

## **APPENDIX C. SUMMARY OF ONSITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM (OWTS) REQUIREMENTS**

This document presents a summary of Key OWTS design parameters from the Local Agency Management Program (LAMP) and the County Code Chapter 7.38. It also includes some additional guidance for application of those requirements. Wherever there may be a conflict or lack of clarity, the provisions of Chapter 7.38 and the LAMP shall prevail.

This document includes information on:

- System Types and Allowable Uses
- Dispersal Area Application Rates, Design Flow and Dispersal Area Required
- Groundwater Separation
- Types of Enhanced Treatment Systems
- Design Flow for Non-Residential Uses

Appendix C: Summary of Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) Requirements

Approved by the Central Coast Water Quality Control Board on 10.14.2021,

With Updates Approved by Board of Supervisors 8.23.22

Table 3-1: Types of Systems, Requirements, and Building Allowances (See notes on next page):

System Type	Conditions <sup>a</sup>	Requirements	Building Allowed
New	Conventional: meets standards	Minimum Parcel size (7.38.045)	New residence; Possible ADU
	Enhanced Treatment for: reduced groundwater separation, fast or slow soil percolation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum Parcel size</li> <li>Maintenance Contract</li> <li>Deed recordation, Periodic Inspection, annual fee</li> </ul>	
Upgrade	Conventional, meets standards		ADU; Bedroom Addition; and/or >500 sf addition
	Enhanced Treatment for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>reduced groundwater or surface water separation,</li> <li>fast or slow soil percolation</li> <li>under pavement</li> <li>reduced dispersal area</li> <li>existing seepage pits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintenance Contract</li> <li>Deed recordation, Periodic Inspection, annual fee</li> </ul>	
Repair: Replaces old or failing system	Conventional, meets standards as much as possible, improvement over old system and old system not causing impairment ;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meets conventional standards as much as possible</li> <li>Must comply with Prohibitions (7.38.042)</li> </ul>	One-time addition less than 500 sf, if standards not fully met;
	Enhanced Treatment for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>reduced groundwater or surface water separation,</li> <li>fast or slow soil percolation</li> <li>under pavement</li> <li>reduced dispersal area up to 50%</li> <li>existing seepage pits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintenance Contract</li> <li>Deed recordation, Periodic Inspection, annual fee</li> </ul>	Bedroom Addition; and/or >500 sf addition allowed if standards fully met
	Limited Expansion System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water efficiency</li> <li>Deed Recordation</li> </ul>	Addition <500 sf
	Low-Flow System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water efficiency</li> <li>Deed recordation, Periodic Inspection, annual fee</li> </ul>	Addition <500 sf
	Nonconforming Interim (deferred enhanced treatment)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water efficiency measures installed</li> <li>Must comply with Prohibitions (7.38.042)</li> <li>Must install enhanced treatment at time of property transfer</li> <li>Deed recordation, Periodic Inspection, annual fee</li> </ul>	No Addition
	Haulaway System		
Existing System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meets standards for water separation</li> <li>Not failing, good pumper report</li> <li>Not seepage pit</li> </ul>	Ongoing maintenance	If dispersal size adequate <sup>b</sup> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bedroom Addition, ADU</li> <li>&gt;500 sf addition</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does not fully meet standards</li> <li>Not failing, good pumper report</li> </ul>	Ongoing maintenance	One-time addition less than 500 sf
	Failing: surfacing effluent	Repair required	Depends on Repair

Appendix C: Summary of Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) Requirements

Approved by the Central Coast Water Quality Control Board on 10.14.2021,

With Updates Approved by Board of Supervisors 8.23.22

<sup>a</sup> Standards for conventional systems are specified in County Code Section 7.38.095-180; Additional requirements for enhanced treatment systems and conventional non-standard systems are specified in Sections 7.38.182-186. Only properties developed prior to September 16, 1983 are eligible to use the allowances specified in 7.38.095(B)

<sup>b</sup> A qualified professional must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Health Officer that the system can accommodate the increased flow for the addition without adversely impacting water quality based on an evaluation of the existing leachfield trenches, soil characteristics and percolation rates. County staff will also consider other risk factors including but not limited to OWTS density, depth to groundwater and proximity to drinking water wells.

**Table 3-2: Dispersal System Application Rates**

From State OWTS Policy Table 3. Some application rates may be doubled for enhanced treatment with effluent less than 30 mg/L BOD as noted in the following table. Application rates may be interpolated if the percolation rate falls between the indicated values. Application rates from Table 3 and 4 of the State OWTS Policy may be utilized for conventional systems. Those application rates may be doubled with enhanced treatment that reduces Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Total suspended solids (TSS) to less than 30mg/L.

Percolation Rate MPI (Minutes per Inch)	Application gal/sf/day	
	BOD=150 mg/L	BOD<=30 mg/L ET/Dosed
<1	--	1.60
1	1.20	1.60
5	1.20	1.60
10	0.80	1.60
15	0.73	1.46
20	0.66	1.32
25	0.59	1.18
30	0.53	1.06
35	0.48	0.96
40	0.42	0.84
45	0.37	0.74
50	0.31	0.62
55	0.26	0.52
60	0.20	0.40
90-120	--	0.20

**Table 3-3: Design Flow per Bedroom**

Number of Bedrooms	1	2	3	4	5	6	Per Additional Bedroom
Standard Design Flow (gpd)	250	300	375	450	525	600	75
Low Flow System (gpd) Repair Only, with Limitations*	150	200	250	300	350	400	50

\*Low Flow Systems require water conservation devices, flow monitoring, deed recordation, annual fee, periodic inspection, and limits on remodels.

Appendix C: Summary of Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) Requirements

Approved by the Central Coast Water Quality Control Board on 10.14.2021,

With Updates Approved by Board of Supervisors 8.23.22

Tables 3-3a, 3-3b, 3-3c: Dispersal Area size calculations based on percolation rate, flow, and treatment:

Required Conventional Infiltration Area (Square feet)								Enhanced Treatment (BOD <30 mg/L) Infiltration Area (Square Feet)							
Bedrooms:		1	2	3	4	5	Additional	Bedrooms:		1	2	3	4	5	Additional
	Flow gpd:	250	300	375	450	525	75		Flow gpd:	250	300	375	450	525	75
Perc MPI	App Rate							Perc MPI	App Rate						
<1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	<1	1.6	156	188	234	281	328	47
1	1.2	208	250	313	375	438	63	1	1.6	156	188	234	281	328	47
5	1.2	208	250	313	375	438	63	5	1.6	156	188	234	281	328	47
10	0.8	313	375	469	563	656	94	10	1.6	156	188	234	281	328	47
15	0.73	342	411	514	616	719	103	15	1.46	171	205	257	308	360	51
20	0.66	379	455	568	682	795	114	20	1.32	189	227	284	341	398	57
25	0.59	424	508	636	763	890	127	25	1.18	212	254	318	381	445	64
30	0.53	472	566	708	849	991	142	30	1.06	236	283	354	425	495	71
35	0.48	521	625	781	938	1094	156	35	0.96	260	313	391	469	547	78
40	0.42	595	714	893	1071	1250	179	40	0.84	298	357	446	536	625	89
45	0.37	676	811	1014	1216	1419	203	45	0.74	338	405	507	608	709	101
50	0.31	806	968	1210	1452	1694	242	50	0.62	403	484	605	726	847	121
55	0.26	962	1154	1442	1731	2019	288	55	0.52	481	577	721	865	1010	144
60	0.2	1250	1500	1875	2250	2625	375	60	0.4	625	750	938	1125	1313	188
60-120	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	90-120	0.2	1250	1500	1875	2250	2625	375

Linear feet of Standard Trench by Number of Bedrooms (4 square feet of infiltration surface per linear foot)								Linear Feet of Standard Trench with Enhanced Treatment (<30mg/L) (4 square feet of infiltration surface per linear foot)							
Bedrooms:		1	2	3	4	5	Additional	Bedrooms:		1	2	3	4	5	Additional
	Flow g/d	250	300	375	450	525	75		Flow g/d	250	300	375	450	525	75
Perc	App Rate							Perc	App Rate						
<1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	<1	1.6	39	47	59	70	82	12
1	1.2	52	63	78	94	109	16	1	1.6	39	47	59	70	82	12
5	1.2	52	63	78	94	109	16	5	1.6	39	47	59	70	82	12
10	0.8	78	94	117	141	164	23	10	1.6	39	47	59	70	82	12
15	0.73	86	103	128	154	180	26	15	1.46	43	51	64	77	90	13
20	0.66	95	114	142	170	199	28	20	1.32	47	57	71	85	99	14
25	0.59	106	127	159	191	222	32	25	1.18	53	64	79	95	111	16
30	0.53	118	142	177	212	248	35	30	1.06	59	71	88	106	124	18
35	0.48	130	156	195	234	273	39	35	0.96	65	78	98	117	137	20
40	0.42	149	179	223	268	313	45	40	0.84	74	89	112	134	156	22
45	0.37	169	203	253	304	355	51	45	0.74	84	101	127	152	177	25
50	0.31	202	242	302	363	423	60	50	0.62	101	121	151	181	212	30
55	0.26	240	288	361	433	505	72	55	0.52	120	144	180	216	252	36
60	0.2	313	375	469	563	656	94	60	0.4	156	188	234	281	328	47
90-120	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	90-120	0.2	313	375	469	563	656	94

Low Flow System Infiltration Area (Square feet) Only for Repairs with water conservation and other limitations								Legacy (2017) System Infiltration Area (Square Feet)							
Bedrooms:		1	2	3	4	5	Additional	Bedrooms:		1	2	3	4	5	Additional
	Flow gpd:	150	200	250	300	350	50		Flow gpd:	215	270	325	375	430	55
Perc MPI	App Rate							Perc MPI	App Rate						
<1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	<1	0.43	500	625	750	875	1000	125
1	1.2	125	167	208	250	292	42	1	0.43	500	625	750	875	1000	125
5	1.2	125	167	208	250	292	42	5	0.43	500	625	750	875	1000	125
10	0.8	188	250	313	375	438	63	10	0.36	600	750	900	1050	1200	150
15	0.73	205	274	342	411	479	68	15	0.36	600	750	900	1050	1200	150
20	0.66	227	303	379	455	530	76	20	0.36	600	750	900	1050	1200	150
25	0.59	254	339	424	508	593	85	25	0.36	600	750	900	1050	1200	150
30	0.53	283	377	472	566	660	94	30	0.36	600	750	900	1050	1200	150
35	0.48	313	417	521	625	729	104	35	0.24	900	1125	1350	1575	1800	225
40	0.42	357	476	595	714	833	119	40	0.24	900	1125	1350	1575	1800	225
45	0.37	405	541	676	811	946	135	45	0.24	900	1125	1350	1575	1800	225
50	0.31	484	645	806	968	1129	161	50	0.24	900	1125	1350	1575	1800	225
55	0.26	577	769	962	1154	1346	192	55	0.24	900	1125	1350	1575	1800	225
60	0.2	750	1000	1250	1500	1750	250	60	0.24	900	1125	1350	1575	1800	225
60-120	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	60-120	0.1	2150	2700	3250	3750	4300	550

**Table 3-4: Groundwater Separation Based on Stream Setback, Treatment, and Soil Percolation (Minutes per Inch (MPI))**

<b>Horizontal Setback to Stream</b>	<b>25-50 Feet</b>	<b>50 - 100 Feet</b>	<b>&gt; 100 Feet</b>
<b><u>Conventional Systems:</u></b>			
New System on undeveloped parcel	Not Permitted	Not Permitted	<1 MPI – Not Permitted 1-5 MPI Not permitted in nitrate concern area 1-5 MPI =20 feet outside nitrate concern area 5-29.9 MPI = 8 feet 30-60 MPI = 5 feet >60 MPI – Not Permitted
Upgrade System, increase in flow by ADU, bedroom addition or major remodel	Not Permitted	Not Permitted	<1 MPI – Not Permitted 1-5 MPI Not permitted in nitrate concern area 1-5 MPI = 20 feet outside nitrate concern area 5-29.9 MPI = 8 feet 30-60 MPI = 5 feet >60 MPI – Not Permitted
Repaired System, no increase in flow	Not Permitted	<1 MPI – Not Permitted 1-5 MPI Not permitted in nitrate concern area 1-5 MPI – 20 feet outside nitrate concern area 5-29.9 MPI = 5 feet 30-60 MPI = 5 feet >60 MPI – Not Permitted	<1 MPI – Not Permitted 1-5 MPI Not permitted in nitrate concern area 1-5 MPI = 8 feet outside nitrate concern area 5-29.9 MPI = 5 feet 30-60 MPI = 5 feet >60 MPI – Not Permitted
Greywater Sump	5 feet	5 feet	3 feet

Appendix C: Summary of Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) Requirements

Approved by the Central Coast Water Quality Control Board on 10.14.2021,

With Updates Approved by Board of Supervisors 8.23.22

<b>Enhanced Treatment System</b> <sup>a,b</sup> (BOD, TSS, TN <30 mg/L;-Fecal coliform/E.coli Reduction to 200 MPN/100 ml)			
New System on undeveloped parcel	Not Permitted	Not Permitted	2 feet
Upgrade System, increase in flow by ADU, bedroom addition or major remodel	Not Permitted	2 feet	2 feet
Repaired System, no increase in flow	4 feet	2 feet	2 feet
Seepage Pit-Repair/Upgrade Only	Not Permitted	Not Permitted	10 feet

<sup>a</sup> Enhanced treatment with nitrogen reduction is required for all new, repaired, and replacement OWTS with soils that percolate faster than 5 MPI in nitrate concern areas (see Figure 3-1, Sec.3.2.6)

<sup>b</sup> Groundwater separation less than 2 ft can only be approved by Regional Water Board

**Table 3-5: Types of Enhanced Treatment Systems and Approved Applications**

Level of Treatment and Treatment Technology <sup>a</sup>	Reduced Dispersal Application Area	Minimum Groundwater Separation (ft)	Minimum Waterbody setback (ft)	Fast Perc <5 MPI <sup>b</sup>	Slow Perc >60 MPI	Seepage Pits
<p><b><u>BOD and TSS Reduction</u></b> Reduce BOD and TSS to &lt;30 mg/L</p> <p>Intermittent Sand Filter</p> <p>Currently approved proprietary systems that Meet NSF/ANSI 40<sup>c</sup> Certification include: OSI Advantex Biomicrobics FAST AquaKlear Bord Na Mona Multi-Flo Aerobic Trmt MicroSepTec HOOT Acqualogic</p>	Yes, per Table 7.38.150. B.3	See Table 3-4 Groundwater Separation based on Soil Percolation and Water Feature Setback	See Table 3-4 Groundwater Separation based on Soil Percolation and Water Feature Setback  OR  >50 -feet for Repairs and Upgrades only	Not Permitted  See next row for BOD and TSS Reduction with Nitrogen Reduction	Repairs and Upgrades Only	Not Permitted  See next row for BOD and TSS Reduction with Nitrogen Reduction
<p><b><u>BOD and TSS Reduction with Nitrogen Reduction</u></b> Reduce Total Nitrogen by 50%</p> <p>Recirculating Sand Filter Trickling Filter</p> <p>Currently approved proprietary systems That Meet NSF/ANSI 245a Certification, include: OSI Advantex Multi-Flo Aerobic Trmt MicroSepTec</p>	Yes, per Table 7.38.150. B.3	See Table 3-4 Groundwater Separation based on Soil Percolation and Water Feature Setback	See Table 3-4 Groundwater Separation based on Soil Percolation and Water Feature Setback	Required <sup>b</sup>	NA	Required with min. 10-ft Separation to Groundwater
<p><b><u>Pathogen Reduction</u></b> Reduce Pathogens by 99%: Recirculating Sand filter Ultraviolet Light Chlorine disinfection</p>	NA	Required with groundwater separation of 2-5 feet. See Table 3-4 of the Santa Cruz LAMP	25-50 feet for Repairs Only 50-100 ft for upgrades	Depends on stream, GW separation See Table 3-4	NA	Required with minimum Separation to Groundwater of 10 ft.

<sup>a</sup> Specific types of systems that are currently approved for use in Santa Cruz County are listed. Additional systems that meet the requirements may be added in the future.

<sup>b</sup> Nitrogen reduction may be waived outside of nitrogen concern areas.

<sup>c</sup> NSF/ANSI 40 is a standard for residential wastewater treatment systems with rated capacities between 400 and 1,500 gallons (1,514 and 5,678 liters) per day. Class I systems must achieve a 30-day average effluent quality of 25 mg/L CBOD5 and 30 mg/L TSS or less, and pH 6.0-9.0 spanning six months of testing.

## Appendix C: Summary of Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) Requirements

Approved by the Central Coast Water Quality Control Board on 10.14.2021,

With Updates Approved by Board of Supervisors 8.23.22

**Table 3-6: Design Flows for Non-Residential Uses**

OWTS serving non-residential uses are subject to the same design and installation requirements as residential OWTS. Design flows should be proposed by the designer based on historic or proposed water usage. The following table may be used to estimate projected flows. [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. *Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems Manual Revised 2002, Chapter 3: Establishing Treatment System Performance Requirements*]

Type of Business or Facility	Design Flow (gallons per day)
<b>Assisted Living/Residential Care Home</b>	
- Per resident bed space, ambulatory residents	100
- Per resident bed space, non-ambulatory residents	125
- Live-in caregiver	75
- Per employee (day use)	15
<b>Camps</b> (per person)	
- Day use	10
- Overnight use, with flush toilets, no showers	25
- Overnight use, with flush toilets and showers	35
<b>Churches and assembly halls</b> (per seat)	
- Without kitchen	5
- With kitchen	15
<b>Country clubs</b>	
- Per resident member or caretaker	75
- Per guest	25
- Per employee	15
<b>Day care</b> (per patron, employee)	15
<b>Detention center</b>	
- Per resident bed space	100
- Per employee	15
<b>Factories and industrial buildings</b> (toilet waste only)	
- Without showers (per employee)	15
- With showers (per employee)	35
<b>Hotels or motels</b>	
- Per guest	50
- Per employee	15
- Additional for restaurant, spa or other facilities	Case-by-case
<b>Laundromat, with self-service washing machines</b>	
- Per machine, or	500
- Per customer	50
<b>Mobile home parks</b> (per space)	250
<b>Multiunit residential housing</b>	
- Apartments, per bedroom	150
- Boarding house and farm labor housing, per bed	50
<b>Office and stores</b> (per employee)	15
<b>Parks with picnic areas</b> (per person)	
- With flush toilets	5
- With flush toilets and showers	10
<b>Recreational vehicle parks</b>	
- Without individual sewer hook-ups (per space)	50
- With individual sewer hook ups (per space)	100
<b>Restaurants and Food Service</b>	
- Toilet and kitchen wastes (per patron)	10
- Kitchen wastes only (per meal served)	5
- Addition for bars (per patron)	2

Appendix C: Summary of Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) Requirements

Approved by the Central Coast Water Quality Control Board on 10.14.2021,

With Updates Approved by Board of Supervisors 8.23.22

- Per employee	15
Type of Business or Facility	Design Flow (gallons per day)
<b>Service Station</b>	
- per vehicle served	10
- per employee	15
<b>Schools, boarding</b>	
- student and live-in staff (per person)	75
- daily staff (per person)	15
<b>Schools, day</b>	
- without cafeteria or showers (per student)	15
- with cafeteria (per student)	20
- with cafeteria and showers (per student)	25
- staff (per person)	15
<b>Swimming pools</b>	
- per patron	10
- per employee	15
<b>Theaters</b>	
- per seat	5
- per employee	15
<b>Wineries</b> (sanitary waste only)	
- tasting room, per visitor	2.5
- per employee	15
- special events	Case-by-case