

Joint Chambers Commission of El Dorado County



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TO: State Water Resource Control Board
Division of Water Quality
Attn: Todd Thompson, P.E.
1001 I Street 15th floor P.O.Box 2231
Sacramento, CA 95812

FROM: Laurel Brent-Bumb, CEO – on behalf of

DATE: February 5, 2009

REGARDING: AB 885's Implementation by the State Water Resources Control Board

The El Dorado County Joint Chambers Commission objects to the planned implementation of AB 885 by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). With this action the Legislature will further increase its staggering \$40,000,000,000 deficit due to the costly statewide regulations specified in AB 885 passed in 2000.

We strongly urge that this excessive SWRCB septic system plan be tabled, and AB 885 repealed. Septic system requirements are imposed locally on known problem areas where requirements can be designed to fit the local geological conditions. *There is not a nexus for a statewide application.*

The bill, passed in 2000, states that by January 1, 2004, the SWRCB is to “adopt specified regulations or standards for the permitting and operation of prescribed onsite sewage treatment systems that meet certain requirements” a requirement that they did not meet.

Now nine years later: Here are just a few of the many objections to the proposal are that:

- Unneeded inspection requirements will be imposed statewide on all private septic systems.
- Problems with septic systems are not statewide, but the significant added cost will be.
- Septic systems are now under local control, and implementation of inspections should logically remain under the jurisdiction of counties or cities.
- A one-size-fits-all fails to adequately account for the widely different geological conditions, and thus can be either too lax or too severe.
- One-size-fits-all requirements will usurp the county's land use planning authority, and result in some land needlessly being designated as unusable.
- Homeowners will be assessed a state inspection fee of \$200 every five years, and possibly an additional pumping fee of up to \$500.
- Homes with a water well and a septic system on a small lot will require a “state water inspection” every five years at a state fee cost of \$350 to \$400.
- Camp grounds, and state and local park facilities may be impacted by these overzealous state dictates and thus impose needless state reviewing, testing, and permitting.

We respectfully request that you take action to table the onerous SWRCB regulations, and initiate legislation to repeal this misguided bill for the direct benefit of rural homeowners, county governments, rural business owners, taxpayers; and to avoid more government deficits and the need for more government employees.

CC: Senator Dave Cox
Assemblyman Ted Gaines
Assembly woman Allison Huber