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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION

WASTEWATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

AUGUST 27, 2013

CHICO ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS ** 1160 E. 1ST AVENUE, CHICO

I. Preliminary Items

A. Call to Order

Nick called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

B. Role Call and Determination of Quorum

Lauralyn Lambert, Bill Dinsmore, Rick McCauley, Will Arnold, Wes Gilbert, Doug Flesher, Nick Weigel, Jan Hill, were present.

DC Jones and Priscilla Rawlings (alternate) were absent.

A quorum was established.

C. Introduction of Guests

Robert Perkins and Nick Herrera attended as guests. Brad Banner, Andrea Narciso, Tom Loushine, Charlotte Walters, and Kristen McKillop attended the meeting on behalf of the Public Health Department.

D. Review of Minutes

The minutes from the February 19, 2013 meeting were reviewed. Will made a motion that the minutes be approved. Lauralyn 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.

Kristen, Nick, and Brad related the previous days meeting with Eric Rapport from the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board who will be working with counties in the Northern Central Valley as they develop Local Area Management Plans. Eric is a Certified Professional Geologist out of the Redding office and is especially concerned about nitrate movement through the soil from new subdivisions. There may be some push-back from counties on this issue because the state regulation does not address nitrates for Tier 1 and Tier 2 programs. More information to follow....

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II. Action Items

A. Draft Septic Tank Destruction Procedure.

1. Kristen and Brad presented the draft procedure to the committee.
2. The group recommended that the UPC requirements be referenced along with a statement that UPC requirements would take precedence if there are inconsistencies between the UPC and the EH procedure.
3. The group suggested that the wording be changed to indicate throughout the procedure that the property owner can perform the work involved (except pumping the septic tank or certifying the destruction methodology used, when required) and that the LEA be present during some portions of work when it is performed by the property owner.
4. The group clarified that if a tank is less than 5 ft from an existing or future structure, a Professional Engineer or Geologist must certify the destruction methodology used UNLESS the tank is filled with slurry or concrete.
5. [The procedure will be updated and brought back to the next meeting.](#)

B. Composting Toilets in Residences and Outbuildings

1. Brad presented proposed composting toilet requirements to be added to the Onsite Wastewater Manual.
2. Brad noted that the new Uniform Building Code (Green Code) allows composting toilets in residences and that Marin and Lake Counties allow composting toilets in homes or outbuildings provided the home has an approved public sewer or approved septic system that can handle all of the home's wastewater.
3. The proposed requirements would provide standards and safeguards to protect public health for composting toilets to be used in homes and outbuildings, but would also require that any home using composting toilets have an approved wastewater system or sewer connection.
4. [Wes made a motion that the proposed composting toilet requirements be approved. Doug seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.](#)

C. Enforcement Needs

1. The group discussed effective enforcement of the county's wastewater Ordinance and Manual as being needed as the appropriate next step in the development of the county's onsite wastewater program.
2. Ideas discussed for follow up by Environmental Health include:
 - a. Contact with septic tank manufacturers to see if we can get a list of who is purchasing septic tanks;
 - b. Modifying the letter sent when problems are found by pumpers when the tanks are pumped to warn of legal issues and liability if the property owner or Realtor contracts with uncertified individuals to perform work on the septic system without permits

- c. Explore how the Town of Paradise has title companies delay property transfer until septic systems are resolved
- d. Research enforcement and penalties spelled out in the UPC, as well as right of entry options for a parcel when illegal work to an on-site system is suspected.
- e. Send a letter to certified pumpers and installers and to individuals suspected of performing unpermitted work that warns them of potential enforcement and significant penalties if they perform any unpermitted repair or restoration
- f. Meet with Realtors and title companies to explain problems associated with inadequate, unpermitted repairs of septic systems
- g. Check with other counties to see how they have addressed illegal installation and repair of septic system

3. [Brad said that his office would work on the enforcement issues and report back to the committee at the next meeting.](#)

III. Informational Non-Action Items

A. Paradise Irrigation District Update

Doug is on the PID Board of Directors and explained the work and improvements that were being made by PID.

B. Encroachment Matrix

1. Brad and Kristen presented the matrix and explained that the intent was to make sure that EH used a consistent approach over time to address issues of: (a) repair of existing structures within the septic tank or drainfield setbacks, (b) new structural expansion into the setbacks without increases in design flow, and (c) new structural expansion into the setbacks with increased design flow.
2. [This item will be put on the agenda for the next meeting.](#)

IV. Agenda Preparation for Next Meeting

[The next meeting will tentatively be scheduled for Oroville, the third Tuesday of October, October 15.](#) Committee members will be encouraged to come in Halloween costumes.

V. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.