

ON-SITE WASTEWATER SURVEY

Jurisdiction:	Butte County
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Interviewer:	
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I. Permit Process and Design Requirements

A. Permits required for:

1. New Construction on Existing Parcels

a. Permit process

- Are there separate site evaluation and system construction applications?

We do not have site evaluation applications.

- What are the steps through the process?

We receive an application with a plot plan showing with the septic system location, well location, and any pertinent data necessary for site evaluation. A REHS then will conduct a site evaluation and if OK then the permit is issued.

- How long are site evaluations valid? n/a

- How long are construction permits valid?

One year with a nominal fee to renew for additional year.

b. Design Flow

- What is used as the daily design flow per bedroom for single family residences?

150 gpd for the first bedroom, 75 gpd for each additional bedroom (this is not in County Code, but in the Chico Nitrate Study).

- How are design flows determined for other types of development?

We refer to the EPA manual, Paradise Manual for On Site, if possible a water meter reading, or a consultant can supply expected wastewater flows.

c. Septic Tank Sizing

- What are your septic tank sizing requirements per bedroom for single family residences?

1000 gallon up to a 3 bedroom, 1200 for a 4 bedroom, 1500 gallon for 5 and 6 bedrooms.

- How is septic tank sizing determined for other types of development?

Based on amount of wastewater generated, and the formula from Manual of Septic Tank Practice where Volume of Tank = 1,125 + .75(Daily flow in gallons).

- Are septic tanks inspected or certified for water tightness?

Usually only when a pump is used.

d. Minimum Lot Size?

- Governed by General Plan and Zoning?

If the lots are larger than 5 acres and there is adequate soil than General Plan and Zoning.

- Wastewater Ordinance?

Yes, especially on lots less than 5 acres, Appendix VII dictates lot size based on soil depth, percolation rate and slope.

e. Slope

- Is there a maximum slope? What is it?

30% is used from the Plumbing Code.

f. Soil

- What is the range of allowable soil textures?

Sand to clay loam (informal policy)

- What is the range of allowable percolation rates?

5 to 120 mpi (informal policy)

- Do you rely on textural classification, perc tests, or both?

Relay on our knowledge of the area and, when in question, on septic tank holes. We do soil mantles occasionally.

- Are perc tests optional or mandatory?

Optional

g. Vertical Separation or Total Effective Soil Depth

- Are your system design requirements based on soil maps, vertical separation, depth of effective soil, or a combination?

We use soil maps as a reference only; we do use depth of effective soil, based on our knowledge of the area on upon septic tank holes when additional information is needed

- What are your vertical separation and/or effective soil requirements for gravity systems?

2' from bottom of trench to groundwater, soil depth for existing lots can be as shallow as 12". This is not found in our codes or policies, formal or informal, but based on word of mouth and practice by staff.

- For alternative systems? n/a
- Do you distinguish between perched, seasonal water table in measuring vertical separation? Yes

h. Groundwater

- Do you rely on evaluation of the soil profile or winter monitoring to determine presence of groundwater?

Not on existing lots (except now in Camelot Subdivision).

i. System Design

- Who determines Type of System, county staff, a consultant, both?

On existing lots, county staff because they are standard systems, for TPM and subdivisions, the consultant and RWQCB, for repairs the consultant.

2. Creating New Parcels through Subdivision Process

- Is minimum lot sized determined by wastewater requirements or by the General Plan and Zoning?

If they want less than 5 acres, then wastewater requirements dictate lot size based on soil depth, perc, and slope.

- Does your sewage regulation have minimum lot sizes? If so, how are they determined and what are they?

The ordinance requires that any lot less than five acres created before July 1, 1949, meet current subdivision standards.

- Does your regulation have requirements for minimum useable drainfield areas?

The lot must have enough area for the septic system and replacement.

- Are there more stringent requirements for subdivisions than for existing parcels in the following areas:
 - Allowable soil texture Yes
 - Allowable percolation rate No
 - Required vertical separation or total effective soil depth? Yes
 - Maximum slope? Same
 - Use of supplemental treatment to allow creation of new parcels? Not unless RWQCB approves it first.
 - Required setbacks? Yes, on lots created before April 4, 1974, the setbacks can be less stringent.
- Are determinations of nitrogen or phosphorous loading required? No

3. Repair

- Are system repairs brought up to code to the maximum extent allowed by the site? Yes
- Are there differences in site evaluation procedures? Yes
- Are there less stringent requirements for repairs than for existing parcels in the following areas:
 - Allowable soil texture Yes
 - Allowable percolation rate Yes
 - Required vertical separation or total effective soil depth? Yes
 - Maximum slope? No
 - Use of supplemental treatment to allow creation of new parcels? n/a
- Are there differences in who may design a repair system? Yes, if an alternative design is necessary, it must be a consultant.

II. Designer Certification

- Who can design standard, gravity systems?

Anyone. Designs not required for this type of system. Registered Civil Engineer?

On-Site Wastewater Survey

➤ Who can design supplemental treatment systems?

Professional engineer. However supplemental treatment systems not generally approved at this time in Butte County.

➤ How does County assure that someone submitting a design is qualified to design a specific type of system?

Past history with them, have them present a plan and review it to see if it is satisfactory.

➤ Will the County require certification of system construction by designer? Yes

➤ Will the County require inspection of system construction by designer? Yes

III. Installation Requirements

A. Installers

➤ Who may install standard and alternative systems?

Contractor.

➤ Is the homeowner allowed to install either or both of these types of systems?

Standard.

➤ Do you certify installers? No

B. Inspections

➤ Does County staff inspect all components of an installation? Yes

➤ Does County staff meet with the installer on the site or consult with the installer prior to initiation of the installation? Yes

➤ How many installation inspections by staff for installation of a standard, gravity system? One

➤ How many installation inspections by staff for installation of a sand filter? Several would be required.

C. As-Built Requirements

➤ Does the installer provide an as-built drawing? Yes

➤ Who provides the as-built drawing for a supplemental treatment system?

Consultant.

D. Certification of Completion

➤ How does the county provide final approval of the system and its installation?

Issue a final certificate.

On-Site Wastewater Survey

- Is the designer required to inspect and certify the installation as meeting the requirements of the design? Yes
- Does the installer certify the completion of the system per the design?

If it's through the consultant.

IV. Renewable Operating Permits

- Are ROPs required for the following?
 - Existing systems? No
 - Standard gravity trench No
 - Pump to gravity No
 - Pressure dosed No
 - Supplemental treatment No

V. Operation and Maintenance Program

- Does your county have an O&M program? No. However, are larger community systems are managed by CSAs.
- Who performs the O&M inspections? n/a
- What types of systems receive O&M inspections? n/a

VI. Appeal/Variance Process

- What are the major steps in your appeal/variance process?

In the watershed protection area, application has to be in writing and accompanied by a topographical survey prepared by a registered civil engineer. It is reviewed by the health officer, PID manager, and the chairman of the water committee of the Upper Ridge Coordinating Council.

- Who makes the final decision?

If the above decision is appealed, the Board of Supervisors.