

# COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

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To: Board of Supervisors  
From: Michael D. Johnson, County Administrator  
Date: March 21, 2011  
Subject: Biweekly Update of Significant Issues

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## 1. County Administrator's Update on Contracts

The County Administrator did not sign any contracts of significance since the last Significant Issues update.

## 2. Status of Statewide Onsite Sewage Disposal System Regulations (AB 885)

The State Water Quality Control Board (SWQCB) is planning to release draft requirements for onsite sewage disposal systems for public comment in early April 2011. As part of the public comment process, the SWQCB may hold two public meetings in May 2011: one in Sacramento and one in Riverside. This proposed release is part of a process for the SWQCB to adopt the final requirements by March 2012. The SWRCB is being sued by Heal the Bay to complete the adoption process to regulate onsite sewage disposal systems.

The California Conference of Directors of Environmental Health (CCDEH) continues to meet with SWQCB staff, and other stakeholders such as the Regional Council of Rural Counties, to develop protective, yet practical statewide standards for onsite sewage disposal systems. Terry Schmidtbauer, Environmental Health Manager, is coordinating CCDEH involvement in discussions and meetings with the SWQCB.

Based on informal meetings with SWQCB staff, it is anticipated that the draft release will contain a risk-based regulatory structure. The potential risk to water quality posed by a system will determine which regulatory category is applicable. The regulatory categories are:

- **General Waiver:** Applies to new and replacement systems that pose very low risk to water quality and are constructed in locations that comply with specific siting criteria contained in a statewide general waiver. The state will have no additional oversight, but local ordinances and oversight will still apply.
- **Alternate Program Plan:** Applies to new and replacement systems that cannot meet the statewide general waiver siting criteria, but are not near a water body impaired by pathogens or nutrients resulting from onsite sewage disposal systems. Systems in this category will require oversight by a Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) unless the local agency has an "alternate program plan" to regulate these systems. The alternate program plan must be submitted to, and approved by the RWQCB. Additional water quality monitoring on an area wide basis is required and must be submitted

annually to the RWQCB. Solano County Code, Chapter 6.4 that regulates onsite sewage disposal systems is anticipated to meet this regulatory category with minimal amendments to address additional monitoring.

- **Advanced Protection Management Area:** Applies to all systems near a water body impaired by pathogens or nutrients as a result of onsite sewage disposal systems.

This regulatory framework is consistent with prior meetings held between CCDEH and SWRCB in 2009 and 2010. CCDEH and Solano County staff will continue to participate and comment during formal release throughout this adoption process.

- Contact: Terry Schmidtbauer, Resource Management Environmental Health Manager  
784-3308



### **3. New Foundations Garden Project**

The New Foundations Garden Project was born out of a vision to develop gardening skills and team building among New Foundations program youth and community volunteers. Materials for the garden were donated by local businesses. The garden will serve the community by donating food to local food banks. Flowers and other vegetation will go to hospitals, schools, and other community organizations. In addition, program youth will be able to enjoy the fruits of their labor by taking the food from “field to the table” in cooking classes developed by facility food services provider Aramark.

Program youth will be educated in an array of areas including plant science, environmental impact, and how to properly plant and care for plants by the Solano County Master Gardeners. They will learn how gardening is therapeutic and recreational along with gaining community service hours. They will also build relationships with the Master Gardeners and other volunteers and learn the importance of service and giving back to the community. After several months of design and preparation the first plants, including berries and cherry trees, have begun to thrive.

- Contact: Richard Watson, Juvenile Detention Facility Superintendent, 784-6575

### **4. Status of Requested Board Reports**

Department of General Services Organizational Review and FY2010/11 Budget Reduction Proposal: In the last Significant Issues, this report was anticipated to be ready for presentation to the Board on March 22. The item is now anticipated to be complete for April 5. The County Administrator’s staff is continuing to work with our consultant Kevin O’Rourke and Director of General Services Mike Lango as well as the staff in General Services and Human Resources to oversee the completion of a report and recommendations regarding additional reductions in the department’s operating budget and the potential to restructure the department.

- Contact: Kevin O'Rourke, Urban Futures, 784-2498, and George Untal, County Administrator's Office, 784-6111

Historical Records Commission Requests: In the last Significant Issues, this report was anticipated to be ready for presentation to the Board on March 22. The item is now anticipated to be complete for April 5. The County Administrator's Office has been coordinating with the Department of General Services Central Service's Division to collect data and complete a staff report to respond to questions regarding County's records management program as it relates to Historical Records as requested by the Board. The report is almost finished and will be shared with the Commission prior coming to the Board, in accordance with previous Board direction.

- Contact: Diane Koutz, General Services Central Services, 784-3105, and Chris Rogers, County Administrator's Office, 784-6481