

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 4-5, 2008

Prepared on October 8, 2008

ITEM NUMBER: 33

SUBJECT: Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for On-Site Domestic Mounded Septic Disposal System, Verissimo Residence, 260-B Flint Road, Hollister (APN 18-16-08), San Benito County, Resolution No. R3-2008-0072

KEY INFORMATION

Disposal Type: Individual on-site domestic septic system with mounded disposal system
Design Flow: Average 300 gallons per day (GPD) domestic wastewater, Peak 600 GPD domestic wastewater
Property: 20 acres, zoned agriculture/residential
Landowner/Discharger: Steve and Audrey Verissimo
Local Oversight Agency: San Benito County Division of Environmental Health
This Action: **Adopt Resolution No. R3-2008-0072**

SUMMARY

This waiver of waste discharge requirements serves as a Basin Plan exemption for addition of a septic system at 260-B Flint Road in San Benito County. The discharge is domestic wastewater. The Discharger is requesting a Basin Plan exemption due to observed soil mottling at nine feet below grade surface, and proposes to install a mound sewage disposal system which meets requirements of State Water Board's 1980 *Guidelines for Mound Systems* and 1998 *Draft Mound System Guidelines*. Mounded disposal system designs have been successfully applied under similar conditions throughout the state and have proven to protect beneficial uses of groundwater.

DISCUSSION

Water Board staff received a Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) Supplemental Form for Regional Board Subsurface Disposal Exemptions (Supplemental Form) for a proposed on-site domestic mound septic disposal system at the above-referenced property on May 14, 2008. The average percolation rate performed in the area sited for the proposed mound septic system is 7.3 minutes per inch based on eight percolation tests. The Central Coast Water Board's Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) specifically prohibits discharges from new soil absorption systems installed after September 16, 1983, at sites where the distance between leachfield trench bottoms and groundwater is less than eight feet when soil percolation rates range 5 to 29 minutes per inch. The San Benito County Environmental Health Department

(Environmental Health) determined the site is not suitable for a standard on-site subsurface disposal system and does not meet Basin Plan requirements because of soil mottling observed at nine feet below grade surface. Consequently, Environmental Health cannot issue a permit without an exemption from the Basin Plan prohibition. Environmental Health certified the Supplemental Form on July 10, 2008, and recommended approval of the exemption request. The Executive Officer approved the Basin Plan exemption after review of the Supplemental Form. Water Board staff notified the Discharger and interested parties of the Basin Plan exemption approval and this proposed waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements on October 8, 2008.

System Design

Installation of a mound domestic wastewater septic system in areas where high groundwater levels are evident is a common practice due to a mound system's potential to mitigate groundwater impacts from domestic wastewater. The conservatively designed mound system has a 2,343 square feet (sq. ft.) basal area which will accept a peak daily flow of 600 GPD of domestic wastewater. An equivalent reserve mound basal area of 2,343 sq. ft. is set aside on the property immediately west of the primary mound system area. The mound system is located more than 100 feet away from domestic water supply wells, water courses, and springs. There are no reservoirs located at the property.

Semiannual inspection of the septic tank, pumping system, alarm system, and groundwater depth monitoring are required for the first two years then annually for the life of the system. The owner is also required to have the system inspected by a licensed septic tank contractor annually for solids buildup and pump the system as necessary. San Benito County Environmental Health staff will provide regular inspection and oversight of the sewage disposal system and will monitor the system after all rainfall events resulting in greater than one inch of precipitation.

The proposed septic and mounded disposal system design meets requirements of State Water Board's 1980 *Guidelines for Mound Systems* and 1998 *Draft Mound System Guidelines*.

Conditional Waiver

The proposed discharge of domestic sewage to a mounded disposal system is subject to various conditions and monitoring and reporting requirements as specified in the attached Waiver Resolution.

The proposed mound septic system is in the public interest if operated and maintained in accordance with the Environmental Health permit requirements and the waiver conditions. This waiver is conditional and can be terminated at any time. This waiver expires on December 5, 2013.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

Individual subsurface disposal systems for domestic residences are categorically exempt from CEQA under CEQA Guideline 15303.

ATTACHMENT

1. Proposed Resolution No. R3-2008-0072

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt Resolution No. R3-2008-0072.

File: S:\WDR\Basin Plan Exemptions\San Benito Co\On-Site Septic\Verissimo\WDR Waiver SR 260 Flint Road DRAFT Final.doc