

DEPARTMENT: Public Health BY: Charles B. Mosher, MD, Health Officer PHONE: 966-3689

RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION: (Policy Item: Yes___ No_x__)

Recommend resolution adopting Appendix D to the Mariposa County Rules and Regulations Governing On-Site Sewage Disposal Systems entitled "Use of Chambered Devices in Leachfields."

Current standards for leachfield construction in this County call for rock and drainpipe construction. Contractors in Mariposa have recommended that chambered devices be allowed as an alternative to the traditional rock and pipe construction.

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

County Code Section 13.08.090 permits the Health Officer "from time to time as circumstances require..." to revise the Rules and Regulations but requires Board approval of such revisions.

LIST ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

Chambered devices could be utilized only upon the consultation with a registered professional (at some increased cost to customer or contractor).

COSTS: (x) Not Applicable

- A. Budgeted current FY \$
B. Total anticipated costs \$
C. Required additional funding \$
D. Internal transfers \$

SOURCE: () 4/5ths Vote Required

- A. Unanticipated revenues \$
B. Reserve for contingencies \$
C. Source description:
Balance in Reserve for Contingencies, if approved: \$

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

List the attachments and number the pages consecutively:

CLERK'S USE ONLY:

Res. No.: 96-40 Ord. No.
Vote - Ayes: 5 Noes:
Absent: Abstained:
Approved () Denied
() Minute Order Attached () No Action Necessary

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:

This item on agenda as:

- [checked] Recommended
Not Recommended
For Policy Determination
Submitted with Comment
Returned for Further Action

Comment:

A.O. Initials: [signature]

The foregoing instrument is a correct copy of the original on file in this office.

Attest: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board
County of Mariposa, State of California
By: Deputy

RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION:
(Continued from previous page)

Health Department staff have researched the device and its safety, consulting with manufacturers, other counties, other states, and local contractors and engineers familiar with both the devices and Mariposa County soil conditions.

A general meeting was arranged to obtain input from any interested local contractors and designers, and drafts of the attached proposed Appendix D were circulated to obtain input.

Health Department staff are comfortable that use of the devices as proposed will not pose a risk to Public Health.

Calculation of the length of drainfield needed with these devices is somewhat different from that used with rock and pipe, and is consistent with recommendations from local designers, from the manufacturers, and from Health Department staff.

Adoption of Appendix D will allow septic systems installers and property owners a choice between two different technologies without requiring a report from consultant.

The Rules and Regulations Governing On-Site Sewage Disposal Systems (Pursuant to 13.08.090 Mariposa County Code) shall be changed as follows:

Add Appendix D which shall read as follows:

"USE OF CHAMBERED DEVICES IN LEACHFIELDS

1. As an alternative to drainfields utilizing drainrock and perforated pipe, approved chambered devices constructed for the specific purpose shall be allowed utilizing absorption area calculations detailed below.
2. Drainfield trench absorption area, when chambered devices are utilized, shall be based on the infiltration of side wall area and bottom area utilizing a calculation of the wetted perimeter. The application rate shall be the same as would be used for a drainrock-filled trench on the specific site.
3. Leachfields shall be constructed in such a manner as to divert water from flowing over the leachfield in a sheeting manner that would saturate the leachfield.
4. At least one observation pipe shall be installed in each leachline."