

OWTS POLICY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Local Agency Monitoring and Reporting Responsibilities

The OWTS Policy §§3.3 and 9.3.2 – 9.3.3 specify monitoring and reporting responsibilities for a LAMP. These cover recordkeeping, data collection, and reports to Regional Water Boards. Local Agencies must upload monitoring data to State Water Board electronic databases. Local records may be in any convenient format, but Regional Water Boards may request electronic submittals. Reports generally include:

- Permitting actions (installations, replacements, including variances)
- Complaints, investigations, and resolutions
- Applications and registrations for septic tank cleaning program
- Water quality assessment program

ANNUAL REPORTS

§3.3 Local Agencies report annually to all jurisdictional Regional Water Boards (copy external Regions as necessary); spreadsheet format, summarize need for further actions to protect water quality and public health:

§3.3.1, number and locations of complaints pertaining to operation and maintenance, investigations, and resolutions (i.e., inspection report summaries)

§3.3.2, applications and registrations for tank cleaning program, California H&S Code Section 117400 et seq.

§3.3.3, permits for new and replacement OWTS, number, location, description, risk Tier

§9.3.3, by February 1, summary; status of items §§9.3.1 through 9.3.2, i.e., permits, variances, failures, and inspections

Permits – new and replacement OWTS (APN, addresses, Tier 2 default ok)

Variances – see §8.1.6, Tier 1 dispersal systems, §9.2.3, substantial conformance, and §§9.4.1 – 9.4.9, prohibitions

Failures – see §11.0 et seq., definition of OWTS failure

Inspections – complaints and follow-up, e.g., repair permits, condemnations; locations sufficient for upload to Geotracker and CEDEN (e.g., latitude and longitude)

Notes:

Inspection data should document reasons for failures and complaints sufficiently to distinguish between routine issues effectively manageable under Local Agency oversight, and potential chronic water quality concerns. Routine issues might include, but are not limited to, root intrusions, crushed pipes, and insufficient pumping service. Potential water quality concerns might generally include, but are not limited to, groundwater encroachment, poor soils, shallow fractured bedrock, vulnerable surface water, high-density domestic wells and OWTS, small parcels, and multiple OWTS that either predate standards or are within pertinent setbacks; see §9.1 for details. **Begin compiling data one year after Regional Board LAMP approval date. First Annual Report is due 1 February 2018.**

WATER QUALITY ASSESSMENT REPORTS

§9.3.2, maintain program to determine operational status of OWTS (i.e., failures and complaints) and potential impacts to water quality. Focus on characteristics in §9.1. At minimum, assess nitrates and pathogens, plus other constituents to adequately characterize OWTS related impacts. Data sources may include, but are not limited to, those in §§9.3.2.1 – 9.3.2.9.

§9.3.3, every fifth year Local Agencies shall evaluate program, assess impacts to water quality, and recommend changes to address impacts. Submit monitoring data in EDF format for upload to Geotracker and CEDEN. **First Water Quality Assessment Report is due 1 February 2023.**

Notes:

Based on several prior discussions with CCDEH, for Region 5 acceptable minimum scope for the first Water Quality Assessment is; small community water system wells, monitoring wells from permitted facilities, Geotracker GAMA-secure, and individual domestic wells – but only if a Local Agency routinely requires sampling, e.g., as proof of potable water.

Because nitrate has high mobility in groundwater and common non-wastewater sources (e.g., fertilizer and animal manure), we should focus Water Quality Assessment Reports on credible OWTS impacts. Region 5 staff will work collaboratively with Local Agencies on means of assessment, including but not limited to; reviews of water quality data in Geotracker GAMA-secure, postings of inspection data onto relevant maps (e.g., soils and geology, water table, flood zones, and land uses), geochemistry, and hydrogeology.

FURTHER INFORMATION

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/owts/index.shtml

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/owts/lamp_reviews/index.shtml

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/owts/index.shtml

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