



Public Health Department

Environmental Health

202 Mira Loma Drive
Oroville, California 95965

Cathy A. Raevsky, Director
Andy Miller, M.D., Health Officer

T: 530.538.7281
F: 530.538.5339

buttecounty.net/publichealth

WASTEWATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

DECEMBER 13, 2016

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

Agenda
Attachment "A"

I. Preliminary Items

A. Call to Order

DC called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

B. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

Wes Gilbert, Jan Hill, Lauralyn Lambert, Buddy Nottingham, Gary Wert, Will Arnold, and DC Jones were present. David Anderson attended as Certified Installer alternate.

Rick McCauley and Nick Weigel were absent.

A quorum was established.

Bryan Malloy, Brian Ladwig-Cooper, Jack Biggs, Frank River, and Jace Rash attended as guests. Brad Banner, Kristen McKillop, Paul Thao, and Charlotte Walters attended the meeting on behalf of the Public Health Department.

C. Review of Minutes

The meeting notes from the October 16, 2016 meeting were reviewed.

Will made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Gary seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

D. Agenda Review

No changes were requested.

E. Public Comments and Input

There was no public comment.

II. Informational Non-Action Items

A. Septage Disposal

1. The status of the Neal Road septage ponds was discussed. Brad reported that the transfer station would be set up and the ponds closed by mid to



late summer according to recent conversations with Bill Mannel from Public Works.

2. It was noted that there is an unfair monetary advantage favoring pumpers being allowed to dump for free at the Gridley wastewater ponds or for a reduced tipping fee at SC-OR, compared to the dumping cost at Neal Road that will dramatically increase when the Neal Road ponds are closed.

III. Action Items

A. Guidelines for Allowing Composting Toilets for Existing Residences

1. Brian Ladwig-Cooper presented guidance and plans for construction to two chamber composting toilets. The first chamber is used for 6 months and then the material is shoveled into the second chamber. After an additional 6 months, the second chamber is emptied and the first chamber is shoveled into the second compartment.
2. It was noted that building permits would be required for construction of composting toilets within a home.
3. Lauralyn brought up the difficulty at time for property sale when there are indoor, constructed composting toilets.
4. Since the plans presented by Brian included separation of urine from feces at the source while the toilet is in use, the issue came up concerning whether the disposal of the urine in a perforated subsurface bucket would concentrate the nitrates at a single point of discharge. It was suggested that the Master Gardeners might have thoughts about how the urine could be disposed in a mulch pit with plants that have high nitrate uptake.
5. The committee asked whether the document should require NSF certified toilets only and Brian and Brad explained that the NSF certified toilets were often inadequately sized for full composting.
6. Wes made a motion that the issue of composting toilets be tabled until such time that non-permitted use of the toilets becomes a nuisance problem requiring more follow up or until there is greater demand for the toilets. Buddy seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

B. Modified Design Criteria for Ancillary Structures

1. Brad reviewed proposed revisions to the Onsite Wastewater Manual, Part 3, Chapter 1, K that allows the reduction in septic tank sizing for ancillary structures and Part 3, Chapter 1, A that allows for a dispersal field sizing reduction by allowing a reduction in the design flow for ancillary structures.



Minutes - Wastewater Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: December 13, 2016

Page -3-

2. The group supported the reduction in septic tank sizing provided ancillary structures for agricultural use are allowed the reduction also. The group noted that a reduction in design flow is already allowed in the Manual.
3. Lauralyn made a motion to approve the reduction in septic tank sizing provided the revision is reworded to include agricultural buildings as eligible for the sizing reduction, and that the proposal for reducing design flow be denied because it is unnecessary. Jan seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

C. Criteria for Approval of Exceptions for Sewer Connection Based on Cost

1. This item was tabled until the next meeting.

IV. Agenda Preparation for Next Meeting

The next meeting will be scheduled for January 11, 2017 in the Tahoe Room in Oroville at 202 Mira Loma Drive. Agenda topics will include the proposed revision of Environmental Health fees, review of the draft criteria for approval of exceptions for sewer connection, and a presentation on the State Groundwater Management Act and its implications for the future in Butte County.

V. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Minutes provided by Brad Banner, EH Director



Minutes - Wastewater Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: December 13, 2016

Page -4-



Public Health Department

Cathy A. Raevsky, Director

Mark A. Lundberg, M.D., M.P.H., Health

Environmental Health

202 Mira Loma Drive
Oroville, California 95965

T: 530.538.7281
F: 530.538.5339

buttecounty.net/publichealth

Wastewater Advisory Committee

Sign-In Sheet

Date: December 13, 2016

Location: Association of Realtors, Chico, CA

Name	Initials	Email
DAVID ANDERSON	DA	andersond2@stcglobal.net
CHARLOTTE WATERS	CW	cwat@rs@buttecounty.net
WILLIAM ARNOLD	WA	ARNOLD@CNCNBTC.COM
Kristen McKillop	KM	kmckillop@buttecounty.net
Bryan Mallory	BM	bryan.mallory@comcast.net
Buddy Nottingham	BN	buddy@chico.com
PAUL THAO	P.T.	pthao@buttecounty.net
GARY WERT	GW	gary.wert@comcast.net
Wes Gilbert	WEG	on file
Brian Ludwig-Cooper	BLC	bLCgainventions@gmail.com
Jan Hill	JH	jan@janhill.comcast.net
DC JONES	DJ	
Jack Biggs <small>Bank - Rivers</small>	JB	
Frank Tiven <small>Contracting FR</small>	FT	
Jace K Rosh	JR	



Manual Part 3, Chapter 1, K (Revised with reference to agricultural building)

The minimum liquid capacity of any septic tank installed must be 1500 gallons for up to a 4 bedroom residence and an additional 200 gallons for each bedroom thereafter. However, nothing herein is intended to prevent the LEA from approving a smaller than 1500 gallon septic tank for a non-residential, non-commercial structure, ancillary to a residential dwelling, such as shop, agricultural building, or garage, provided:

- (a) The LEA determines that connection of the building to the residence's existing onsite wastewater system is not feasible due to site specific factors including, but not limited to, excessive transport distance, sit topography, and landscaping; and
- (b) A deed restriction is recorded by the property owner stating that the ancillary structure will not be used for residential accommodation.

Guidance for Considering Requests for Exemption to Sewer Connection Requirement Based on Cost

A. Background

1. The requirement for mandated connection to a public sewer is specified in Butte County Code (BCC) Section 19-8.
2. Connection to a public sewer is triggered when an Onsite Wastewater System Construction Permit is required for repair or replacement of an existing onsite wastewater system.
3. The Environmental Health Director is authorized to make exceptions to mandated sewer connection when the sewer main is not adjacent to the property line but still within 250 feet of the existing or proposed dwelling.
4. While a number of factors are listed in BCC 19-8 that could assist the Environmental Health Director in determining when an exception should be granted, this policy is intended to provide consistency when determining when "feasibility and cost of connection" are used as the primary justification for a request for an exception.

B. Authorization

No exemption will be made for sewer connection without review and written authorization by the Environmental Health Director.

C. Applicability

This policy and procedure will only apply to owner occupied residences with existing onsite wastewater systems requiring repair or replacement where "feasibility and cost of connection" is the primary basis of the request.

D. Procedure

1. The applicant or the applicant's agent will need to apply for the exemption on the form provided by the Division. ¹
2. Determination of Costs within Water Quality Concern Area²

¹ Cross reference: Land Use Policies, EH Director Review and Determination.

² This refers to the Chico Nitrate Compliance Area or another area (not currently designated) where there is concern that the continued use of onsite wastewater systems could adversely impact water quality

- a. The applicant will provide an appraisal of the property value that has been conducted within the past 6 months.
 - b. If the parcel is located within the Chico Nitrate Compliance Area, the LEA, in consultation with City of Chico engineering staff, may estimate the cost of sewer connection, utilizing the spreadsheet provided by the City engineer.
 - c. For parcels where the cost estimation spreadsheet provided by the City of Chico cannot be used, the applicant will provide cost estimates from two licensed or certified professionals estimating the cost of connection to the public sewer.
 3. Determination of Costs Outside of a Water Quality Concern Area
 - a. The applicant will provide cost estimates from two licensed or certified professionals estimating the cost of connection to the public sewer.
 - b. The applicant will provide a written bid from a Certified Installer describing the cost of repair or replacement of the onsite wastewater system.
 4. Consultations
 - a. The EH Director will discuss the requested exception with land use staff for additional information and may request additional research, if needed.
 - b. The EH Director may consult with the Regional Water Quality Control Board, especially if the parcel is located within the Chico Nitrate Compliance Area.
 - c. The EH Director may consult with the public sewer entity for additional information and feedback.
 5. Determination
 - a. The EH Director will make a determination based primarily on the guidance provided by this policy and procedure.
 - b. The completed EH Review Application, including the EH Directors determination, will be saved in the Division's shared computer drive in the appropriate folder.
- E. Criteria for Approval of Exception
1. In areas at low risk for water quality impacts due to continued use of onsite wastewater systems:

- a. A request for exception will be considered for approval when the connection fees plus construction costs would be greater than two times the cost of repairing or replacing the onsite wastewater system.
2. In areas where there is a potential risk for water quality impacts due to continued use of onsite wastewater systems, such as within the Chico Nitrate Compliance area:
 - a. When the parcel is in escrow and the connection or repair is being made as part of the process for land transfer or when low interest funding is available for assisting the property owner pay the cost of connection to the sewer, a request for exception will be considered for approval when the connection fees plus the construction costs would be greater than 10% of the value of the property.
 - b. When the parcel is not in escrow and the owner does not meeting the income criteria for receiving low interest funding for assisting the property owner pay the cost of connection to the sewer, a request for exception will be considered for approval when the connection fee plus construction costs would be greater than 5% of the value of the property.