



Krekorian Opposes Septic Tank Ordinance

May 7, 2010

Dear Friend,

Recently, the city's Bureau of Sanitation began a series of public meetings about a proposed ordinance dealing with Onsite Water Treatment Systems (OWTS), commonly known as septic tanks. The Bureau developed the proposed ordinance in response to a California state mandate that was passed by the state Legislature a decade ago. Council District two, which has by far more OWTS than any other district, would be significantly impacted by this ordinance.

My staff and I have been in close contact with the Bureau to ensure that the concerns of the residents of CD2 are clearly heard and accommodated in the development of any OWTS policy. In its current form, the ordinance is not acceptable and I will oppose it. My staff and I will continue to work aggressively to ensure that the regulation of OWTS does not have an undue financial impact on residents.

While I strongly believe we need to make every reasonable effort to maintain the quality of our groundwater supply, all such efforts must be made with thorough opportunity for public input and transparency. Especially at a time when homeowners are struggling economically, we should not be requiring them to pay hundreds, if not thousands of dollars on permits and cleaning fees for OWTS that are working properly and not contaminating the groundwater supply.

My staff and I will be working with the Bureau of Sanitation to ensure that they increase their public outreach efforts to include contacting all owners of OWTS via letter, along with holding more easily accessible public meetings to gain a better understanding of the real impact this proposed ordinance would have on our community.

We will also be working hard to narrow the scope of any such ordinance to monetize the impact and reduce the number of affected homeowners.

I'm very proud of my strong environmental record, and I've always worked hard to protect the quality of our groundwater supply and ensure that we all have access to clean water. Nonetheless, when the government seeks to enact regulations that impose new burdens on the public, it is our responsibility to make sure those regulations are truly necessary, effective and cost efficient. While the OWTS ordinance is well intentioned in its current form, it does not meet that test.

Very truly yours,

PAUL KREKORIAN
Councilmember, Second District