



Florida Onsite Wastewater Association, Inc.

Talking Points regarding removal of the ban on the land application of properly treated septage March 2011

Present Situation

Land application of properly treated septage is permitted and regulated by the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Health and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Septage treatment approved by EPA rule (40CFRS03) requires treatment to Class B standards (pathogen, virus reduction) and makes the septage suitable for beneficial reuse as a soil amendment.

The land application of properly treated septage is:

- Used on farms, pastures and tree groves as a nutrient enriched fertilizer;
- A scientifically safe and sound method for treating and disposing of septage;
- The most economical means of septage treatment and disposal for local governments and homeowners with septic tanks, as wastewater treatment facility disposal costs up to 3 times more than land application;
- The only practical method of disposal and treatment in rural communities; and
- Benefits agriculture, forests and reclaimed sites where septage is applied.

2010 Law

SB 550 repealed the law permitting the land application of properly treated septage and is due to take effect January 1, 2016.

Problem

Banning the land application of septage would dramatically increase costs to homeowners and local governments, and would strain wastewater treatment facilities under the burden of having to accept and treat this septage.

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