

## Existing System Evaluation and Certification

Existing On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS) that would otherwise be expected to continue to function properly may become overloaded when homes or businesses are remodeled or expanded in a manner that increases the sewage flow or changes the characteristics of the sewage generated. When an expansion of a building or change of use is proposed, the existing OWTS must be evaluated to determine whether the proposed uses (or anticipated wastewater flows) can be received and treated reliably by the septic system.

Additionally, it is recognized by Imperial County that improvements on the property without proper review or oversight may encroach upon the location of the existing OWTS or its required 100% replacement area, impacting the function of the system or precluding the ability to replace the system with a conforming OWTS in the future. Moreover, owners of existing OWTS that have no record of approval are often unable to accurately identify the installed location of the septic tank and dispersal field, which may lead to the unanticipated failing of an existing OWTS due to unforeseen encroachment impacts.

For those existing OWTS with no record of approval, an evaluation and certification of the system by a qualified professional is required to determine whether any system modifications will be needed to support a proposed building project. This Policy summarizes the requirements for an evaluation and certification of an existing septic system.

- 1.0 Qualifications of Evaluator** – The evaluation of an existing OWTS must be performed by a C-42 Sanitation System Contractor or similar professional who is qualified through licensing and experience to perform such evaluation and certification.
- 2.0 Minimum Certification Content** – The following must be included within the written evaluation and certification:
  - 2.1** Type and liquid capacity of the septic tank (Provide receipt of recent pumping);
  - 2.2** Structural condition of the septic tank (Level of deterioration);
  - 2.3** Compliance of the septic tank with the California Plumbing Code (Tank construction includes internal baffle wall, and inlet and outlet vented tees/elbows in the proper dimensions and depths);
  - 2.4** Location of the septic tank and disposal field relative to property lines, structures (existing or proposed), water lines, and water systems (Provide a plot map);
  - 2.5** Number of leach lines and approximate length and depth of the disposal field lines;
  - 2.6** General operating condition of the disposal field (Indicate factors used to determine the operating condition of the disposal field); and
  - 2.7** The written evaluation and certification must be signed and dated by the person qualified for this work with disclosure of the contractor's license number.
- 3.0 Evaluation Review** – The Division of Environmental Health will review the certification of the OWTS and evaluate whether its continued operation is consistent with the intended application. The Division will require repairs and/or modifications prior to approval of the building plan review for non-conforming or failing systems.