



# Shasta County

DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
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March 18, 2016

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PLANNING DEPT

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## SHASTA COUNTY LOCAL AGENCY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (LAMP) FOR ONSITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS

The Shasta County Resource Management Department, Environmental Health Division has prepared and submitted a draft LAMP to the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) for review. This letter is intended to 1) provide you with a summary of the LAMP and the local approval process, 2) advise you of the availability of the draft LAMP for review, and 3) invite you to a public information meeting to answer your questions and receive your comments.

**LAMP PREPARED** Pursuant to the passage of AB 885 (2000), and the subsequent adoption of regulations by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board), local Environmental Health agencies are required to prepare a Local Agency Management Program (LAMP) in order to continue to regulate septic systems, now referred to as Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS), under local standards. The State Board's "Policy for Siting, Design, Operation, and Maintenance of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems" (also known as: OWTS Policy) can be reviewed at: [http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/owts/docs/owts\\_policy.pdf](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/owts/docs/owts_policy.pdf)

The State Board's website summarizing their process can be reviewed at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\\_issues/owts/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/owts/index.shtml)

If Shasta County does not prepare and submit a LAMP for approval by the Regional Board, it would mean that Shasta County could only issue septic system permits for sites with suitable soils that range from a minimum of five feet deep up to 20 feet deep, depending on soil percolation rates (referred to as Tier One of the OWTS Policy). This suitable soil depth is only present on a small portion of parcels within Shasta County. Tier Two of the OWTS Policy allows local Environmental Health agencies more flexibility by developing and implementing a LAMP, which gives local conditions greater consideration. The new program will not require changes to existing well-functioning systems. They will apply only to new systems, replacement systems and corrective actions.

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**PURPOSE** The stated purpose of the adopted OWTS Policy is to allow the continued use of OWTS while protecting public health and water quality. The OWTS Policy allows counties to issue permits and allow system installation on properties with soils meeting the minimum depths as noted above (Tier One), or, with an approved LAMP, allows counties to permit OWTS installation at sites with as little as two feet of suitable soil under specified conditions, which are identified in the LAMP (Tier Two).

**LAMP SUMMARY** The Draft LAMP and companion Technical Guidance Manual will alter how sewage disposal systems are evaluated and permitted in Shasta County. While Land Division requirements will remain the same, there are differences between the current sewage disposal standards and the Draft LAMP which include the following:

**1. Increase in separation between groundwater and the bottom of a leach/dispersal trench**

Currently, Shasta County issues sewage disposal system permits with as little as one foot of separation between groundwater and the bottom of leach trenches. Under the LAMP, as required by the OWTS Policy, the minimum separation will increase to two feet, but only with the use of an alternate dispersal and/or a supplemental treatment system (such as sand filters).

**2. Available Technical Guidance Manual**

Shasta County staff has developed a Technical Guidance Manual to assist property owners, developers, sewage disposal system consultants, service providers, and others in complying with the Adopted State OWTS Policy and the Shasta County LAMP. The intent of the Manual is to provide guidance on conducting site evaluations, detail options in meeting the groundwater separation requirement, and provide guidance in OWTS inspections, monitoring, and maintenance to keep the systems functioning as designed.

**3. Operating Permits**

The OWTS Policy prohibits the use of an OWTS utilizing supplemental treatment systems without requirements for periodic monitoring, inspections and reporting. We propose to address this requirement by issuing Operating Permits after construction final inspections, with conditions for timely inspections, maintenance, monitoring/sampling, and results reporting to Shasta County Environmental Health.

**4. Phased Implementation of the LAMP**

Fully implementing a LAMP with new standards and alternate treatment and dispersal system requirements, will take time. We are proposing to begin implementation in 2018, after approval

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by the Board of Supervisors and the Regional Board, and adoption of a revised Shasta County Sewage Disposal System Ordinance.

**DRAFT LAMP AVAILABLE** Shasta County Environmental Health Division staff have prepared a draft LAMP and a companion Technical Guidance Manual which are being finalized and should be available for review by March 25, 2016. A copy of the LAMP and Technical Guidance Manual can be reviewed in our office or, if you prefer, can be emailed to you, or viewed at the Resource Management, Environmental Health Division website at [http://www.co.shasta.ca.us/index/drm\\_index/eh\\_index.aspx](http://www.co.shasta.ca.us/index/drm_index/eh_index.aspx)

**PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING** An informational meeting will be held on April 6, 2016, from 9:00 -11:00 a.m., Room 352 in the County Administration Building to answer questions, take comments and provide additional information. An RSVP is requested if you plan to attend the informational meeting, but is not required. We would appreciate any comments you may have on our LAMP and Technical Guidance documents.

Please contact James Smith or myself at 225-5787 with any comments, concerns, or questions regarding the LAMP, the Technical Guidance Manual, the informational meeting in early April, or the implementation process and timeline. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Carla Serio, REHS, Director  
Shasta County Environmental Health Division

CS/pw