

MEETING MINUTES

Monterey County Greywater Working Group

Tuesday, April 2, 2009

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Monterey County Business Council – Conference Room

1732 Fremont Blvd, 2nd floor

Seaside, CA



1:30 PM

Attendees:

April Allard, Sustainable Carmel Valley
Terry Black, Brac Systems and H2-O Mizer
Catherine Bowie, Cal Am Water
Mike Dawson, President AMAP, Member at Large SAC
Mary Anne Dennis, Monterey County Health Dept, Environmental Health
Brian Garneau, Carmel Lahaina Utility System
Dan Fernandez, CSU Monterey Bay
Laura Franklin, Monterey Peninsula College
Linda Grier, Ausonio Affiliates
Kim Ha, Monterey County Business Council
Tom Hood, Thomas Bateman Hood AIA
John Kuehl, City of Monterey
Sarah McCandliss, Sarah McCandliss Landscape Design
Mark McClain, City of Seaside
Stephanie Pintar, Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD)
John Silva, Ausonio Inc.
Michael Waxer, Carmel Development
Gary Weier, Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency (MRWPCA)

Scope of Greywater Working Group / Mission:

- Establish a permitting system that can be accepted region-wide.
- “Authority having Jurisdiction”:
 - Water control district, Regional Water Quality Control Board, CA Dept of Water Resources (DWR) – who is the “authority having jurisdiction” on permitting of greywater systems?
 - Monterey County Environmental Health currently pursuing MOU's (Memorandum of Understanding) with cities to grant Envir Health Dept authority to be regulators.
 - Monterey County Environmental Health will stick with the State regulations and continue to consider greywater as untreated sewage. Thus, limits discussion by this group until State changes rules (Dept of Housing and Community Development drafting new standards for greywater use in CA, likely by 2011).
- Post Ranch Inn has the only greywater system permitted in our area.
- State hallmark currently for greywater use is underground irrigation; if above ground outdoor or indoor use, State is not recommending that.
- **TASK:** Envir Health - here is what you can do, and here is the process to do that with.

Review & Approve Definitions:

1. APPROVED: GRAYWATER / GREYWATER

- Verbatim from California Plumbing Code:

“Graywater is untreated waste water which has not come into contact with toilet waste. Graywater includes used water from bathtubs, showers, bathroom wash basins, clothes washing machines and laundry tubs or an equivalent discharge as approved by the Administrative Authority. It does not include waste water from kitchen sinks, photo lab sinks, dishwashers or laundry water from soiled diapers.”

2. APPROVED: RECYCLED / RECLAIMED WATER (Recycled Water preferred nomenclature)

- Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations defines reuse of wastewater according to subdivision (n) of Section 13050 of the Water Code:

“ ‘Recycled water’ means water which, as a result of treatment of waste, is suitable for a direct beneficial use or a controlled use that would not otherwise occur and is therefor considered a valuable resource.”

- California Plumbing Code defines reclaimed water as wastewater that has been treated to tertiary standards:

“Reclaimed water is water which, as a result of tertiary treatment of domestic wastewater by a public agency, is suitable for a direct beneficial use or a controlled use that would not otherwise occur. The level of treatment and quality of the reclaimed water shall be approved by the public health authority having jurisdiction. For the purpose of this appendix, tertiary treatment shall result in water which is adequately oxidized, clarified, coagulated, filtered and disinfected, so that at some location in the treatment process, the seven-day median number of total coliform bacteria in daily samples does not exceed 2.2 per 100 milliliters, and the number of total coliform bacteria does not exceed 23 per 100 milliliters in any sample. The water shall be filtered so that the daily average turbidity does not exceed two turbidity units upstream from the disinfection process.

Specifically excluded from this definition is “graywater,” which is defined in Part I of this chapter.”

3. APPROVED: BLACKWATER

- Used definition from Sonoma County Greywater Working Group:

“Non-industrial wastewater which consists of untreated waste water that has come into contact with or consists of toilet waste, kitchen sink waste, dishwasher waste or similarly contaminated sources. Also known as blackwater, sanitary sewage, sewage, or septic wastewater.”

4. SUGGESTED: GROUNDWATER / CATCHMENT WATER [by M. Dawson]

- Paraphrased from “Rainwater Catchment Design and Installation Standards” – 1/20/09
 - **Groundwater:** Water beneath the surface that can be collected with wells, tunnels, French drains, or drainage galleries, or that flows naturally to the earth’s surface via seeps or springs.
 - **Catchment Water:** Water derived from precipitation from a rooftop or other man-made, above-ground collection surface, or collected from ground water sources such as French drains or wells.
 - **Surface Water:** Any rain water that touches the ground and flows across the surface of the ground (i.e., roadway, parking surface, gully, creeks, streams)

Pool & Spa Water Disposal / Reuse:

- Kim did preliminary research on guidelines and regulations for swimming pool and spa water disposal / reuse.
 - Other regions have brochures developed to give guidelines to homeowners, such as ensuring certain pH & chlorine levels, length of time from stopping addition of chemicals, etc. → go to [Greywater Work Group Web site](#) for links to info.
 - Regulations do not allow swimming pool or spa water to go into storm drains.
 - MRWPCA said that disposal into public sewers is okay.
 - MRWPCA: Investigate possibility of developing similar brochure to inform homeowners on proper discharge (and reuse?) guidelines for pool and spa water.
- John cautioned that we don't want our group to lose focus, hence need mission statement.

Monterey County Greywater Working Group – Scope of Activities:

- Establish definitions – **DONE ✓**
- Establish authority having jurisdiction for gray water systems: MoCo Health – **DONE ✓**
- Provide homeowners information and links to other resources for catchment water systems:
 - Simple flowchart of process – jurisdictions, identify agencies.
 - Brochure to be distributed to county and all cities.
 - FAQs, i.e., for every 100 gallon catchment site, where does it go, etc.
 - Create simple blueprint for catchment systems – who is target audience?\
 - Marketing, advertising
- Demonstration, Pilot Projects for catchment water systems:
 - There is a National Organization for rain catchment systems.
 - Demonstration projects: 1-story single family under 2500 sq ft; small-scale business; medium-sized commercial; larger landscaped homes.
- Short-Term Goals:
 - When do water rates go up -- have to be approved by PUC but probably this summer.
 - o By July/Aug to get info to public
 - o Group effort
 - o Tell people here's what you do, here's what you don't do
 - o Public gets a lot of don'ts, but would like to get do's!
 - Tours of catchment systems, i.e., 20K gallon cistern at Sunset Idea House → make it interactive, hands-on approach.
- Continue dialogue with County Health and city/county building officials for alternative use projects with greywater and catchment systems.

Action Items

- Process and Standards for Grey Water systems – Monterey County Environmental Health
- Brochure for Rainwater Catchment system design & standards (regulatory standards for permitting and outreach) – TBD Subcommittee
- FAQs, Jurisdictions, Contact list – TBD Subcommittee
- Demonstration Projects – TBD Subcommittee
- Innovation & New Technologies – TBD Subcommittee
 - Look at Earth Ship in AZ – house designed in climate that gets 2-3" natural rainfall, gain over 35" rainfall.
 - Include Code Enforcement, Installation Guidelines, General public info
 - Attract solutions and enforcement, not being “creative” in the negative sense

2:30 PM

ADJOURN

Prepared by: Kim Ha



Competitive Clusters (C²) is a program of the Monterey County Business Council, in partnership with the County of Monterey for regional economic development.

C² Workgroup Site: http://c2.mcbusiness.org/page/c2_workgroup/