

Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems Policy (Policy)

Local Agency Management Program (LAMP)
LA Regional Water Quality Control Board
Groundwater Permitting Unit
California Environmental Protection Agency

Establishment of OWTS Policy

- Adopted by State Board on June 19, 2012
- Effective on May 13, 2013 upon Office of Administrative Law approval
- Adopted by the Los Angeles Regional Board on April 30, 2014
- **Purpose**
- Allow continued use of OWTS
- Protect water quality and public health
- Conditionally waives Waste Discharge Requirements for:
 - Existing and functioning OWTS – Tier 0
 - Low-risk new and replacement OWTS – Tier 1

Structure of the Policy

- Tier 0 – Existing OWTS
- Tier 1 – Low-Risk New or Replacement OWTS
- Tier 2- Local Agency Management Program (LAMP) for New or Replacement OWTS
- Tier 3 – In proximity to Impaired Areas
- Tier 4 – OWTS Requiring Corrective Action

Tier 0 – Existing OWTS

- OWTS functions properly
- Not causing water body impairment
- Not in the Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) addressed area
- No supplemental treatment required Per Tier 3.
- No cesspool

Tier 1 – Low Risk New and Replacement OWTS

- Provides minimum site evaluation and siting standards:
- Maximum flow rate is 3,500 gpd
- Setback requirements
- Design requirements and construction standard:
 - Percolation rate, dispersal system, 100% replacement, etc.
- Allowable density of OWTS (min. 2.5 acres)

Tier 2 – LAMP for New or Replacement OWTS

- Provides an alternative to Tier 1 programs.
- Accommodates local conditions to achieve protection.
- May include Tier 1 and/or standards differing from Tier 1 due to local conditions:
 - System design, soil condition, siting requirements, etc.

Tier 3 – Advanced Protection Management Programs for Impaired Areas

- Areas addressed by Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)
 - Santa Clara River – Nutrient and Bacteria
 - Los Angeles River – Nutrient and Bacteria
- Within 600 feet of impaired water bodies
- Must use a supplemental treatment system if required by TMDLs, or when replacement is needed

Tier 4 – OWTS Requiring Corrective Action

- OWTS failure include, but are not limited to:
 - Pooling
 - Surface water discharge
 - Tanks or plumbing fixtures failure, or
 - Groundwater or surface water degradation
- Corrective actions required by LAMP
- Regional Board may require submittal of an ROWD and repairs to resume OWTS function

2004 Memorandum of Understanding

- Limits on 20,000 gallons per day (gpd)
- Wastewater from single family house only
- Regulatory requirements:
 - LA County Code: Title 11 Health and Safety, and Title 28 Plumbing
- OWTS Requirements
 - No lot size limits
 - No performance requirements for non-conventional treatment systems

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- Up to 10,000 gpd
- Wastewater from
 - single and multi-family dwellings
 - Commercial buildings
 - restaurants
- Regulatory requirements:
 - LA County Code: Title 11 Health and Safety, and Title 28 Plumbing
 - Conventional and Non-conventional OWTS Requirement and Procedures (Professional Guide)
- OWTS Requirements
 - Lot size: min. 0.5 acre for each dwelling unit (Antelope Valley only).
 - Setback requirements
 - Non-conventional treatment specifications

Responsibility of Dischargers

- Existing OWTS (Tier 0) – no action needed unless system fails
- New and replacement OWTS – Tier 1 or Tier 2 (LAMP)
- OWTS in areas addressed by TMDLs or within 600 feet of impaired water bodies – Tier 3 and APMP
 - Existing Systems
 - TMDLs with Load Allocations to OWTS – consistent with implementation requirement
 - New or replacement OWTS – must use a supplemental treatment system

Los Angeles County Draft LAMP

- Los Angeles County Department of Public Health submitted their Draft LAMP on May 13, 2016.
- Regional Boards staff provided comments:
 - Letter dated January 12, 2017 by Region 6 (Lahontan)
 - Meetings on August 2, 2017, and January 24, 2018 (with RB 6)
- On March 6, 2018, Public meeting with RBs 4 and 6 staff, and representatives from 30 cities.
- Revised draft LAMP released on March 22, 2018 for 30-day public comment (comment period ends on April 23, 2018)

LAMP Comment and Approval

- Draft Los Angeles County LAMP:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/board_decisions/tentative_orders/index.html

- Board Meeting on May 10, 2018 at
Metropolitan Water District
700 N. Alameda St., Los Angeles, CA 90012

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