SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY HEALTH AGENCY
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION
2191 Johnson Avenue
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406-1489

Contact: Mike Doherty, Supervising Environmental Health Specialist
Public Health Department, Environmental Health Division
Phone: 781-5544

CENTRAL COASTAL REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
RECEIVED
APR 1 1998
81 Higuera, Ste. #200
San Luis Obispo 93401-5427
California

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RESIDENTS URGED TO TAKE PRECAUTIONS TO AVOID EXPOSURE TO CONTAMINATED SURFACE WATER

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA February 25, 1998 -- Environmental Health officials from the County Public Health Department are asking people who live in areas where septic tanks are used for sewage disposal to take precautions to avoid exposure to contaminated surface water.

According to Environmental Health Specialist, Mike Doherty, areas where septic tanks are used for sewage disposal are of particular concern during and after storms. "As ground water rises, septic tanks may begin to fail and overflow and create a serious public health hazard," said Doherty. Doherty offers the following suggestions to avoid exposure:

*Failing septic tanks should be pumped out by a licensed septic tank pumper truck.

*People should not divert their liquid waste from septic tanks to storm drains, creeks or streets.

*People should avoid contact with standing water which may be contaminated.

For more information contact Mike Doherty at County Environmental Health, 781-5544.

END