

In May 2012, State Water Resources approved a statewide Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS) Policy. This policy required counties to develop a Local Agency Management Plan (LAMP) for wastewater disposal. The LAMP describes Plumas County's entire wastewater treatment and disposal program, including administrative requirements, septic system design criteria, operation and maintenance, and water quality monitoring requirements. The LAMP was approved by the Plumas County Board of Supervisors on May 3, 2105 and is found here ([LINK TO LAMP](#)).

The State Water Board has reviewed and approved the Plumas County LAMP. With only minor changes, Plumas County Code will satisfy state law. In general, these changes include:

- Limiting onsite wastewater treatment systems under county regulation to those receiving 10,000 gallons of wastewater per day or less;
- Excluding high strength wastes and recreational vehicle tank wastes from disposal in onsite wastewater treatment and disposal systems under county regulation;
- Establishing setback requirements for public drinking water wells and surface water intakes from onsite wastewater treatment systems, and establishing notification requirements to owners of drinking water systems within specified distances of failing onsite systems;
- Clarifying the advanced treatment operating permit requirements to include the need for a new permit whenever a property with an advanced treatment system is sold or otherwise falls under new ownership;
- Specifying local waiver and variance procedures that comply with the OWTS Policy.

These changes will not substantially change the way septic systems are installed in Plumas County. Links to the various code section changes are found here ([Chapters 6, 8 and 11](#))

Once the Board of Supervisors approves these changes, the final ordinance and LAMP will be submitted to the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board for formal adoption and this needs to be completed no later than May 13, 2017.

Here are some links for more information:

The State Water Board Website http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/owts/

Please contact Jerry Sipe at Plumas County Environmental Health if you have any questions, at (530) 283-6355.