

**August 3, 2010**  
**State Water Resources Control Board**  
**Informational – Agenda Item #10**

*Second Annual Update on Efforts to Promote Strategies to Assist Small and/or Disadvantaged Communities (SDAC) with Wastewater Needs*

**Presented by:**  
 Erin Ragazzi, Division of Financial Assistance  
 James Giannopoulos, Division of Water Quality  
 Melissa Hall, Office of Enforcement  
 Gordon Innes, Division of Water Quality

August 2010 Slide No. 1

**PRESENTATION OUTLINE**

- Background
  - Definitions
  - History
  - Common Problems
- Update on Past Year Efforts & Plans for Future
  - Coordination with California Department of Public Health (CDPH)
  - Financial
  - Enforcement
  - Regulatory – Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR)

August 2010 Slide No. 2

**DEFINITIONS**

- Small Community
  - Population less than 20,000 persons (financial)
  - Population less than 10,000 persons (enforcement & CDPH)
- Disadvantaged Community
  - Median household income (MHI) less than 80 percent of Statewide MHI
- Severely Disadvantaged Community
  - MHI less than 60 percent of Statewide MHI

August 2010 Slide No. 3

**HISTORY**

- State Water Board adopts Resolution No. 2008-0048, which promotes strategies to assist SDAC with wastewater needs
- *Small Community Wastewater Strategy* (Strategy) developed in 2008, which provides overview of problems faced by SDAC and potential solutions
- First annual progress report - July 7, 2009

August 2010 Slide No. 4

**COMMON PROBLEMS**

- Infrastructure
  - Failing septic systems
  - Old/undersized wastewater treatment plants (WWTP)
- Financial
  - Lack economies of scale/monetary resources
- Resources
  - Lack in-house expertise

August 2010 Slide No. 5

**COORDINATION WITH CDPH**

- Assembly Bill 2222 (2008, Caballero)
  - Communities reliant on contaminated groundwater
  - Contract executed with CDPH
  - Report to Legislature by January 1, 2012
- Senate Bill X2 1 (2008, Perata)
  - Nitrate drinking water pilot projects in Tulare Lake and Salinas Valley Groundwater Basins
  - State Water Board funding from CDPH - Water Board contract executed with University of California (Davis)
  - Report to Legislature by March 2012

August 2010 Slide No. 6

## UPDATE ON FINANCIAL ACTIONS: FISCAL YEAR 2009/10

- Coordination with other State & Federal Agencies
- Implement Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Program Incentives:
  - Planning Loans
  - Extended Term Financing
  - Reduced Interest Rate
- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) Implementation
  - Provided ~\$87.6 million in principal forgiveness to 25 DAC wastewater projects

August 2010

Slide No. 7

## UPDATE ON FINANCIAL ACTIONS: FISCAL YEAR 2009/10

- Training contract executed
  - Training courses to be offered through June 2011
- Assembly Bill 2356 (Statutes 2008, Chapter 609, Arambula) Small Community Wastewater Grant Fund (Grant Fund) underway
  - Anticipate ability to collect ~\$30 million through 2014
- Updated Statewide list of potentially eligible SDAC wastewater projects
  - Estimated need of more than \$850 million (represents half of projects on list)

August 2010

Slide No. 8

## FUTURE FINANCIAL ACTIONS: FY 2010/11 AND BEYOND

- Continue implementing CWSRF Program SDAC incentives
- Update Small Community Wastewater Grant (SCWG) Program Guidelines & Competitive Project List
- Continue to accumulate AB 2356 Grant Fund

August 2010

Slide No. 9

## FUTURE FINANCIAL ACTIONS: FY 2010/11 AND BEYOND

- Encourage larger entities to support SDAC needs
- Pursue technical assistance contract
- “Provisional operator certificate” regulations

August 2010

Slide No. 10

## UPDATE ON ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS: FISCAL YEAR 2009/10

- Enforcement Policy
  - Emphasizes compliance assistance for small communities
- 40-hour Small System Operator Course
  - Prepared as part of Mexican operator class
  - Focuses on regulatory requirements and operational issues
  - Curriculum approximately 70% complete
  - Material prepared in both English and Spanish

August 2010

Slide No. 11

## FUTURE ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS: FY 2010/11 AND BEYOND

- Local compliance assistance clinics
  - Understanding WDR requirements
  - Preventing and correcting common violations
  - Identifying resources for technical assistance and capital improvements
  - Focus on North Coast, Central Valley, Lahontan, and Colorado River Basin

August 2010

Slide No. 12

## **FUTURE REGULATORY ACTIONS: FY 2010/11 AND BEYOND**

- Investigate the potential for creating general WDRs for different types of small community WWTPs
- May prepare WDR templates for certain types of discharges
- Work to standardize the information required for small community Reports of Waste Discharge

August 2010

Slide No. 13

## **INPUT FROM ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE/ SMALL COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE GROUPS**

- Meeting (July 1, 2010):
  - to provide an overview of work to date, and discuss future plans
  - to solicit feedback on effectiveness to date, and other strategies to consider
- No comment letters received

August 2010

Slide No. 14

## **SMALL COMMUNITY WASTEWATER STRATEGY WEBPAGE**

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/grants\\_loans/  
small\\_community\\_wastewater\\_grant/strategy.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/small_community_wastewater_grant/strategy.shtml)

Presentation will be posted to webpage

August 2010

Slide No. 15