



COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

AGENDA ITEM NO.

H-4

For the meeting of: December 8, 2015

Date: November 16, 2015
To: Board of Supervisors
From: Phillip R. Crandall, Director *SBushley*
Department of Health and Human Services – Public Health
Subject: Update on Local Agency Management Program Development

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Board of Supervisors hear the presentation and take appropriate action, if required.

SOURCE OF FUNDING:

Public Health Fund.

DISCUSSION:

Onsite wastewater treatment systems (OWTS), formerly called septic or sewage disposal systems, are used by over half of Humboldt County homes for the treatment of wastewater in areas not served by centralized treatment systems. The California Legislature passed Assembly Bill 885 in 2000, mandating the California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to adopt state-wide standards governing the permitting and operation of OWTS. The SWRCB, after more than a decade of substantial public input, adopted the Water Quality Control Policy for Siting, Design, Operation, and Maintenance of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS Policy) which became effective on May 13, 2013.

Every jurisdiction within California having authority over OWTS must comply with the OWTS Policy. In Humboldt County, OWTS are regulated by the DHHS, Division of Environmental Health (DEH), Land Use Program; some are additionally regulated by North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (NCRWQCB). At the October 7, 2014 meeting, your Board authorized DHHS to proceed toward OWTS Policy compliance via development of a Local Agency Management Program (LAMP), one of two options

Prepared by *SP*

CAO Approval *E. Schierberg*

REVIEW:

Auditor _____ County Counsel *an* Human Resources _____ Other _____

TYPE OF ITEM:

☐ Consent
☒ Departmental
☐ Public Hearing
☐ Other _____

PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:

Board Order No. H-2

Meeting of: October 7, 2014

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT
Upon motion of Supervisor _____ Seconded by Supervisor _____

Ayes _____
Nays _____
Abstain _____
Absent _____

Per Order of the Chair

and carried by those members present, the Board hereby approves the recommended action contained in this Board report.

Dated: Dec. 8, 2015
By: *Kathy Hayes*
Kathy Hayes, Clerk of the Board

provided to local jurisdictions. Your Board also directed DHHS to conduct public outreach to ensure diverse stakeholder input into the LAMP development process.

Since that time, DEH has been involved in a variety of public outreach endeavors to assure stakeholder input for the development of a LAMP that would be best suited to the local conditions of Humboldt County. In March and April 2015, outreach meetings were conducted to educate the public about the new NCRWQCB policy and Humboldt County's role in the development of a LAMP. From these meetings, a list of interested community members for participation on the LAMP working group was generated. Working group members include representatives from a wide array of interest groups, including local developers, contractors, consultants, realtors, and environmental protection groups.

DHHS has returned today to provide a brief update on the LAMP development progress to date.

The proposed LAMP must be submitted to the NCRWQCB no later than May 13, 2016. The deadline for implementation of a local program that is fully compliant with the OWTS Policy is May 13, 2018.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The cost associated with development of a LAMP was included in the approved County Budget for Fund 1175, Budget Unit 486 – Land Use, for Fiscal Years 2014-15 and 2015-16. The cost of LAMP development will be included in the County Budget for Fiscal Year 2016-17. The approval of a LAMP will likely occur in Fiscal Year 2016-17; LAMP implementation will follow approval.

The cost for implementation will be evaluated and incorporated into the Land Use program's fee schedule and budget. It should be noted that implementation of a LAMP after its acceptance and approval by the NCRWQCB will likely result in significant additional costs to the County. Due to monitoring and reporting requirements and the transfer of some state-permitted OWTS to local jurisdiction (annual state fees for these permits currently range from \$1800 to \$9500), it is anticipated that the Land Use program within the Division of Environmental Health would need to hire one to two additional Environmental Health Specialists to implement the LAMP. The cost of additional staff plus overhead would be, at minimum, an estimated \$200,000 increase to DHHS Land Use's annual budget. These costs are estimates only and subject to upward adjustment. These increased departmental costs will be passed along as fees to the regulated community. If fees are not paid by the regulated community, they must be paid by taxpayers generally.

The OWTS LAMP supports the Board's Strategic Framework by creating opportunities for improved safety and health.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

NCRWQCB is the approval agency, while cities interested in adopting the revised Humboldt County OWTS regulations have been offered the opportunity to participate in working group meetings.

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Board discretion.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Onsite Wastewater Local Agency Management Program Development Public Information and Participation Summary

ATTACHMENT 1

Onsite Wastewater Local Agency Management Program Development Public Information and Participation Summary

Attachment 1

Onsite Wastewater Local Agency Management Program Development Public Information and Participation Summary

Public Informational meetings to explain requirements and goals:

Arcata – March 23, 2015

Scotia – April 1, 2015

Information on LAMP project and process placed on Division of Environmental Health, Land Use webpage – August 2015

Parties that requested to participate or have participated in one or more Working Group meetings (Meeting Dates: 4/29/15, 6/15/15, 7/27/15, 8/31/15 and 10/26/15):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contractor/Installer
Lindsey Brunner
Wes Green | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Real estate
Tina Christensen
Kevin Dreyer |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developer
Chris Mikkelsen
Julie Williams | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Environmental quality
Jennifer Kalt
Daniel Ehresman
Sungnome Madrone |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Professional consulting/design
David Lindberg
Rebecca Crow
Kathy Moley
Stephen Nesvold
Peter Seidel
Travis Wentworth
Trevor Parker | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regulatory
Doby Class• Other
Tom Grover
Patrick Owen |

Parties that requested to be on list to receive periodic updates:

Greg Hall
Ida Heinan
James Henry
Rachel Hernandez
Gary Manhart
Corey Matson
Gregory Orsini
Kim Preston
Chip Tittmann
Timothy Windbigler