



## WOODACRE & SAN GERONIMO FLATS WASTEWATER GROUP

We're here to provide the property owners of the Woodacre and San Geronimo Flats, and all residents of the Valley, with the information needed to determine the future of wastewater management on the Flats.

### DEAR NEIGHBORS,

The Woodacre/San Geronimo Flats Group has been working for nearly a decade to address our substandard and failing septic systems, with the goal of improving water quality for the benefit of the environment and public health. We believe that taking care of our wastewater is both a basic responsibility and simple decency, and that by working together we can come up with a more cost effective and environmentally beneficial solution.

Our focus is to provide the property owners of the Woodacre and San Geronimo Flats, and all residents of the Valley, with the information needed to determine the future of wastewater management on the Flats. Our project is limited by physical constraints in the number of homes that can be served.

However, we hope that by leading the way, we can help other neighborhoods in the Valley which are having problems with septic systems to work together to improve their own situations.

Sincerely,  
The Woodacre/San Geronimo Flats  
Wastewater Group

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### SAVE-THE-DATE

#### Community Meeting

**When:** September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 P.M.

**Where:** Lagunitas School  
Multipurpose Room

**Why:** The County and W/SG Flats  
Group will sponsor a  
discussion of the upcoming  
studies. *(This may affect you.)*

### NEW WEBSITE!

We strongly encourage you to visit [woodacresangeronimoflats.org](http://woodacresangeronimoflats.org) for more detailed information. We'd like to keep you informed! Please be sure to add your email address to receive occasional electronic updates.

### THE LAMP

#### Do you own a home in the Valley within 200' of a creek?

Then you need to know about the LAMP – or Marin County Local Area Management Plan. The LAMP will require homes which are within 200' of a creek to treat their wastewater to a higher standard than other areas. We will give a short report at the September 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting.



### NEW GRANT RECEIVED!

As you will see in the History section on the other side, in 2011 we funded and carried out a feasibility study for 150 homes in the Woodacre Flats. Now we are considering an opportunity to help more property owners. We've just received the good news that the County has received a \$75,000 grant from the State Water Resources Control Board to fund a Supplemental Feasibility Study. This study will investigate the opportunity to include a larger area of the Woodacre Flats and the flats of San Geronimo in a proposed recycled wastewater project. This Supplemental Feasibility Study will examine opportunities and constraints, and will provide a description and cost estimates. Once the Supplemental Feasibility Study is completed, the next step is to carry out an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), which will compare the potential impacts of a "no-project" alternative and the three potential wastewater solutions that were described in the 2011 feasibility study by Questa Engineering.



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*Members of the Woodacre/San Geronimo Flats Wastewater Group*

### PROJECT HISTORY

In 2007 the Tomales Bay Watershed Council invited concerned neighbors to consider the issue of failing wastewater systems in Woodacre. A group of volunteers formed and over several years completed water quality and septic system studies that confirmed our anecdotal understanding that many of our septic systems are failing. After working closely with the County, conducting a number of community meetings, and raising \$12,000 from community members, in 2011 a detailed Feasibility Study was completed by Questa Engineering.

#### **Four alternatives were evaluated:**

- 1. No project**
- 2. Upgrade of onsite systems using modern technology**
- 3. A community system with shared leach field on Fire Road above Woodacre, serving a maximum of 150 homes**
- 4. A recycled wastewater treatment plant, providing treated water to the Golf Course.**

We then conducted a survey of neighbors on the Woodacre Flats, and received strong support for proceeding with an Environmental Impact Report. We raised an additional \$38,000 for the EIR, for a total of \$50,000 in community contributions. Along with contributions from the County (\$105,000) and MMWD (\$50,000), the EIR is fully funded.

Through subsequent discussions with Questa Engineering we learned that the recycled water plant could serve up to 300 homes. We then reached out to neighbors on the Upper Woodacre and San Geronimo Flats and received additional support from homeowners interested in joining our efforts. As of this mailing, 185 property owners have submitted petitions expressing interest in the project and supporting the EIR. Because of that interest, and in consultation with the County, we decided to delay the EIR to allow for a Supplemental Feasibility Study to be undertaken.