



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF MADERA

MADERA COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER
200 WEST FOURTH STREET / MADERA, CALIFORNIA 93637
(559) 675-7700 / FAX (559) 673-3302 / TDD (559) 675-8970

TOM WHEELER
SUPERVISOR, DISTRICT 5

Directions to Complete AB 885 Letter Template

1. Fill in today's date at the top of the page (all letters must be received before February 23, 2009).
2. Sign the end of the letter if you agree with the statements. Please feel free to write additional concerns or recommendations on a separate sheet of paper to include with the letter.
3. Include your address and phone number so that the State may verify your Madera County residency and respond to your concerns and recommendations.
4. You may either mail the completed letter to:

State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Quality
Attention: Todd Thompson, P.E.
1001 I Street
15th Floor
Post Office Box 2231
Sacramento, CA 95812

Or you may email an electronic copy to:

Ab885@waterboards.ca.gov

5. If possible, please contact the Madera County Environmental Health Department via email at envhealth@madera-county.com or by mail to let us know you have sent a letter to the State.
6. Please visit <http://www.madera-county.com/supervisors/wheeler.html> for additional copies of this document or for more information on AB 885. You may also view the full texts of the proposed regulations at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/septic_tanks/.

DATE: _____

TO: State Water Resources Control Board Division Water Quality
Attention: Todd Thompson, P.E.
1001 I Street
15th Floor
P.O. Box 2231
Sacramento, CA 95812

RE: Draft Septic System Regulations per AB-885

Dear Mr. Thompson:

1. I appreciate the State Water Board’s attempt to protect our water from on-site sewage system impact. However, the regulations as proposed will impose burdensome costs to me as a homeowner with insufficient assurance of financial assistance as intended through the AB 885 statute.
2. Local regulation of On-site Wastewater Treatment Systems (O.W.T.S.) and groundwater protection are much more efficient than the currently proposed state-wide regulations attempting to cover widely different conditions such as areas with impaired water and areas with no documented impairment, areas with ocean water concerns and areas (such as the Sierras) with none, etc., because they are confusing, impractical, unreasonable and unenforceable. This is an issue of Efficiency in Government.
3. The proposed requirement for water well testing is expensive and confusing. Well construction is already extensively regulated by the appropriate local Health agencies using the State’s standards to protect groundwater. To mandate water testing on private wells imposing unjustified costs infringes upon my rights as a property owner.

If there is a question about specific O.W.T.S. impacting water, local Health officials would test for the appropriate indicators (coliform bacteria and, perhaps, nitrates). The battery of mineral tests proposed by the State Water Board staff is excessive, not focused on septic impact, and expensive.

If, however, the true purpose behind this proposed requirement is to supply the State Water Board staff with a chemical map of groundwater statewide, the cost of this should not be foisted upon the minority of citizens who survive by private water wells (usually rural residents). In our current economic situation, the requirement is not just unnecessary, it is a major economic burden on private citizens targeting disproportionately, rural areas with lower average incomes, a violation of the concept of Environmental Justice.

4. It is my understanding that several technical requirements in the proposed regulations would make O.W.T.S. more expensive and might make currently legal lots un-buildable. It appears that these regulations are “overkill”.

Therefore, my recommendations are:

- A. Eliminate completely the requirement to test private water wells or to place monitoring wells.
- B. Re-write the regulations to ensure that they are within the intent and scope of AB 885 as passed into law, clearly stated and apply only in areas of the State with “impaired” water from O.W.T.S.
- C. Ensure the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) addresses Environmental Justice issues as above and determine whether there is a conflict with other existing law(s).
- D. Establish and assure sustainable financial assistance as intended by the AB 885 statute.

Sincerely,

Concerned Madera County Resident

My Name and Address:

My Phone Number:

_____ : Home

_____ : Cellular or Email