



# GO WITH THE FLOW



## NONSTANDARD SYSTEMS MONITORING PROGRAM

Permit & Resource Management Dept.

WINTER/SPRING 2010

### ANNUAL HOMEOWNER'S CLASS

Learn about Maintenance and Operation of  
Nonstandard Septic Systems

**SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 2010**  
**9:00am to 2:00pm (schedule below)**

Permit & Resource Management Dept.  
Hearing Room (see map pg. 2)  
2550 Ventura Avenue, Santa Rosa CA

Speakers from the P.R.M.D. and private sector will discuss monitoring, routine maintenance, landscape ideas, and rodent control for nonstandard systems. Questions are encouraged. Handouts available.

9am -10:00	Introduction/General Installation
10 -11:30	Maintenance
11:30-12:30	Self Monitoring and Documentation
12:30-1:15	Landscaping ( <i>with Peter Estournes of Garden Works</i> )
1:15 -2pm	Greg the Gopher Guy

(Times Approximate)

#### REFRESHMENTS & RAFFLE FOR COMPLIMENTARY SYSTEM MAINTENANCE CERTIFICATES

Make your reservations early as space is limited!! Please contact Carrie Muller at (707) 565-2658 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday to make your reservation. You may also leave a voice mail message.

### DRIP SYSTEMS BASICS

**SATURDAY, APRIL 17, 2010**

**9:00am to 11:00am**  
PRMD Hearing Room

We will discuss issues particular to drip systems such as field observations, maintenance, and panels. Alarm boxes with timers and Advantex units will be included. Rod Myers of Accredited Septic Monitoring and Eric Moody (tentative) of Pace Plumbing Supply and will be available to answer questions.

### "IT'S BACK!" BY POPULAR DEMAND

THE 8 1/2" x 11" - SIZE **SELF MONITORING FORMS** will be back this March! The information requested will remain the same (you could only hope) but we'll figure out a way to obtain it in less space. Thank you for your feedback and continued efforts



Previous issues of our annual newsletters (Go With The Flow, Monitoring Program News) are now available on our website.

<http://www.sonom a-county.org/prmd/divpages/wellsepddiv.htm>

Some prior articles include:

<b>New Ownership/New System</b>	Go With The Flow Winter/Spring 2009
<b>Expansion/Reserve Area (Out of Sight, Out of Mind)</b> • <b>Problems Observed</b> • <b>Where to find Info</b>	
<b>Contractor Corner</b>	
<b>Landscaping (More than Vegetation)</b>	Go With The Flow Spring 2008
<b>Diversion Valve (what is this?)</b>	
<b>Recommended Maintenance and Reminders</b>	Go With The Flow Winter/Spring 2007
<b>Control Box/Panel Information</b>	
<b>Prevention of Septic System Failure</b>	Monitoring Program News 2005
<b>Self Monitoring Forms</b>	Nonstandard Septic System News 2003, 2004
<b>Program History</b>	
<b>Selling Your Property?</b>	

## YOUR SYSTEM - 'WORTH' PROTECTING

To protect the environment 'and' your investment, it's important to know what you have, ways to prolong it's function, and how to protect the designated replacement area.

## RECORDS

Septic system records are available (by address and parcel number) at our office and (maybe) the consultant. We have REHS staff at the Well and Septic Cubicle who can assist you in locating and interpreting records on file at PRMD. You may also contact your septic consultant/designer.

## PROTECTION - MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT

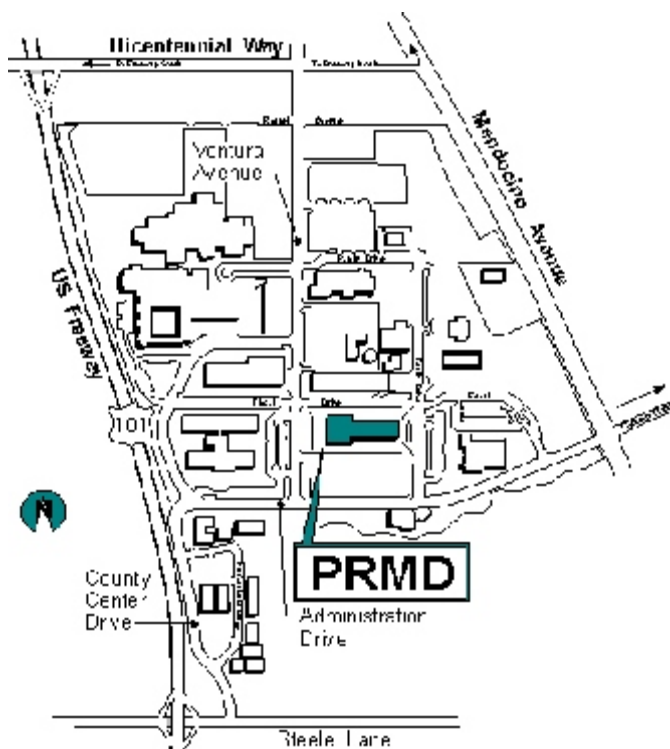
The following bulletins provide useful information re: monitoring and maintenance issues and can be downloaded from our website at <http://www.sonoma-county.org/prmd/docs/handout/s/ws.htm>. Hard copies available upon request..

- WLS-012 Maintenance of Non-Standard Systems
- WLS-013 Maintenance Guidelines for Toilets
- WLS-014 How to Monitor a Non Standard System
- WLS-015 Purging and Balancing
- WLS-016 Reduced Annual Operational Permit Fee
- WLS-017 Plant selection

## SETBACKS TO PRIMARY SYSTEM AND EXPANSION

See Policy Number 9-2-8

[www.sonoma-county.org/prmd/docs/policies/9-2-8.pdf](http://www.sonoma-county.org/prmd/docs/policies/9-2-8.pdf)



## STAFF RESOURCES:

For septic system/self monitoring questions contact:

**Wiles Edison, REHS Monitoring Program Coordinator**  
(707) 565-1691

**Gabriel Benyak, REHS Monitoring Program Specialist**  
(707) 565-2308; (707) 849-5593 (cell)

For billing questions, address, name or ownership changes, or Bulletin requests contact:

**Carrie Muller, Monitoring Program Administrator** (707) 565-2658

## APPOINTMENT REQUESTS:

Our staff are available to demonstrate and/or review the self monitoring process with you at your property. Please call us to schedule an appointment.

## CONTRACTOR'S & INSPECTOR'S CORNER

### PREVENT PUMP PROBLEMS

Three pump failures in 2009 were caused by handy wipes/baby wipes getting caught in the pump impellers. The tanks had no effluent filters to prevent this from occurring.

### WHY DO THE MATH?

The flow calculation section on your monitoring forms can be a pain (I hate math too), but by doing the math 'you' will know of a potential problem before we do and/or 'before' the neighbors complain or repair is needed (\$\$). Some factors that can increase flows (above the design limit) without 'visual' indications of failure (ie. surfacing effluent or sewage backing up) are: leaking plumbing fixtures, tank leaks (water enters tanks during wet months), faulty floats or malfunctioning pump. Feel free to call us if you have questions or want help interpreting the average dose results. See Bulletin [WLS-014](#) 'How to Monitor a Non Standard System' for assistance'.

## SYSTEM MAINTENANCE CONTRACTORS:

We have a preliminary list of contractors that perform monitoring/maintenance on nonstandard systems. For the list, contact Carrie Muller at (707) 565-2658.

## ONSITE TRAINING

Are you willing/available to allow some homeowners on your property to observe a routine purge and adjust of your pressure-dosed septic system? Are you interested in observing a purge and adjust? If so, please contact Carrie Muller at (707) 565-2658.