



September 24, 2009

TO: LOCSD Board of Directors
FROM: Utilities Supervisor, Margaret Falkner *MR7*
SUBJECT: Agenda Item 6B - 10/01/09 Board Meeting
Consider Sponsorship of Graywater Comprehensive Workshop

President

Joe Sparks

Vice-President

Marshall Ochylski

Director

Chuck Cesena
Maria Kelly
Steve Senet

General Manager

Utilities Manager

Fire Chief

Matt Jenkins

SUMMARY

Graywater is untreated waste water which has not come into contact with toilet waste. It does not include waste water from kitchen sinks, photo lab sinks, dishwashers or laundry water from soiled diapers. The reuse of graywater has been legal in the state of California since 1992 when it was adopted as part of the Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC). Appendix G of the 2007 California Plumbing Code has provisions that apply to the construction, installation, alteration and repair of graywater systems for subsurface landscape irrigation. The County of San Luis Obispo is the administrative authority.

A Graywater guide has been prepared by SLO-COAT which is a coalition in San Luis Obispo formed among Surf Rider, Sierra Club, and SLO Green Build. The District was contacted by Supervisor Patterson and the Partners in Water Conservation and invited to a luncheon on September 24, 2009 which focused on this guide. Staff was unable to attend but one of our Directors was available.

District staff contacted the Regional Water Quality Control Board staff and inquired as to any written policy or a general position on graywater systems. The response is that the Regional Board is amenable to these systems as long as the County of San Luis Obispo maintains the administrative authority and the applicant is compliant with the UPC. They have no written policy on graywater systems.

Attached is a request to sponsor one of three levels of providing information: (1) \$720.00 – Basic Package; (2) \$1,200.00 – Graywater Social; and (3) Graywater Guides available at \$5.00 each if 30 copies or more are purchased. It is requested the District respond by October 16, 2009.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Board discuss the possibility of sponsorship and direct staff to respond should one of these packages be chosen. Funds will be appropriated in an amount not to exceed \$1,200 from fund 100, general ledger account 7324 – Education.

Attachment



Offices At:

2122 9th Street
Los Osos, California 93402

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 6064
Los Osos, California 93412

Phone 805/528-9370

Fax 805/528-9377

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Greetings friends,

It's the end of a hot and dry summer. Rainfall for the year is well below average and water conservation is a top priority. We have all heard radio ads asking to adjust irrigation schedules and amounts, seen the billboards asking us to shorten our shower time and to skip washing that dirty vehicle and been given notice that water rates have risen amongst all purveyors. The scramble is on to educate the community as to how we can reduce our individual strain on our precious water resources.

Well, the Central Coast Chapter of Surfrider, Santa Lucia Sierra Club and SLO Green Build, have an offer for you. A workshop – "Graywater, a Resource to be Reused".

The reuse of graywater has been legal in the state of California since 1992 when it was adopted as part as the uniform plumbing code. However there are very few installations to be found and the burden on our water supplies has never been more demanding. With the water crisis at hand how could this be?

Newly proposed graywater standards SB1258, allows residences to hook up their clothes washer and/or one single fixture system, excluding toilet and kitchen sink drain, with out a permit.

With the guidance of the staff of the Building and Planning Department, Department of Environmental Health, Public Works and Board of Supervisor Jim Patterson, our coalition has developed a comprehensive guide to the safe use of graywater. The guide walks you through the importance of water in our community and how graywater can be effectively used as a resource to help remediate the pressure on our potable water supplies. It is currently available for download at www.slogreenbuild.com.

The guide is only helpful if homeowners and businesses are aware of graywater systems as an applicable resource, professionals know how to install and maintain systems, local vendors provide the necessary resources to construct systems and that the building officials understand the permitable systems.

We are offering to all purveyors, public works and community service providers the opportunity to take advantage of our comprehensive workshop. All you have to do is sponsor an appropriate venue and provide a preferred date to bring a professional workshop to your community.

The workshop is offered in two different packages as follows:

Graywater – A Resource to be Reused

Learn the benefits, costs and requirements to install a safe and legal graywater system. Program will cover how to calculate graywater discharge, landscape and surface areas requirements, plumbing techniques and materials and discharge options. The workshop will cover the do's and don'ts, maintenance programs and will evaluate the costs, complexity and environmental footprint of various systems. Attendees require no prior knowledge.

- Basic Package - \$720.00
 - 30 Graywater Guides (additional copies are available for \$5.00 each- \$10 value)
 - A two (2) hour presentation provided by SLO Green Build professionals
 - Appropriate technology healthy water cycle educational display
- Graywater Social - \$1200.00
 - 50 Graywater Guides (additional copies are available for \$5.00 each- \$10 value)
 - A two (2) hour presentation provided by SLO Green Build professionals
 - Appropriate technology healthy water cycle educational display
 - Food and beverage (generally gourmet pizza, beer, wine and non-alcoholic offerings)
 - Band (to be approved prior to booking)
- Graywater Guides- available at \$5 ea without the workshop (30 copies or more)

We encourage those interested that can not afford the program to partner with other entities and communities to sponsor and share a workshop opportunity, have a suggested donation at the door of the event or to charge the full cover price of the Guide. **In order to honor this proposal we ask that you reply to Jessicas@semmesco.com or 805-466-6737 x 203 no later that October 16th, 2009.**

Thanks,

The hardworking, dedicated folks from SLOCOAT, a coalition formed among Surf rider, Sierra Club and SLO Green Build. Hope to see you there. Cheers!