Presentation from Community Development Agency on Progress Towards Revised Septic Regulations in Marin County

Board of Supervisors Study Session

November 10, 2026

Summary of Board of Supervisor Comments

- There is a need to reengage and stay engaged with the public on this subject and to identify where the public can receive updates and view public comments.
- Clarify the timeline and what the plan is going forward.
- Clarify what the touch points will be for confirming the adequacy and functionality of septic systems.
- Confirm Staff has engaged with folks, including septic professionals, realtors associations or realtors about what this means for sales; each of the major communities with septic systems, HIP Camp or others who are trying to increase camping or visitors throughout the County.
- Appreciate the plan for education and information, particularly for people who plan to make upgrades, and providing an understanding of which septic upgrades may be necessary.
- Understanding that everything cannot be done at once, is there a plan for identifying septic systems that need more attention than others; identify low, medium and high priority issues.
- Provide more understanding of technical assistance and the contemplated financial assistance because these are heavy lifts for people.
- Lists of qualified contractors and professionals available for residents.
- Revolving loans for financial assistance.
- Publish and update the Board on measurable permit turn around costs, appeals and customer service targets.
- Housing is a Board priority and there is a need to open up opportunities for housing across the County.
- The financial infeasibility and technical infeasibility of septic systems limit the ability for residents to add a bedroom or ADU on their properties. The possibility for people to add just one bedroom or ADU could have real significant impacts on housing across the County.
- Water usage has declined over the years and there is an opportunity to modernize our code and look for more opportunities.