SLO Co. WRAC:

NOTICE: Sewage Sludge Land Application Ordinance

SLO County Board of Supervisors

Agenda Item: Extend Ordinance until 2026

12-15-20

On December 15th, the SLO County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing and vote on whether to extend the current interim moratorium ordinance on sewage sludge land application until March 31, 2026. The BofS unanimously voted on 11-17-20 to schedule this matter for 12-15-20. Please consider submitting comments supporting this extension prior to the 12-15-20 BofS hearing.

This is an advance notice for organizations which need time to prepare agendas for discussion and action on this issue. The 12-15-20 BofS agenda hasn't yet been posted, so it's unknown where it will appear and what agenda item number it will be given. Agendas are customarily posted on the Tuesday or Wednesday prior to the meeting. The Agenda, Staff Report and comments received will be available on the "Board Meetings, Agendas and Minutes" page linked below. The email addresses of the Board Clerk and the four members of the BofS are below.

This ordinance has been successfully protecting SLO County's ground and surface water, soil, air, food, agricultural viability, public health and wildlife since 2004, when our county took control over sewage sludge land application from the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board due to the inadequacy of its oversight and permission of land application of excessively polluted sewage sludge. It is the result of two year-long interdisciplinary task forces described in the 11-17-20 Health Agency Staff Report to the BofS:

"Numerous State and local agencies, as well as private citizens, non-profit agencies and other interested parties were involved in the development of the original ordinance. They include the Agricultural Liaison Advisory Board, Air Pollution Control District, Agricultural Commissioner’s Office, Cal Poly, ECOSLO, Environmental Division of County Planning Department, Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau, Morro Bay-Cayucos Wastewater Treatment Plant, City of San Luis Obispo Wastewater Treatment Plant, South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District, City of Paso Robles Wastewater Treatment Plant, California Association of Sanitation Agencies, Synagro, University of California Cooperative Extension, San Luis Obispo County Health Commission, Sierra Club, Center for Sludge Information, San Luis Obispo County Water Resources Advisory Committee, San Luis Obispo County Integrated Waste
Management Authority, CA Farm Bureau, Cornell University, U.S. EPA, and other interested parties."
Once the 12-15-20 BofS agenda is posted, I will send out another notice with more specific information about the hearing and the need to extend this ordinance for five years.
FYI - I've attached a 3-page brief I submitted to the WRAC about potential water quality impacts from sewage sludge land application five years ago when a permanent ordinance was proposed and then subsequently abandoned.
Please post this along with the 12-2-20 WRAC agenda.
Thank you,
David Broadwater
Center for sludge Information

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