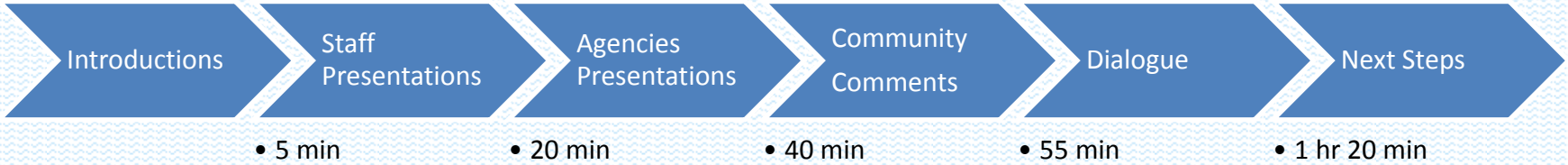
REGIONAL WATER BOARD WORKSHOP

Coachella Valley Mobile Home Park (MHP) Septic System Regulation

Colorado River Basin Regional Water Board
Informational Update

November 15, 2012

Workshop Organization



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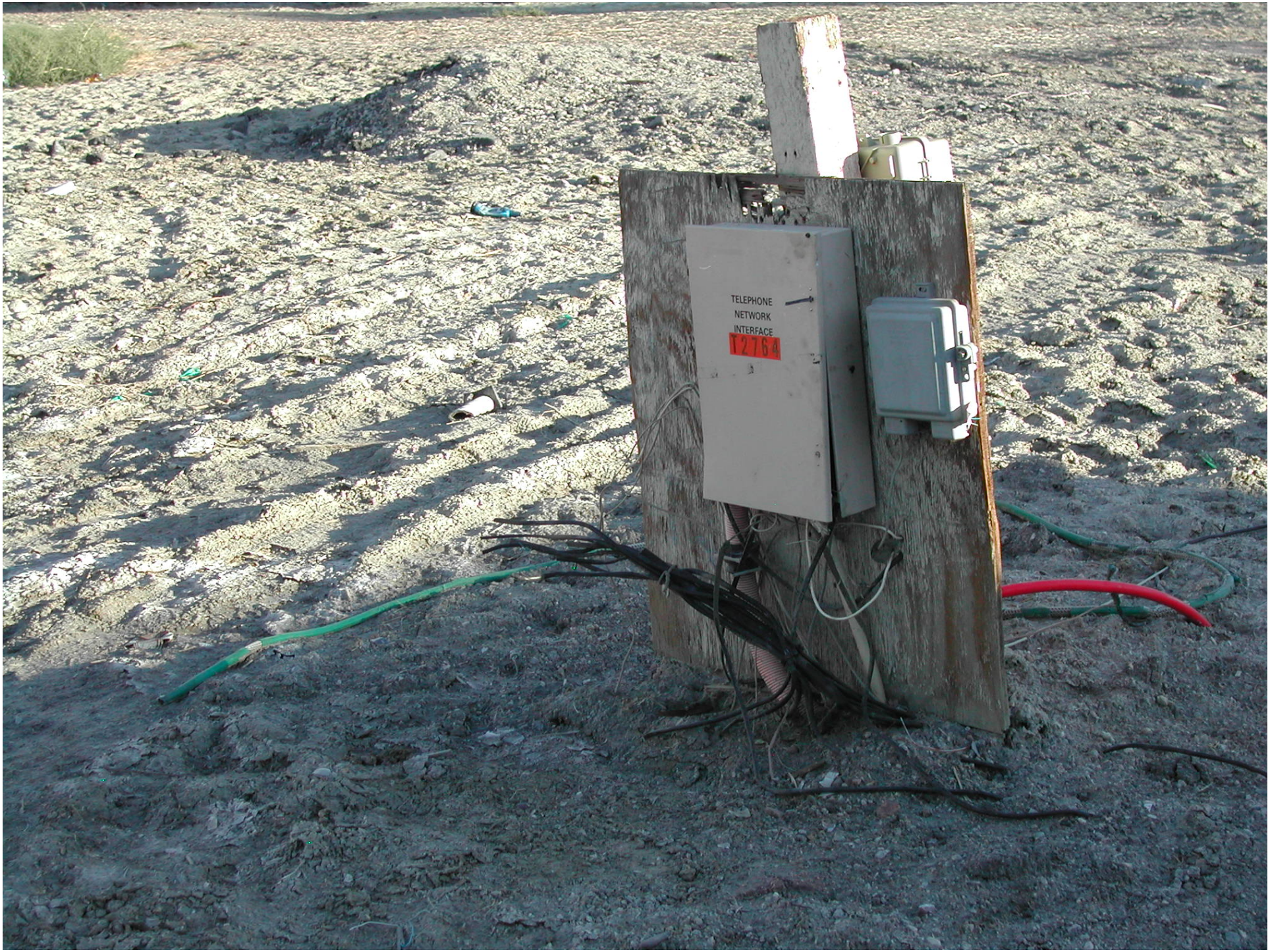
- 20 min
- 40 min
- 55 min
- 1 hr 20 min

Overall Workshop Goals

* **To collaborate with stakeholders, and ultimately to develop a comprehensive strategy, to protect the health of both ground waters and our communities**
* **To identify resources which can be brought to bear upon the substandard MHP wastewater systems**
* **Prioritize problems and allocate responsibility for addressing them**
* **To coordinate regulatory efforts**
* **To protect water quality from improperly treated wastewaters from MHP's, and thereby protect human health**

Todays Workshop Goals

* **To understand the role of the County, State, and other local agencies**
* **To begin to get our arms around the problems**
  * Differentiate: permitted vs unpermitted, wastewater vs water, etc.
* **To reach consensus about next steps**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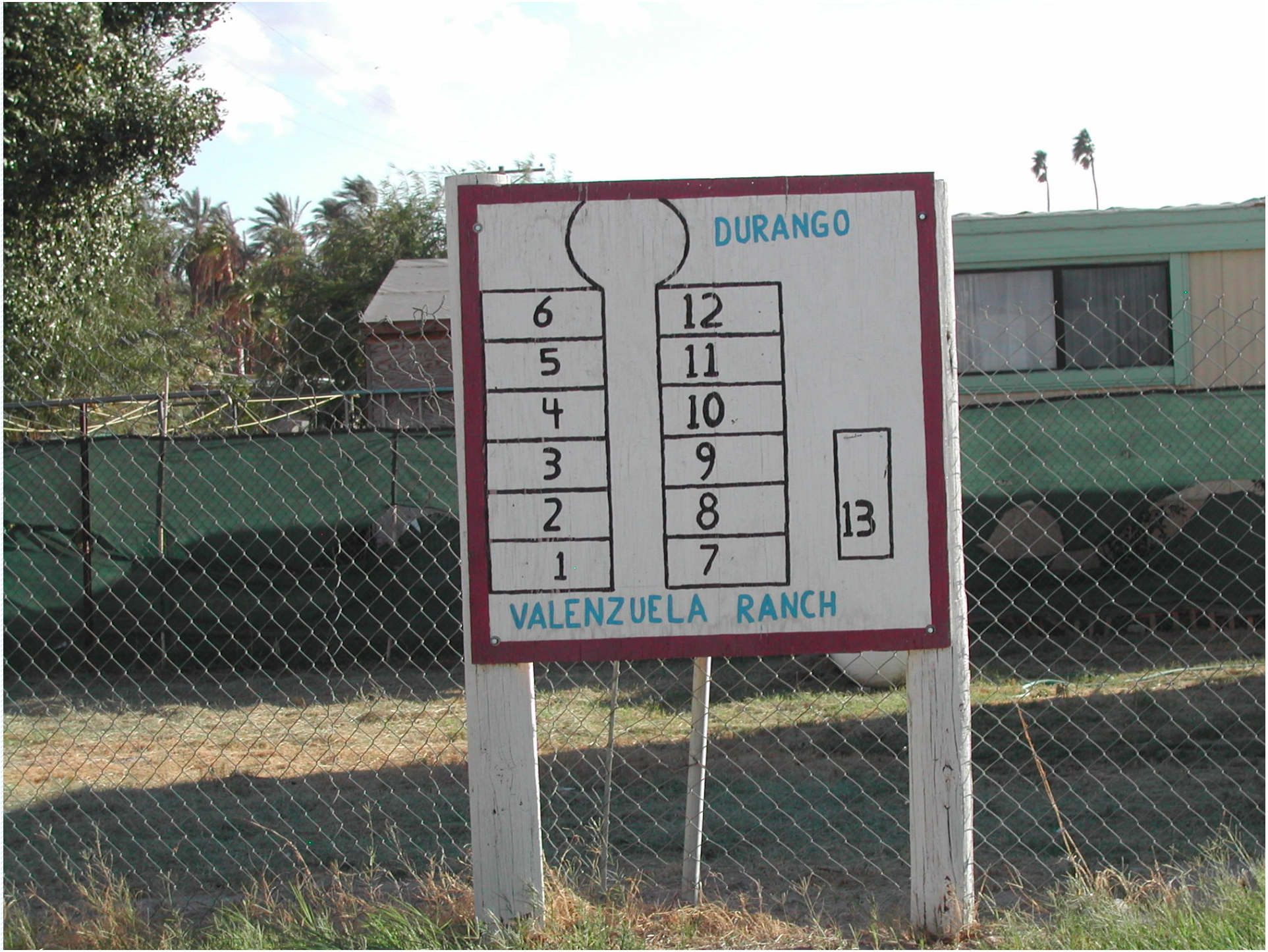
DURANGO
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VALENZUELA RANCH

#35

SPEED BUMP
SPEED LIMIT 5
NO TRUCKS OVER 3 TONS
B. BROS. RANCH
52-255 FILLMORE ST
PRIVATE ROAD
NO TRESPASSING
RESIDENTS ONLY
VIOLATORS WILL BE PROSECUTED
CPC 602
ALL VISITORS MUST PARK OUTSIDE PROPERTY
NO
LOUD MUSIC
SKATEBOARDS
BICYCLES
MOTORCYCLES
DOGS
LOITERING
DUMPING
POSTED

Current MHP Septic System Regulation in Coachella Valley

* **Regional Water Board Regulates Larger MHP's**
  * 5,000 gallons per day and up - General Order No. 97-500
* **Small MHP's regulated by Riverside County via informal agreement with Regional Water Board**
  * Code Enforcement (Riverside County Transportation and Land Management Agency (TLMA)) – Inspections
  * Environmental Health – Permitting, Overflows & Failures

Agencies Involved

* **Regional Water Quality Control Board**
  * > 5,000 gpd system permitting
  * Ultimately responsible for groundwater quality
* **Riverside County**
  * TLMA – Code Enforcement
  * Environmental Health, permitting-private water systems
* **Department of Housing and Community Development**
  * Oversees local government permitting (rarely heard from)
  * Authority over MHPs given under Health & Safety Code
* **Coachella Valley Water District**
  * Water & Sewer System connections
* **Imperial Irrigation District**
  * Electricity

Unpermitted MHPs

* **Riverside County estimates of 121 unpermitted MHP's in eastern Coachella Valley, and**
  * >100 Polanco's on Tribal Lands – outside State jurisdiction – some permitted by Riverside County

The Dilemma

- **Improperly sited, operated and maintained systems pose a serious threat to water quality**
  - May also pose a threat to public health
- **Strict enforcement can have unintended effects**
  - Forcing park closures creates homelessness
- **Compliance often expensive**
  - Most problem parks populated with low income residents
- **Budget cuts make problems worse**
  - Budget cuts have resulted in staff reductions and reduced inspections
  - **Redevelopment Agency** elimination removed significant funding source

NEXT

- 5 min
- 20 min
- 40 min
- 55 min
- 1 hr 20 min

General Order 97-500
OWTS for Mobile Home Parks, RV Parks, and others

About 150 facilities regulated under this Order

Only 3 facilities in the eastern Coachella Valley

Requirements of Order 97-500

- **Only officially approved systems**
- **Accessible for cleaning and inspection**
- **No odors**
- **Not closer than 150' to any well, 100' to surface waters, or within 10' of groundwater**
- **Annual monitoring and reporting**

Order 97-500

* Wastewater flows less than 5,000 gpd
* Not a good fit for small MHPs

* In 2000, Legislature passed AB 885: required SWRCB to adopt regulation for OWTS.
* June 21, 2012: SWRCB adopted the new OWTS Policy. Takes effect in 2013

OWTS Policy

* **Protects water quality and public health**
* **Responsible local agencies can effectively manage OTWS on routine basis**
* **Risk-based tiered approach**
* **Only authorizes subsurface disposal of domestic strength**

Policy Requirements

* **Relies on Local Agency OWTS Management Programs**
* **Minimum requirements for permitting, monitoring, and operation**
* **Waives individual WDRs if in compliance with Policy**
* **Does not supersede existing Prohibitions**
* **Must comply with local ordinances**

Tiered Approach

* **Tier 0: Existing OWTS, properly functioning**
* **Tier 1: Low risk new or replacement OWTS**
* **Tier 2: Local Agency Management Program for new or replacement OWTS**
* **Tier 3: Impaired Areas**
* **Tier 4: OWTS Requiring Corrective Action**

Questions ?