



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY  
HEALTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT

To: Harvey Bragdon, Acting Director  
Community Development Department  
Attn: Paul Kilkenney

Date: April 1, 1986

From: Dan Bergman *Dan Bergman*  
Assistant Health Services Director  
Environmental Health

Subject: Small Water Systems

The Health Services Department has prepared a policy for regulating the installation of small water systems. The policy was developed at the request of and with general guidance from the Board of Supervisors Water Committee. A copy of the policy is attached.

The policy was recently submitted to the Board of Supervisors with a recommendation that the Board adopt a policy statement to regulate the installation of new small water systems. The Board did adopt the policy statement on March 18, 1986 and the Health Department's policy was incorporated as part of the Board's policy statement.

Applicants for land developments that reference a small water system as the source of domestic water should be given a copy of the Health Services policy. The applicant should be advised that Items 1 and 2 of the adopted policy should be completed and submitted for Health Officer review prior to contracting for system design.

In many areas a general indication of groundwater quality can be determined from a review of Health Services records and/or water quality analysis of existing wells. Health Department records can also be of value in some areas in the preparation of the required hydro-geologic report.

We have identified areas of the county as "water short" and some of the county area groundwaters would not generally meet the quality standards required for small water systems. It may be advisable to recommend that applicants for land developments that include small water systems consult with the Health Services Department prior to the time the development proposal is formally filed with Community Development.

DB:JB:rm

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION

Policy & Regulations Governing the Installation of Small Water Systems

Section 64562, Title 22 of the California Administrative Code reads, in part, as follows:

"Quantity of Supply. Sufficient water shall be available from the water sources and distribution reservoirs to adequately, dependably, and safely supply the total requirements of all users under maximum demand conditions."

Maximum day demand means the average water demand during the day of maximum water use.

Maximum hour demand means the average water demand during the hour of maximum water use.

Quality of Water Supplied.

Section 64401, Title 22 of the California Administrative Code requires that all public water systems meet the primary and secondary drinking water standards which are based on the national regulations published in 40 Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 141 and 143.

Statement of Policy.

The proponents and operators of small water systems, as defined in Contra Costa County Ordinance Code Sec. 414-4.221, must comply with all laws and regulations applicable to the construction and operation of water systems. In Contra Costa County, every person proposing to install, construct, and/or operate a small water system must comply with the following regulations:

1. Hydro-geologic report required. Every person proposing to install, construct, and/or operate a small water system shall provide the Health Officer with a hydro-geologic report. The report must be prepared by a registered geologist with special expertise in the field of hydrogeology. The report must address seasonal and long-term variations in the quantity of water available to the system, recharge, and the impact of the proposed development on the existing development and water use. The report must show that an adequate water supply is available to serve all present and projected needs of the study area.

2. Water Quality. The chemical, physical, and bacteriological quality shall meet all of the standards listed in Chapter 15, Title 22 of the California Administrative Code and any amendments thereto. In addition, the water quality shall not exceed the recommended standards for mineralization nor shall the water exceed the maximum contaminant levels published in Table 6 of Section 64473 of Title 22 of the California Administrative Code.

TO: WATER COMMITTEE  
FROM: WATER COMMITTEE  
DATE: MARCH 10, 1986  
SUBJECT: SMALL WATER SYSTEMS

LLL MAR 24 1986  
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY  
HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Specific Request(s) or Recommendation(s) & Background & Justification

RECOMMENDED ACTION

ADOPT a policy statement to regulate the installation of new small water systems. The Water Committee recommends that the Board adopt the following:

Policy - Small Water Systems

Applications for new small water systems shall be carefully evaluated by the Community Development and Health Services Departments. All applications will be carefully scrutinized to assure full compliance with the Health Services Department's Policy and Regulations on approval of small water systems and the requirements of the Community Development Department.

Small water systems will be discouraged in rural areas and particularly in those areas where the quantity and quality of ground waters is marginal.

The County has a concern about the growth inducing impacts that can occur when small water systems are developed. The proliferation of "ranchette" developments served by water systems that cannot assure the delivery of a continuous and adequate supply of pure, wholesome, healthful, and potable water shall not be approved.

A copy of the Health Services Department Small Water System Policy and Regulations is attached.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

None

Continued on attachment:  X  yes

Signature:

Recommendation of County Administrator        Recommendation of Board Committee  
  Approve        Other:

Signature(s):  Sunne Wright McPeak   
Supervisor Sunne McPeak

Supervisor Robert Schroder  
Approved as Recommended  Other

Action of Board on:  MAR 18 1986

Vote of Supervisors

Unanimous (Absent  )  
Ayes:   Noes:    
Absent:   Abstain:

wc.bo.sm.wtr.sys.t3  
Orig. Div.: Community Development  
cc: County Administrator  
 Health Services Dept.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF AN ACTION TAKEN AND ENTERED ON THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON DATE SHOWN.

Attested  MAR 18 1986   
PHIL BATCHELOR, CLERK  
OF THE BOARD AND COUNTY  
ADMINISTRATOR

By  Joanne Sideri   
DEPUTY CLERK

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION:

Small water systems create growth inducing impacts that can adversely impact grazing areas and other agricultural resources. Small water systems do not generally have the financial resources or technical staff to assure the proper operation and maintenance of the utility.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

Applications for the installation of new small water systems will continue to be filed. New systems will create growth inducing impacts in rural areas and will not assure adequate quantity or quality of domestic water supply. Potential depletion of an aquifer from continued pumping can result in developed areas being faced with water shortages where no auxiliary source is available.