



County of Monterey

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RESOLUTION

Resolution No.: 23-364

Adopt Resolution Proclaiming the week of September 18, 2023, through September 22, 2023, as **SepticSmart Week** in Monterey County and call upon public and private organizations to celebrate with the Monterey County Health Department, Environmental Health Bureau by participating in learning opportunities that promote proper septic system maintenance and sanitation safety.....)

WHEREAS, Sewage disposal practices and laws against unlawful sewage disposal are traced to 500 B.C. and during the middle ages disposal practices de-evolved creating public health hazards leading to the public health act of 1848 in England which required every house to have a sanitary method for sewage disposal with the first septic tank being patented; and

WHEREAS, In the 1920's the USDA developed Rural Sanitation Guides however in the 1940's and 1950's, studies found that most homeowners with septic systems were uninformed about proper maintenance; and

WHEREAS, In 1980, the Environmental Protection Agency developed the Onsite Wastewater Management Manual providing operation and maintenance guidelines and penalties for non-compliance; and

WHEREAS, In June 2023, the County of Monterey adopted an amendment to Chapter 15.20 of the Monterey County Code which updated the standards and requirements for onsite wastewater disposal to reduce potential for contamination of groundwater, surface water, and the environment; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 11,000 properties in Monterey County rely on septic systems to receive and treat wastewater from homes and businesses; and

WHEREAS, Residents and the environment of Monterey County benefit from properly designed, installed, operated, and maintained septic systems; and

WHEREAS, The Environmental Protection Agency designated a week each September as *SepticSmart Week* to promote the importance of a properly installed and maintained septic system and provide information to assist homeowners with septic systems through varying informational and technical resources; and

WHEREAS, The Monterey County Health Department, Environmental Health Bureau (EHB) mirrors many of these activities on a daily basis by coordinating with qualified professionals to ensure proper siting and design of OWTS, and by working with septic system contractors to identify and rectify issues as they arise. In addition, EHB strives to educate the community on the importance and benefits of proper septic system maintenance and sanitation safety.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Monterey County Board of Supervisors, on behalf of the County and all residents thereof, hereby proclaim the week of September 18, 2023, through September 22, 2023 as **SepticSmart Week** in Monterey County and calls upon the public and private organizations to celebrate with the Monterey County Health Department, Environmental Health Bureau, by participating in learning opportunities that promote proper septic system maintenance and sanitation safety.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on this 19th day of September 2023

Chair Supervisor Luis A. Alejo

Vice Chair Supervisor Glenn Church

Supervisor Wendy Root Askew

Supervisor Chris Lopez

Supervisor Mary L. Adams

