



**Alameda County
Environmental
Health Department**

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Alameda County Commission on Septic System Issues

August 7, 2012

Meeting Minutes

Time: 2:00 pm

Location: Castro Valley Library
Community Meeting Room
3600 Norbridge Avenue
Castro Valley, CA 94546

1. **Call To Order** – *The meeting was called to order at 2:10 pm by meeting facilitator, Ron Torres*

2. **Roll Call**

Commissioners Present:

Ario Ysit
Dale Silva
Guy Warren
Marcos Gandara
Mike Gatzman
Darryl Sweet,

Commissioners Absent:

Barbara Droher-Kline

Staff Present:

Ron Torres, Facilitator
Ariu Levi
Donna Drogos
Russ Handzus
Kathleen Pacheco, County Counsel's Office

3. **Pledge Of Allegiance**

4. **Staff Introductions** - *Staff from Environmental Health introduced themselves and explained their respective roles in the septic system program; Deputy County Counsel, Kathleen Pacheco explained her role*

5. **Commissioner Introductions** - *Each of the six Commissioners introduced themselves, and shared brief background information about themselves, the area(s) they represent and issues of concern with regard to septic systems;*
6. **Overview and Discussion of the Commission** - *Ron Torres addressed each of the following items, using the draft bylaws as a basis of reference:*
 - a. **Role of Commission** -
 - b. **Officer Nominations/Elections** – *Commissioner Marcos Gandara was elected Chair of the Commission; Commissioner Dale Silva was elected Vice-Chair;*
 - c. **Bylaws** -
 - d. **Setting of Regular Meeting Date** – *It was agreed that the regular meeting date of the 3rd Thursdays in April and October of each calendar year was acceptable, and that the next meeting will take place on October 18, 2012 at 2 pm at the Castro Valley Library.*
7. **Presentation: The Brown Act** - *Kathleen Pacheco gave a power point presentation on the Brown Act and it's applicability to this Commission*
8. **Open Forum**
9. **Staff Comments/Correspondence** – *Ron Torres gave a brief update on AB885, and that it did not appear the Department would have to modify the current septic system ordinance in order to comply with the AB885 requirements; Ron Torres mentioned briefly the State's release of the UC Davis ground water study on Nitrates in the Groundwater; Ron Torres mentioned that the California Onsite Wastewater Association offers seminars and workshops on various topics on/about septic systems, and that the Dept is considering offering to work with COWA to offer workshops either in our offices or our county.*
10. **Board Announcements/Comments/Reports** – *Possible items for future meetings were discussed as follows:*

Commissioner Gandara described his frustrations being on a septic system within City of Oakland, and being unable to connect to either the City of Oakland or City of Berkeley municipal sewer;

Commissioner Silva would like more information on AB885 and its impact on development near creeks; would also be in favor of instructional field trips; he is interested in the learning about the differences between standard septic systems versus advanced septic systems, and when it is required to use an advanced system;

Commissioner Gatzman is interested in knowing the “5 biggest issues encountered by staff”, and the “5 most consistent complaints from applicants”;

11. **Next Meeting** – October 18, 2012, 2 pm – 4 pm, Castro Valley Library

12. **Adjournment** – the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.