



Bay Restoration Fund

Septic Fee Billing Options

Option 1(Recommended): The County, after 10/1/05, bills each “Septic” user a total of \$22.50 for the period 10/1/05 through 6/30/06 (Three calendar quarters). The BRF fee may be included with the “second semi-annual property tax bill” or through a “one-time special” billing. Thereafter, the BRF fee of \$30 per year per user is included with the property tax bill to cover each fiscal year (July through June).



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Option 2: The County, in July 2006, bills each Septic user a total of \$37.50 for the period 10/1/05 through 12/31/06 (Five calendar quarters). For the first billing, the BRF fee is included with the property tax bill in July 2006 to cover the last quarter of 2005 and the calendar year 2006. Thereafter, the BRF fee of \$30 per year per user is included with the property tax bill to cover each calendar year (January through December).



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Option 2 - Issues: Under this option, BRF fee billing goes to the “owner of record” as of say July, covering the BRF fee period January through December. This billing cycle causes BRF fee collection problems from users with ownership changes. For example, the owner of record having bought the property on say April 1, will be billed the full \$30 for January – December, but is actually liable for \$22.50 (April – December). This could result in BRF fee revenue loss. If a County chooses to use this option, they will need to establish a mechanism to ensure the BRF fee is collected (fees are not lost due to ownership period disputes) and the State Comptroller’s Office will require additional record keeping as evidence of fees collected.



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Option 3 (Not Recommended): The County, in July 2006, bills each Septic user a total of \$52.50 for the period 10/1/05 through 06/30/07 (Seven calendar quarters) as part of the very first BRF fee billing. Thereafter, the BRF fee of \$30 per year per user is included with the property tax bill to cover each fiscal year (July through June).

Issues: This option has the same issue under option 2 and in addition involves a “sticker shock” with the first BRF fee billing of \$52.50, requiring explanation to users why the fee is not \$30.



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Option 4: The County establishes a “new” billing system independent from the property tax billing system, with a BRF fee billing cycle, either from Option 1 or Option 2 above.

Issues: This option will be administratively the most expensive. Since up to 5% of the total BRF fee collection may be reimbursed for County BRF fee administrative expenses, the Counties may not be able to recover all of their expenses.