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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION

WASTEWATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

FEBRUARY 19, 2013

TAHOE ROOM ** 202 MIRA LOMA DRIVE, CHICO

I. Preliminary Items

A. Call to Order

DC called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m.

B. Role Call and Determination of Quorum

Nick Weigel, Lauralyn Lambert, Jan Hill, Rick McCauley, DC Jones, Will Arnold, and Wes Gilbert were present.

Bill Dinsmore, Priscilla Rawlings (alternate), and Doug Flesher (alternate) were absent.

A quorum was established.

C. Introduction of Guests

Supervisor Bill Connelly, Steve Lucas, Bill Mannel, Mike Crump, Pete Calarco, Tom Fossum, Clint Maderos, Calvin Clement, John Lang, Jhan Gear, Mark Adams, Nick Herrera, Robert Parker, Harold Balaz, and Don McDonald attended as guests. Brad Banner, Kristen McKillop, Andrea Narciso, Tom Loushine, and Charlotte Walters attended the meeting on behalf of the Public Health Department.

D. Review of Minutes

The minutes from the January 15, 2013 meeting were reviewed. DC made a motion that the minutes be approved. Wes seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

E. Agenda Review

No changes were requested.

F. Public Comments and Input

There was no public comment.

II. Action Items

A. Proposed Community Wastewater Management System

1. Mike Crump, Public Works Director, presented his staff report for establishing policies and a resolution for establishing a countywide community wastewater management system for assuring the operation, monitoring, and maintenance of community wastewater systems. The system would consist of formation of individual CSAs for new development processes that would be managed centrally by the Public Works Department through contracted private-sector personnel.
 2. Wes pointed out the need for flexibility and asked about CEQA requirements. Pete responded that CEQA would be required for the pond ordinance but CEQA for the CSAs would be project-specific at the time new development projects are proposed.
 3. Mike stated that the problem with establishing a countywide umbrella district at the outset is that the county residents would then need to vote it in and residents would likely be disinclined to do so because of suspicion that approving a new district, even without fees, would be an expansion of government.
 4. DC asked about the residences in South Oroville and Palermo and how they would be impacted by formation of a CSA. Mike responded that the proposed system was primarily for new development and, for South Oroville and Palermo, LOAPUD would be the district to manage community wastewater systems. However, if a developer within LOAPUD's boundaries felt that they would benefit from a CSA instead, they would be able to petition the County and LAFCo for CSA formation, even within the LOAPUD Sphere of Influence.
 5. Nick asked if a criterion has been considered to evaluate the environmentally and financially superior design alternatives and which agency would make that determination (LAFCo, Public Works, other?)
 6. Supervisor Bill Connelly stressed the importance of new wastewater technology to treat sewage and reuse the recycled water and pointed out that the technology is available right now. It is environmentally better to reuse treated wastewater than to dump it into the river, as is the case with a conventional sewage treatment plant. The countywide wastewater management system needs to have flexibility and utilize private contractors. Some places a conventional sewer makes sense and other places it doesn't. Bill also explained that countywide district boundaries are not a viable alternative due to the balloting requirement.
 7. [No vote was taken but it appeared the group supported the proposal as presented by Mike Crump.](#)
- B. Community Water (Wastewater) Recycling Pond Ordinance
1. Brad presented the draft ordinance, explaining that it was written to restrict and control the use of wastewater ponds so that previous objec-

tions to ponds would be addressed and ponds could again be used as a wastewater management tool by system designers.

2. The requirement for a certified operator was discussed. Since wastewater ponds would be only one part of the community wastewater system, it did not seem appropriate to have an operator requirement for the pond, because the pond would be only the systems containment vessel and the system in its entirety would need to have a suitable operator.
3. The question was raised whether a constructed wetland would be considered a pond. It was agreed that a constructed wetland would not be considered a pond because treatment would place in the wetland.
4. The group discussed whether the draft ordinance should be revised to allow the use of evaporation and treatment ponds. Nick and Wes suggested that it would be best to go ahead with the draft ordinance as-is at this time so that passage of the ordinance would not be further delayed or complicated.
5. **No vote was taken, but it appeared the group supported the draft Ordinance as presented.**

C. Septic Tank Destruction

1. The question was discussed concerning whether a Certified Installer should be required to destroy the septic tank when a residence is connecting to a public sewer system. There was broad agreement that certification by an installer should not be required.
2. **DC made a motion that a licensed professional or the homeowner should be allowed to destroy a septic tank for a residence connecting to a public sewer, provided the destruction is performed under permit by the LEA and the LEA observes the destruction. Rick seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.**

III. Informational Non-Action Items

A. Paradise Irrigation District Update

Doug Flesher was not at the meeting to make his presentation on this issue.

B. Wastewater Workshop

Brad reminded the group that the Wastewater Workshop will be held March 21 from 4-8 pm at 202 Mira Loma and that the speakers would be Mark Gross from Orenco, Rick McCauley from Hoot, and Buddy Nottingham from Hydrotec.

IV. Agenda Preparation for Next Meeting

The next meeting will be scheduled for April 16, the third Tuesday of April in Chico, at the Association of Realtors meeting room. The agenda topic will be to follow up on the March 21 Wastewater Workshop.

V. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.