



**Sonoma County Community Development Commission**  
Housing Authority • Redevelopment Agency  
1440 Guerneville Road, Santa Rosa, CA 95403-4107

## **Monte Rio Wastewater Task Group**

### **Meeting Notes**

March 15, 2010

6:30 pm

Monte Rio Community Center

#### **Introduction**

##### Task Group Members Present:

Dan Fein, Ken Wikle, Jim Quigley, Lee Torr IV, Rich Holmer, Doreen Atkinson, Chuck Burger, Gary Getchell, Steve Mack, Supervisor Efren Carrillo, Preston Smith, Rene DeMonchy.

##### Task Group Members Absent:

Suzie Baxman

##### Staff Present:

Kathleen Kane – Community Development Commission (CDC)

Jane James – Transcriptionist

##### Other Speakers:

Richard Dinges, Lescure Engineers, Inc.

Jeff Loe, Lescure Engineers, Inc.

#### **Review and approve prior meeting notes**

Notes of 2/22/10 meeting were accepted as written.

#### **Presentation – What Other Communities Do**

Steve Mack made a presentation about conventional wastewater treatment plants in Sonoma County (Graton, Guerneville, Forestville, Healdsburg, Bodega Bay, and Windsor).

Jeff Loe of Lescure Engineers made a presentation about the Odd Fellows Park STEP (septic tank effluent pumping) and STEG (septic tank effluent gravity) system.

Richard Dinges of Lescure Engineers made a presentation about the formation of the wastewater management district and on-site monitoring program for the Stinson Beach septic systems.

Rich Holmer made a presentation about the Sea Ranch/Gualala non-conventional wastewater treatment system.

Steve Mack talked briefly about the Bohemian Grove system, which is a conventional treatment system but with unconventional use, as the system is only used for 3 weeks per year.

(See copies of PowerPoint presentations attached.)

## Q & A

Lee Torr IV asked about Stinson Beach property owners' ability to rebuild, if needed. Richard Dinges indicated that some smaller lots there may prevent owners from being able to expand, but should be able to replace in kind if system is functioning properly. Lee questioned whether Stinson could be used as a valid example for Monte Rio, as Stinson Beach owners have greater ability to exert political pressure.

Rich Holmer asked about conclusion of the hydrologic survey done for Stinson Beach, which seemed to indicate that there was some contamination remaining. Richard Dinges stated that there were seals causing the problems, and once they were relocated, problem disappeared.

Rene De Monchy asked about requirements for replacing a home with a like size home at Stinson Beach. Richard Dinges stated that it depends on lot size and soil characteristics.

Rich Holmer clarified that holding tanks under auspices of public governing entity are permissible, but not allowed for individual property owners.

Jeff Loe stated that the Odd Fellows system doesn't comply with County code, but they have specific waste discharge requirements for a community system as a way to get permitted by North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (NCRWQCB). Chuck Burger highlighted that this allowed Odd Fellows to follow different rules than are being applied to Monte Rio.

Preston Smith asked about how many homes are served by Odd Fellows – Jeff responded 205. Preston asked if Monte Rio could use the same formulas for what would be required in Monte Rio based on what was done in Odd Fellows. Jeff responded that soil conditions in Monte Rio are not known and could make a difference.

Rene De Monchy asked about whether a community leach field for Monte Rio could be located entirely in a flood plain. Jeff Loe stated that the proposed AB 885 regulations would require advanced treatment to be done. Would need to do a master plan and present it to the NCRWQCB. Would need collection system with STEP or STEG for primary treatment, with packed bed for secondary treatment and wouldn't have to do tertiary treatment for subsurface disposal.

Lee Torr IV asked if the Odd Fellows leach field is below flood elevation – Jeff Loe responded yes.

Lloyd Guccione thanked the panelists for their presentations, and asked each presenter about the annual operating and maintenance budgets for the systems they presented about, and how much reserve each jurisdiction carried. Sea Ranch's operating budget for 2010 is \$340,000. They don't maintain a fund balance or reserve. Numbers were not available for Odd Fellows. Richard Dinges stated that it was \$260,000/year for Stinson Beach when he was there. That district received a share of property tax, which helped finance operating costs. Reserves were around \$800,000 for that combined water/sewer district.

Rene De Monchy asked what the presenters think Monte Rio needs for a workable and affordable solution. Small diameter sewer collection with cluster tanks and subsurface discharge somewhere (Jeff Loe), and on-site wastewater management for properties that are located further out (Richard Dinges).

**Plan for next meeting and closing**

Topic: Technological possibilities  
4/19/10, 6:30 pm, Monte Rio Community Center

Topic: Planning for summer forum  
5/17/10 and 6/21/10, 6:30 pm, Monte Rio Community Center

**Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.