



# COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

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INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN NO. 160-23-EPO

Environmental Protection Oversight

### **GUIDELINES FOR HOLDING TANK SYSTEM / HYBRID SYSTEM**

All projects will be subject to a review and evaluation process with Department of Environmental Health (DEH). Projects must meet requirements of the current Local Agency Management Program (LAMP). Projects that fall outside the scope of DEH will be referred to the appropriate Regional Water Quality Control Board.

**HOLDING TANK SYSTEM** - a sewage disposal system that has no means of discharge.

Holding tanks have the following requirements:

- a. DEH construction permits to be reviewed and approved by the Department for the holding tank.
- b. Holding tank shall be engineered by a Professional of Record (PR).
- c. Holding tank shall be engineered to address the following at a minimum:

i. **Sizing:**

1. An approved holding tank sized to support the structure(s) it is connected to.
2. Holding tank capacity shall consider daily sewage flow and pumping service frequency. At a minimum, these tanks shall be pumped weekly.

ii. **Siting:**

1. An approved holding tank shall maintain the same setbacks as septic tanks per DEH LAMP.
2. The location and depth of lateral tight lines from building(s) to holding tank as well as location of holding tank and depth if installed below ground surface, should take into consideration the anticipated future sewer connection.

iii. **Design:**

1. Designed, constructed, and installed to withstand anticipated stresses associated with use including, but not limited to, resistance to effects of raw sewage, and ability to withstand internal and external loading.
2. If buried, the holding tank shall be:
  - a. Inherently non-buoyant to prevent floating when empty during high groundwater periods if such events are anticipated.
  - b. A tank is considered non-buoyant if it is installed above the groundwater elevation, weight of the empty tank exceeds buoyant forces, or the tank is sufficiently anchored into the surrounding soil.
3. Must be able to withstand traffic loading if installed below ground surface and the area is subject to vehicular traffic loads.
4. Visual and audible high level alarm system.
5. Water tightness.



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6. Shall be equipped with a flow meter or device that can accurately monitor daily wastewater flow.
  - d. Holding tanks can be concrete, fiberglass, or polyethylene.
  - e. PR letter shall be required after installation.
  - f. Holding tank shall be pumped weekly, at a minimum, by a licensed liquid waste hauler.
  - g. Records of service and maintenance must be maintained by the operator for the duration of the permit and made available upon request to the Department.
  - h. System shall be available for inspection by the Department.
  - i. A document recorded on the property deed, signed by owner indicating the willingness to connect to the sanitary sewer when it is "available". Notification from EMWD will determine when access to their sewer line is "available". The connection shall occur within 60 days of "available".
  - j. Operation of a holding tank system will require an annual renewable operating permit (ROP) with the Department. The permit will be renewed automatically for the first 2 years. After the 2 years, if the facility is in good standing, permit can be renewed until main sanitary sewer line is available to the facility\*.
  - k. Destruction permits required for the removal of holding tanks upon connected to sewer.

**HYBRID SYSTEM** – a system that utilizes a combination of holding tanks and an OWTS that is engineered to limit discharge to 1200 gpd. This system is only allowed in the Temecula Wine Country Area.

Requirements are as follows:

- a. DEH/OWTS construction permits to be reviewed and approved by the Department.
- b. System will be engineered by a Professional of Record (PR).
- c. System design must demonstrate that no more than 1200gpd is discharged for the whole project.
- d. Proposed OWTS shall meet current DEH LAMP and UPC.
- e. Proposed OWTS may be conventional or advanced treatment.
- f. Holding Tank(s) shall meet requirements previously stated in Holding Tank System section of this document.
- g. System components at minimum will include:
  - i. A septic/holding tank sized to support the structure(s) it is connected to
  - ii. Flow meter or device to monitor flows with alarms.
  - iii. Device capable of alternating or regulating wastewater flow to prevent daily wastewater discharge greater than 1200gpd (ex: diverter valves, pumps, siphons, etc...).
- h. The flow meter or monitoring device shall be capable of shutting off flow to the dispersal field and diverting flow to a holding tank once 1,200 gallons per day has been achieved. Under no circumstance shall flow from the holding tank be discharged back into the OWTS for land dispersal.
- i. Holding tank shall be pumped weekly, at a minimum, by a licensed liquid waste hauler.



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- j. Records of service and maintenance must be maintained by the operator for the duration of the permit and made available upon request to the Department.
- k. System shall be available for inspection by the Department.
- l. A document recorded on the property deed, signed by owner indicating the willingness to connect to the sanitary sewer when it is “available”. Notification from EMWD will determine when access to their sewer line is “available”. The connection shall occur within 60 days of “available”.
- m. Operation of a hybrid system will require an annual renewable operating permit (ROP) with the Department. The permit will be renewed automatically for the first 2 years. After the 2 years, if the facility is in good standing, permit can be renewed until main sanitary sewer line is available to the facility\*.
- n. Destruction permits required for the removal of holding tanks and OWTS when connected to sewer.

\*ROPs are considered in good standing as long as they are current, systems are maintained/serviced in accordance to the LAMP, and systems are not failing.