



California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Los Angeles Region



Linda S. Adams
Cal/EPA Secretary

320 W. 4th Street, Suite 200, Los Angeles, California 90013
Phone (213) 576-6600 FAX (213) 576-6640 - Internet Address: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles>

Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

September 28, 2010

Mr. Tony Coroalles
City Manager
Calabasas City Hall
100 Civic Center Way
Calabasas, CA 91302

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD, LOS ANGELES REGION AND THE CITY OF CALABASAS

Dear Mr. Coroalles:

In the early 1950's, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) adopted waivers for residential Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS) through Resolution R 52-4 and R 53-6. These waivers delegated the Regional Board's permitting responsibilities to Los Angeles and Ventura Counties, and other local agencies with land use and planning power. The counties and cities could independently govern residential septic systems. The waivers expired on June 30, 2004 prompting the Regional Board to embark upon an effort to develop Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with individual cities to (a) continue to allow the cities to maintain local control and (b) to have better information on the locations of, and risk from, septic systems in each jurisdiction so that groundwater resources are protected.

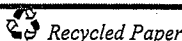
On October 1, 2004, the City of Calabasas (City) entered into an MOU with the Regional Board regarding the management of OWTS within the City. The City was designated as the Qualified Lead Agency (QLA) authorized to regulate the siting, permitting, construction, inspection, monitoring and performance of certain OWTS within the City (City-regulated OWTS). The City-regulated OWTS consists of those OWTS that generate 20,000 gallons per day or less of domestic sewage.

One of the responsibilities of the City under the MOU is to begin an inventory of all the existing City-regulated OWTS. On June 30, 2009, the City submitted to the Regional Board a comprehensive inventory of all the existing OWTS within the City. The inventory is deemed complete and satisfies the requirements under the MOU. The City's inventory includes the total number of City-regulated OWTS, the location of the City-regulated OWTS by street address, estimated depth to the groundwater and the distance of the nearest point of any part of the OWTS for any stream, channel or other watercourse or water body.

The MOU also required the City to amend its Code through an ordinance to include the City's program for OWTS monitoring. The ordinance was heard and adopted by the City Council on June 24, 2009. The ordinance established a management program for the City-regulated OWTS by establishing a program of renewable operating permits and inspections for the existing OWTS and a process by which OWTS are required to connect to an adjacent sewer system. The ordinance also provides for inspection of the existing OWTS by a City-qualified professional.

The inspection program of the existing OWTS as provided for in the ordinance is a good instrument to assure the protection of the ground water. The information provided

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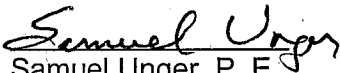
Our mission is to preserve and enhance the quality of California's water resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

in the OWTS inventory can be used to prioritize the inspection schedule and subsequently, the risk to impairing surface and/or ground waters. There are some residences identified in the inventory as being in close proximity to impaired bodies of water. These residences have a high risk of contaminating ground water and surface water. Depending on the result of the inspections, the residences found to be of high risk maybe required to sewer or install advanced treatment units, instead of conventional septic systems.

We appreciate your efforts in your implementation of the MOU that address septic tank issues in your jurisdiction. This issue is an important component of ensuring the protection of local groundwater supplies from subsurface sources.

If you have any questions, please call Project Manager, Ms. Dionisia Rodriguez, at (213) 620-6122 or Chief of Groundwater Permitting and Land Disposal Section, Dr. Rebecca Chou, at (213) 576-6618 regarding this matter.

Sincerely,


Samuel Unger, P. E.
Executive Officer

Cc: Mr. Sparky Cohen, Building Official, City of Calabasas
Ms. Maureen Tamuri, Community Development Director, City of Calabasas