or
 - B. Projects that will have industrial wastewater discharges; or
 - C. Projects that exceed the two EDU/acre density requirement for septic tank use (except in exempted areas); or
 - D. Projects that do not comply with the County's standards for use of septic tank wastewater disposal systems; or
 - E. Projects located within existing waste discharge prohibition areas such as the Eagle Lake Basin or Cady Springs areas; or
 - F. Projects utilizing package wastewater treatment plants with on-site disposal; or
 - G. Projects that consist of a single-family home on individual lots that were created out of a subdivision before June 16, 1988 when the lot has a net area of less than 15,000 square feet.

- III. The County, at its discretion, may defer consideration of projects, based on water quality impacts, to the Board for any projects even if it appears that compliance with Section I. of this Memorandum of Understanding has been achieved.

- IV. The County, at its discretion, may require the formation of a public entity (as defined in the State of California Government Code

The amendment of Item I G., changing the word "after" "before" in the Septic System Memorandum of Understanding with the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board is executed on the date of the last signature below, by the following authorized representatives of the parties.

Harold J. Singer

Harold J. Singer
Executive Officer

Date

Nov 11, 1991

Date