

Deschutes public hearing: wastewater treatment systems

by Bend_Weekly_News_Sources

On March 13, 2007 at 6 p.m., the Deschutes County Board of Commissioners will conduct a public hearing on a Local Rule to require the use of nitrate reducing onsite wastewater treatment systems in south Deschutes County. The hearing will be held at the La Pine High School Auditorium located at 51633 Coach Road, La Pine.

Implementation of the Local Rule will protect the sole source of drinking water and surface waters of the upper Deschutes River watershed.

The Local Rule proposal requires: new development to install systems achieving the maximum nitrogen reduction practicable, requires existing systems to meet a variable nitrogen reduction standard established by the Nitrate Loading Management Model, and requires complete upgrades to existing systems within 10 years of the date the Local Rule takes effect.

Other programs interacting with the proposal include financial assistance programs funded by the sale and development of land within the La Pine Neighborhood Planning Area. These programs, existing and planned, include Pollution Reduction Credit Rebates, low interest loans, liens, grants, and cost deferral programs.

The Deschutes County Board of County Commission may continue the public hearing to take additional testimony on March 20, 2007 at 6 p.m. at the La Pine High School Auditorium.

A copy of the Local Rule and staff report will be available on Wednesday, February 28, 2007 for inspection at the Deschutes County Community Development Department located at 117 NW Lafayette, Bend and at the South Deschutes County Services Center at 51340 S. Highway 97, in La Pine. Copies of the draft amendment and findings report can be purchased at the office for (25) cents a page. The document can also be downloaded from the Deschutes County website at: www.deschutes.org/cdd/ . Look in "Quick Links" for the Groundwater Protection Project. You may also call Barbara Rich at 617-4713 or e-mail at BarbaraR@co.deschutes.or.us for more information.

Oral testimony will be limited to five minutes.

Any interested person may appear, be represented by counsel, or submit written signed testimony. Written testimony may be submitted to this department prior to the hearing date or at the hearing. Questions raised at the hearing must also be submitted in writing.

The meeting location is wheelchair accessible. For the deaf or hearing impaired, an interpreter or assistant listening system will be provided with 48 hours notice. Materials in alternate formats may be made available with 48 hours notice. For other assistance, please dial 7-1-1, State Relay Service.

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