

ON-SITE WASTEWATER SURVEY

Jurisdiction:	Yuba County
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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?

Yes, a site evaluation can be done separately and if the permit is applied for within a year, the fee for it can be taken from the permit fee.

- What are the steps through the process?

They can apply for a permit, site evaluation will be completed with consultant or engineer and county staff. When they submit for a permit they must have the system design and soil evaluation packet with the application. Then county staff may check for any changes from the site evaluation, review satellite photos, and then issue.

- How long are site evaluations valid?

Up to 10 years, after which they are looked at on a case by case basis, i.e. if any dirt work has been done, building pads or roads that may change the site.

- How long are construction permits valid?

2 years

b. Design Flow

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

150 gpd per bedroom

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

Based on UPC and engineer on the project.

c. Septic Tank Sizing

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

3 bedroom-1000 gallon, 4 bedroom-1200, 5-bedroom-1500

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

1 1/2 times daily flow

- Are septic tanks inspected or certified for water tightness?

Sometimes if unknown manufacturer.

d. Minimum Lot Size?

- Governed by General Plan and Zoning? Yes

- Wastewater Ordinance

No, but there is a "Guideline" that says they can go down to 2 1/2 acres, sometimes to 1 acre lots if there is community water .

e. Slope

- Is there a maximum slope? What is it?

Yes, 30% for standard systems, if the are advanced systems they have to be between 5% and 20% slope.

f. Soil

- What is the range of allowable soil textures?

Sandy loam to clay loam

- What is the range of allowable percolation rates?

60 mpi at trench bottom and 120 mpi at 30" for standard system, 90 mpi for pressure dosing, 150 mpi for sand filter.

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

Both, but textural classification not mandatory

- Are perc tests optional or mandatory

Mandatory

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?

They rely on vertical separation and depth of effective soil.

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

5' below trench bottom to water or hard pan.

- For alternative systems?

4', Sand filter 18" under trench

- Do you distinguish between perched, seasonal water table in measuring vertical separation?

Require a curtain drain from seasonal perched water if it's flowing elsewhere (foothills), if there is perched water in the valley there is no subdivisions, but on existing parcels they may allow sand filters or mound systems.

h. Groundwater

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

Both, in the foothills if the soil profile looks redoximorphic they will require GWM, in the valley both are required always.

i. System Design

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

Typically county staff

2. Creating New Parcels through Subdivision Process

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

Typically the county has 5-acre minimum due to popular vote in the 90's. They are now addressing cluster systems to minimize lot size.

- Does your sewage regulation have minimum lot sizes?

If so, how are they determined and what are they? No

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

Yes, between 8000 and 20,000 square feet.

- Are there more stringent requirements for subdivisions 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

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- Maximum slope? No
- Use of supplemental treatment to allow creation of new parcels? Yes
- Required setbacks?

No, they are the same unless owner wants a variance and it doesn't affect public health related, i.e. setback from wells.

- 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?

As much as possible

- Are there differences in site evaluation procedures? No
- Are there less stringent requirements for repairs than for existing parcels in the following areas:

All may be a little different if absolutely necessary.

- Allowable soil texture
- Allowable percolation rate
- Required vertical separation or total effective soil depth?
- Maximum slope?
- Use of supplemental treatment to allow creation of new parcels?

- Are there differences in who may design a repair system? No

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II. Designer Certification

- Who can design standard, gravity systems?
 - Certified Engineering Geologist? Yes
 - Certified Professional Soil Scientist? Yes
 - Registered Civil Engineer? Yes
 - Registered Environmental Health Specialist? Yes
 - Registered Geologist? No
 - Other Consultant Certified by Environmental Health? No
 - Contractor? No
 - Homeowner? No

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- County REHS staff? Yes
- Who can design supplemental treatment systems?
 - Certified Engineering Geologist? Yes
 - Certified Professional Soil Scientist? Yes
 - Registered Civil Engineer? Yes
 - Registered Environmental Health Specialist? Yes
 - Registered Geologist? Yes
 - Other Consultant Certified by Environmental Health? No
 - Contractor? No
 - Homeowner? No
 - County REHS staff?

Can't due to conflict of interest issues.

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

A copy of their registration, an interview with county staff, then they are put on an acceptable list.

- Will the County require certification of system construction by designer? Yes
- Will the County require inspection of system construction by designer? Yes
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III. Installation Requirements

A. Installers

- Who may install standard and alternative systems?

Have to have C47 license, plumbing license, have done a least 3 jobs or more in the county, then put on the acceptable list.

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

Yes both

- 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?

No, if it is an owner installer, the engineer must meet with the owner and he has to certify it or the county won't allow it.

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

1 final, if trenches dug in wet weather, they add a trench inspection.

- How many installation inspections by staff for installation of a sand filter?

3

C. As-Built Requirements

- Does the installer provide an as-built drawing?

Yes or the engineer.

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

Installer or engineer.

D. Certification of Completion

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

Permit is signed off, they notify the tax assessor that it's installed and they building department for clearance.

- Is the designer required to inspect and certify the installation as meeting the requirements of the design?

Yes, in writing prior to county final.

- Does the installer certify the completion of the system per the design?

Yes

IV. Renewable Operating Permits

- Are ROPs required for the following?

No on any of them, but they are looking to start a program.

- Existing systems?
- Standard gravity trench
- Pump to gravity
- Pressure dosed
- Supplemental treatment

V. Operation and Maintenance Program

- Does your county have an O&M program?

No, but are looking to start a program

- Who performs the O&M inspections?

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- Service providers certified by the county?
- Services provides certified by the proprietary manufacturer?
- Septic tank pumpers?
- Home owners?
- Professional engineers?
- Consultants other than engineers?
- County staff primarily?
- What types of systems receive O&M inspections?

None

- Existing systems?
- Standard gravity trench
- Pump to gravity
- Pressure dosed
- Supplemental treatment

VI. Appeal/Variance Process

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

They can appeal to the appeal board if they don't agree with the county design decision, only 1 has taken place and they lost. They can't appeal anything that the state law requires. Variances can be granted after review, for instance setbacks from property lines, or not requiring perc test at 12' due to hazard.

- Who makes the final decision?

Director