

COWA Education Forum & Technology Exhibition

October 6, 2011
Jackson Rancheria Casino & Resort

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The RCAP Network



Rural Community Assistance Partnership
800/321-7227 www.rcap.org



Western RCAP
Rural Community
Assistance Corporation
916/447-2854
www.rcac.org

Midwest RCAP
Midwest Assistance Program
952/758-4334
www.map-inc.org

Southern RCAP
Community Resource Group
479/443-2700
www.crg.org

Northeast RCAP
RCAP Solutions
800/488-1999
www.rcapsolutions.org

Great Lakes RCAP
WSOS Community
Action Commission
800/775-9767
www.gllcap.org

Southeast RCAP
Southeast Rural Community
Assistance Project
866/928-3731
www.southeastrcap.org

So Why Are We Here Today?

- Discuss community opportunities & components to establish a Wastewater Management Entity
- What is a Wastewater Management Entity?
A responsible entity that protects, inspects and monitors community on-site septic systems to ensure public and environmental health is not impacted by septic failure

So Why The Need to Plan Wastewater Treatment and Disposal?

- Communities are more successful when they are proactive and plan ahead
- Retaining local control increases compliance
- May determine more cost effective solutions
- Acts as a safety net for the community
- Ensures environmental compliance by not presenting public health hazards

The Project

Understanding where the community is and examining their wastewater treatment infrastructure options



Where Do We Start?

- Most communities don't know they have options
 - Educating the community on options and exploring all advantages/disadvantages
- Reaching the right people - the regulator and the community and other stakeholders need a place at the table

Fostering Community Involvement

- Why is community involvement important?
- How does the management entity work for the community? What are the benefits?
- How do we involve the community?
- Learn your community's interests and their community knowledge
- Educating the homeowner

Community Involvement (cont.)

- Include the community as a partner throughout the process
- Promote open discussion and careful consideration of issues in question
- Be accessible and responsive to all partners
- Clearly identify roles and limitations of all stakeholders

Understanding the Plan

Planning: Community and board meetings, RFP's, contracts, training, everything leading up to and including site assessments and recommendations



Community Benefits of Establishing a Wastewater Management Program

- Substantially reduce pumping costs
- Create opportunity for business income
- Reduce costs for repairs and O&M
- Effective planning allows for safe and controlled community development and growth
- Ensure protection of ground water resources
- Protect public health by preventing exposure to wastewater and unsafe structures
- Maintain a knowledgeable and effective utility staff
- Avoid "emergency fixes" from systems backing up into homes, etc.


Elements to include in the Plan

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Current condition | • Plan for future |
| • Options | • Infrastructure to meet need |
| • Costs | • Sustainable |
| • Choice | • Built for long-term success |
| • Construction | |
| • Management | |

Project

Preparation needed before field work begins







Being Identified!

FUNDING

The Most Frequent Asked Question!



RCAC
www.rcac.org



CFCC

California Financing Coordinating Committee

- Made up of Several California Funders
- CDPH, CEC, I-BANK, HCD, DWR, SWRCB, USDA/RD
- Host a Series of Statewide Funding Fairs
- Access the Common Funding Inquiry Form

www.cfcc.ca.gov




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www.rcac.org



Gathering Accessible Data




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www.rcac.org




Parcel Evaluation and Community Assessment

- Records Search**
- Record Research**
- Property Owner Permissions to Access**
- Homeowner Surveys**




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Parcel Evaluation and Community Assessment Cont...

- Each Parcel Identified**
- Current Condition of System**
- Allowable Options**
- Comparable Costs**
- Inform Community**



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System Design



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RFP Designer/Engineer

- Use the RFP Process/Interview
- Review of Preliminary and Final Designs and the Bid Document
- Include the Community on Contractor selection
- Approval & Permitting Process
- Have Professional Facilitate a Management Plan Development Update
- Keep community members informed



System Design

- System is Sized and Located
- Community Establishes Legal Entity if Needed
- Community Develops Ordinances, Special Assessments, Develops Rate Structure, Obtains Utility Easements
- Include Service Provider



System Construction



System Construction

- Clarify Payment Plan
- Community Meeting to explain the Construction Process & Schedule
- Oversight During Construction
- Final Inspection & Management Process



System Use & Care



Operation, Maintenance & Management

- Community Leaders, Staff & Operator Receive Training on System Operation
- Ordinances are put into place
- Community Training on Best Practices by RME



Position for Success!

- Partnerships
- Staffing
- Rate Structure/Affordability
- Job Creation COWA/NAWT
- Develop a History
- Leverage Data for Future Funding



Resources

- www.epa.gov/owm/onsite
- www.rcac.org
- www.cowa.org
- www.nawt.org

