

# Quail Valley Septic Systems Update

October 6, 2005

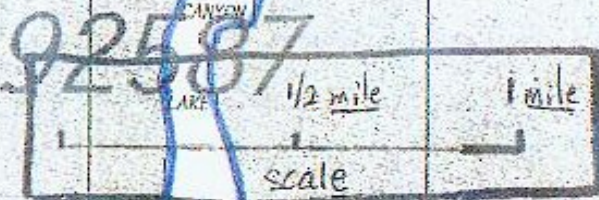
# Overview

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- Septic system failures in Quail Valley
- Water quality and public health concerns
- Proposed septic system prohibition



CANYON  
LAKE

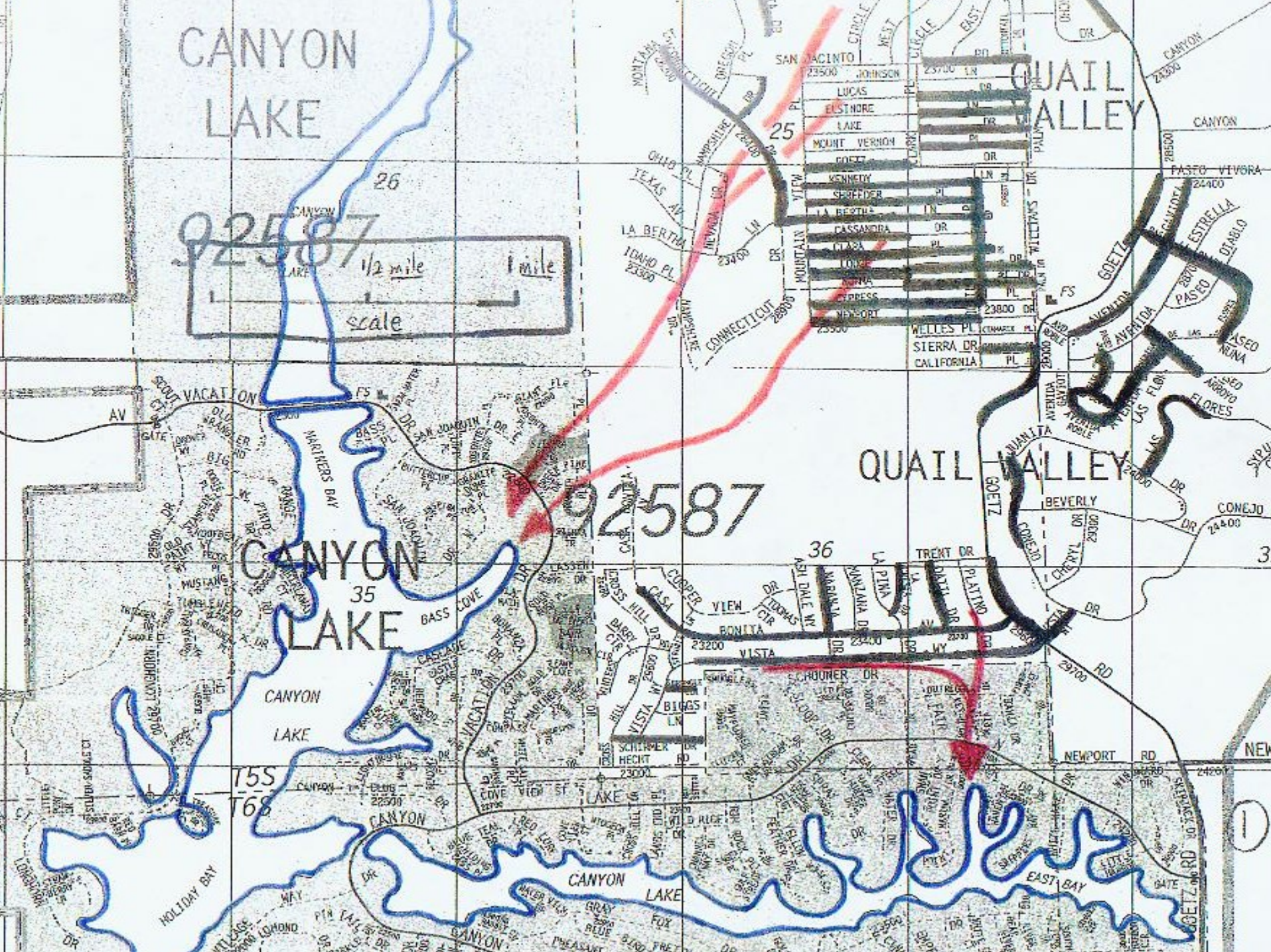


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CANYON  
LAKE

QUAIL VALLEY

QUAIL VALLEY



# Riverside County's Study

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- Early 2005 the Riverside County Environmental Health conducted a survey
- 848 homes/lots visited, only 413 surveys completed with occupant, 41 refused to talk to inspectors
- 28% (114) complained of septic system problems
- 37% (154) Sewage and/or greywater discharges observed
- Major areas of concern at Vista Way and Casa Bonita Streets. 134 homes in this area had septic problems
- 84% stated they would switch to sewer

# Water Quality and Public Health

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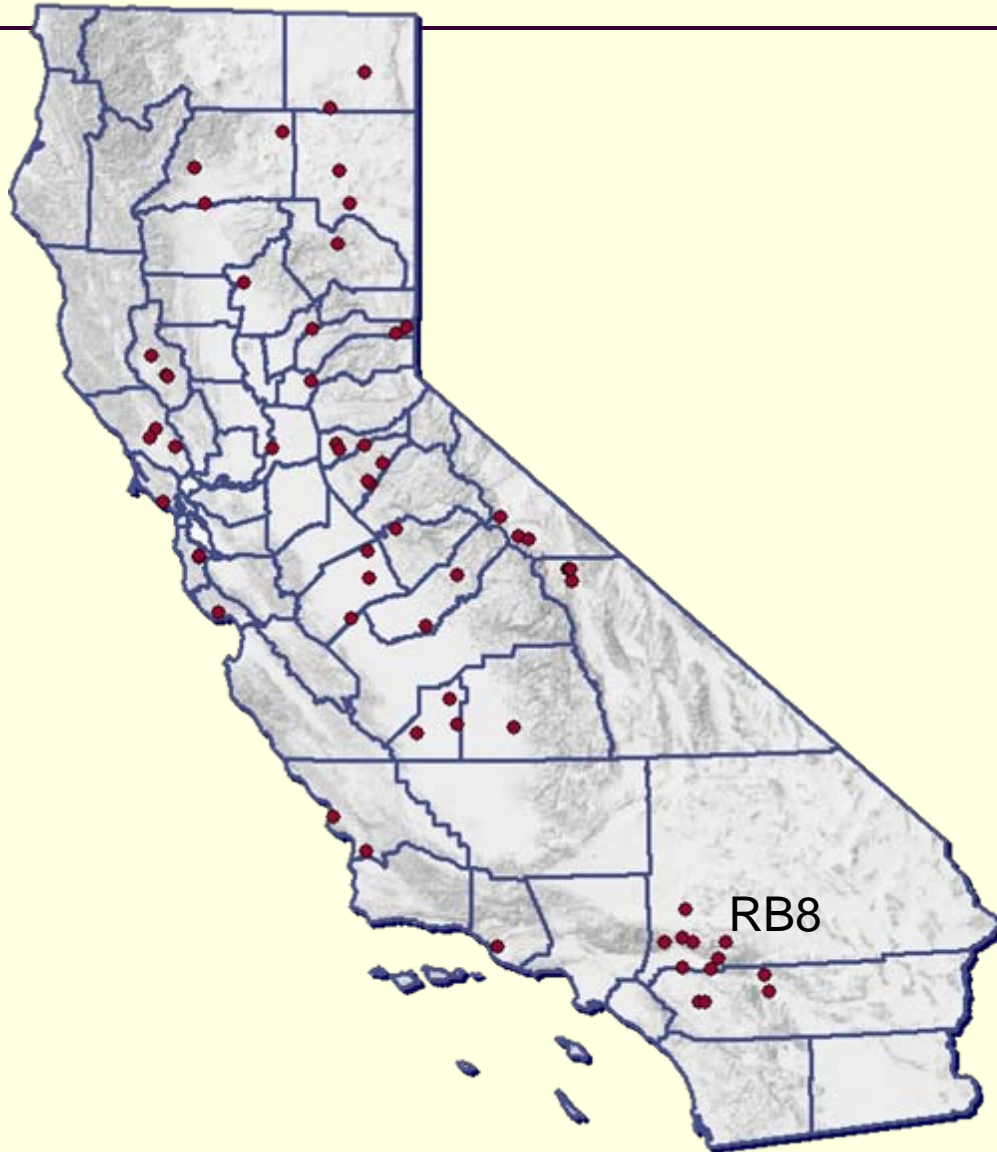
- Groundwater and surface water quality impacts
- Water flows to Canyon Lake, an impaired lake due to bacteria
- Children play near these streams
- Public Health: infections or disease
- Septic systems are not suitable for most of Quail Valley area

# Prior Prohibitions

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- The Santa Ana RWQCB already has prohibited the use of septic systems in 7 areas
- Other RWQCBs have also prohibited the use of septic systems

# CA Has 62 Septic System Prohibition Areas



# Approximate number of septic tanks

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- Based on estimates from the Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD), in Quail Valley there are 3,585 lots that either have homes on them or could be built on.
- Approximately 3,196 of those lots are under one acre in size.

# Regional Water Board Staff Proposal

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1. Conduct sewer feasibility study (EMWD completing this study end of September 2005)
2. Amend Basin Plan to include Quail Valley in list of areas where septic systems are prohibited (prohibition tied to the availability of sewers in the area)
3. Help other agencies seek grants or other financial assistance to help residents to connect to sewer
4. Elimination of septic systems to be based on time schedule

# Proposed Exemptions

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- Lots greater than 1 acre and suitable for septic system use
- If a sewer system becomes available after a certain time, yet to be determined, then the homeowner must abandon their septic tank and hook up to the sewer.
- Upon approval of this Basin Plan Amendment, new septic systems would be prohibited and the continuing use of existing septic systems would be prohibited after a certain date (to be determined)

# Sewer Conversion Cost Estimates

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- EMWD estimates that sewerage the main Quail Valley areas will cost around \$36-40 million.
- Cost per household estimated at \$8-13,000
- Looking for Grant funding sources
- May do community sewer district where homeowners pay monthly over a period of time
- Cost estimates not finalized yet

# Short and Long-term Solutions

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## ■ Short-term

- Increased scrutiny in approval of septic system applications
- Fast response to septic system failure reports
- Financial and other assistance to pump septic tanks
- Public education

## ■ Long-term

- Basin Plan amendment and other alternatives

# What is Next?

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- Draft Prohibition (Basin Plan Amendment)
- Public Workshop End of November/ Early December
- Proposed Adoption Board Hearing Early 2006