

5-Yr Water Quality Assessment and LAMP Review Alameda County Department of Environmental Health

Questionnaire Survey for OWTS Practitioners

Questa Engineering has been hired by Alameda County to prepare a Water Quality Assessment study and report regarding the County's Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Program. The Water Quality Assessment is a requirement of the State Water Board's Policy for Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems, to be completed every 5 years for the purposes of evaluating and assessing the functioning status and impacts of OWTS on water quality within the jurisdiction of the local environmental health agency. The basic outline and required elements of the Water Quality Assessment (WQA) are contained in Section 6 of the Alameda County Local Agency Management Program (LAMP) for OWTS, which was approved by the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board in May 2018. The first 5-yr Water Quality Assessment Report is due to be submitted by May of 2023.

The WQA has the following three primary objectives: (1) summarize and evaluate the general operational status of OWTS in the County through the review of various OWTS permitting and corrective actions over the past five years; (2) assess possible impacts of OWTS on groundwater and surface water quality through review of available water quality data and studies; and (3) identify, as applicable, areas for possible changes to existing OWTS technical manual and management practices.

To address objective (3) above, Questa is seeking comments and recommendations from designers, contractors and other practitioners who work with OWTS in Alameda County. We are interested in obtaining input on both the technical standards that guide the design, construction and operation of OWTS, as well as the policies and procedures regarding the various aspects of OWTS approvals and management, including site evaluations, permitting, design review, corrective actions, building improvements, variances, etc.

This questionnaire survey is being distributed to facilitate written comments, and will be followed by a video conference meeting of all those wishing to participate to discuss the input and recommendations and to take additional oral comments. The tentative date for the video conference meeting is February 23, 2023, from 3 to 5 pm. An invitation and link to the meeting will be emailed separately.

This questionnaire survey has three parts:

1. **Attachment 1** is a list of a few general policy/procedural issues for which we are seeking practitioner input.
2. **Attachment 2** is a table outline of the ACDEH OWTS Manual to assist in prompting and organizing comments on various technical issues.
3. Feel free to add any additional comments and recommendations that don't fit into part 1 or 2 above.

Please enter any information and comments directly into the attached word documents (**Attachments 1 and 2**), and return by email along with any other written comments you would like to provide. Send responses to Questa Engineering at my email address:

nhantzsche@questaec.com

Feel free to email or call me at the phone number below if you have any questions. Thank you and we look forward your input and discussion of issues on February 23rd.



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