

RESOLUTION NO. 12R-19

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE BIGHORN-DESERT VIEW WATER AGENCY OPPOSING SECTION 7.8 OF THE FINAL DRAFT “WATER QUALITY CONTROL POLICY FOR SITING, DESIGN, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF ON-SITE WASTERWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS”, OF THE STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2012 the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) released the Final Draft *Water Quality Control Policy for Siting, Design, Operation and Maintenance of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems* (“Policy”); and

WHEREAS, the entire population within the service territory of the Agency live in dwelling units served by onsite wastewater treatment systems (“septic systems”); and

WHEREAS, the Agency is located within the territory of the Mojave Water Agency (MWA) and approximately half of the population within the MWA boundaries also rely on septic systems; and

WHEREAS, under current regulations property owners within the Agency and MWA boundaries have enjoyed the ability, or potential, to develop land at a density of up to one dwelling unit per 0.5 acres, for properties relying on septic systems; and

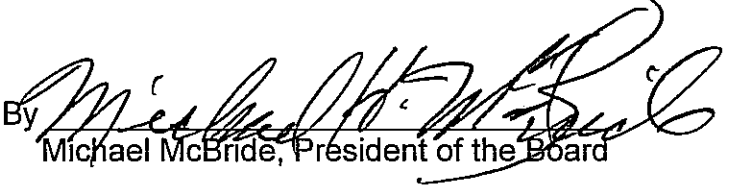
WHEREAS, under Tier 1 of the Policy the maximum density allowed for properties relying on septic systems would be restricted to one dwelling unit per 2.5 acres (Section 7.8 of the Policy). This portion of the Policy has the potential to negatively impact property owners within both the Agency’s and MWA’s service territories; and

WHEREAS, a 1993 report by the United States Geological Survey (USGS Water-Resources Investigations Report 93-4137) indicates that in the Mojave River Basin “current on-site domestic-wastewater disposal practices pose little immediate threat to the local ground-water resource”. The report further indicates septic systems contribute substantial return flows to groundwater and slow the decline of groundwater levels. This is a significant benefit to the region’s water resources.


WHEREAS, Septic return flows contribute significantly to the water balance for the *Ames/Reche Spreading Grounds and Recovery Program and Management Agreement* recently executed by the Agency. Proposed changes in state policy could negatively impact the groundwater resources of the Agency in the future but lowering baseline production allocations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Bighorn-Desert View Water Agency opposes Section 7.8 of the Final Draft Water Quality Control Policy for Siting, Design, Operation and Maintenance of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors to Bighorn-Desert View Water Agency this 24th day of April 2012.

By 
Michael McBride, President of the Board

ATTEST:



David Larson, Secretary of the Board