



**Alameda County
Environmental
Health Department**

1131 Harbor Bay Parkway, Alameda, CA 94502, (510) 567-6700

Ron Browder, Director of Environmental Health
Phone: 510.567.6777 Fax: 510.337.9135
Website: <http://www.acgov.org/aceh/landuse>

Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems Commission Sunol Septic Work Group

Tuesday, June 12, 2018

Meeting Agenda

Time: 6:00 pm
Location: Sunol Glen School Cafeteria
11601 Main St
Sunol, CA 94586

1. Call To Order
2. Finalizing Phase 1 Scope of Work
3. Distribution of letter to Sunol residents
4. Question Portal on ACDEH Land Use website
5. Homeowner Questionnaire
6. Next meeting: Tuesday, July 10, 2018
7. Adjournment

The meeting room is wheelchair accessible. A Sign Language interpreter may be available upon five (5) days' notice. Please telephone 510-670-5400.

Any member of the audience desiring to address the Commission should complete a speaker form and submit it to the facilitator prior to the start of the meeting or as soon as possible after the meeting begins.

Each speaker may be limited to three (3) minutes.



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Proposed Meeting Topics

Date	Time	Location	Topics
06/14/2018	6:00pm	Sunol Glen School Cafeteria	Finalizing Phase I Scope of Work, Distribution of letter to Homeowners, Question Portal on ACDEH website
07/10/2018	6:00pm	Sunol Glen School Auditorium	Septic 101
09/11/2018	6:00pm	Sunol Glen School Cafeteria	Planning Department
10/09/2018	6:00pm	Sunol Glen School Cafeteria	Survey Results & Questionnaires for Residential Properties
11/13/2018	6:00pm	Sunol Glen School Cafeteria	Commercial Properties
12/11/2018	6:00pm	Sunol Glen School Cafeteria	Service Areas and Alternatives
01/08/2019	6:00pm	Sunol Glen School Cafeteria	Phase II

Sunol Wastewater Feasibility Study – Questionnaire Survey

Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems Glossary of Terms

Cesspool: An excavation in the ground that receives sewage or other wastewater from the house, retains the organic matter and solids in the excavation, and allows the liquids to seep into the soil through the sides and bottom of the excavation. The excavation may be lined with wood, stacked rock or brick, or concrete with perforations. The term cesspool does not include pit-prives and out-houses. A cesspool is an antiquated way of handling onsite sewage disposal and no longer permitted in California and most other states.

Dispersal Field or System (Leachfield): The area where wastewater from the septic tank or other components such as a pump tank or treatment unit is dispersed into the soil for final treatment. The dispersal field can consist of a system of gravity fed trenches and piping or other types of systems for final wastewater treatment and subsurface discharge.

Graywater: Wastewater from laundry machines, bathroom sinks, showers and bathtubs but not from kitchen sinks, dishwashers, toilets or waste from dirty diapers. Graywater has not been affected by infectious, contaminated, or unhealthy bodily waste and does not present a threat of contamination by unhealthful processing, manufacturing or operating wastes. Appropriate reuse of graywater can help in water conservation, relieve stress on onsite wastewater treatment systems and can be safe and effective if done following guidelines to prevent potential health threats and environmental contamination.

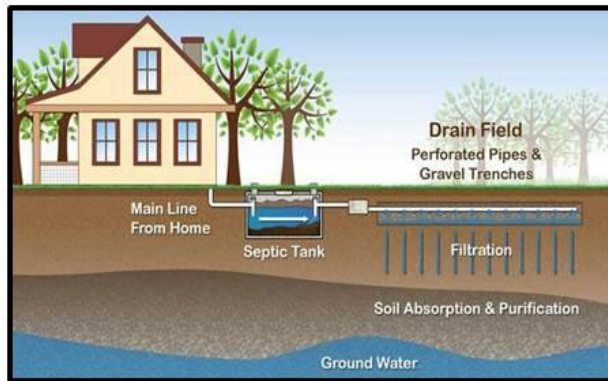
Holding Tank: A self-contained watertight receptacle used to collect and store wastewater from buildings, and which is pumped out and disposed of at a municipal treatment facility or other approved disposal location. Holding tanks for wastewater are permitted in Alameda County in limited circumstances.

Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS): A system of pipes, tanks, dispersal systems and other components used for the collection, treatment and subsurface dispersal of wastewater at or near the building or buildings being served. It is commonly called a “septic system”.

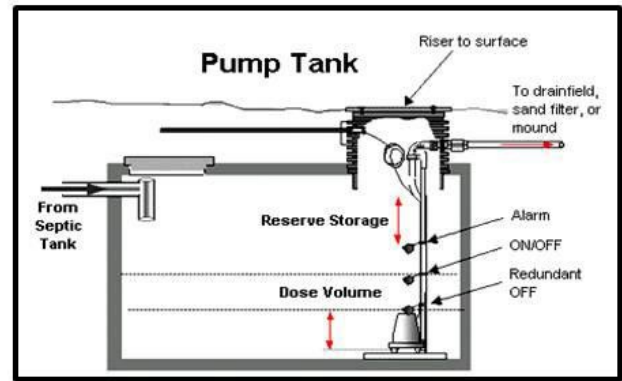
Seepage Pit: A drilled or dug excavation, usually about 3 to 6 feet in diameter and 10 to 30+ feet deep, either lined or gravel-filled, that receives wastewater from the septic tank and disperses it into the soil. Seepage pits have been used in the past but are no longer permitted under Alameda County regulations.

Septage and Septic Tank Pumping: Septage refers to the accumulated wastewater solids and liquids in the septic tank that requires periodic removal (pumping), hauling and disposal at an approved septage receiving facility (e.g., municipal wastewater treatment plant). The frequency of required pumping depends on the number of occupants and amount of wastewater flow from the house. Typical pumping frequency is about every 2 to 5 years.

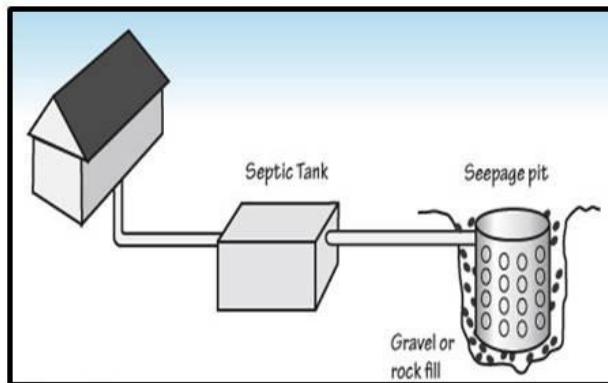
Septic Tank: A buried tank that receives wastewater from the buildings, that functions to separate solids from liquids, retain and digest organic matter and discharge the clarified wastewater to a secondary treatment unit or directly to the dispersal field (e.g., leachfield).



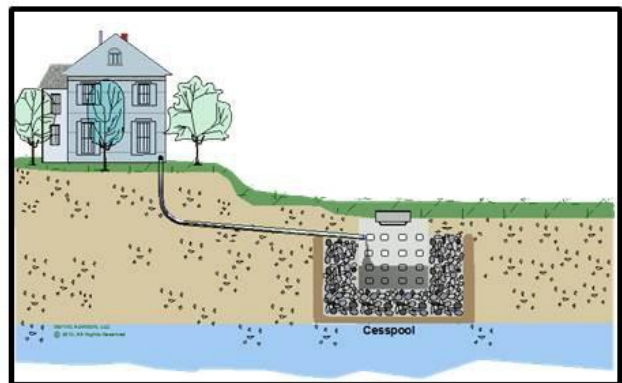
Standard Septic Tank and Leachfield



Pump System – From Septic Tank to Leachfield

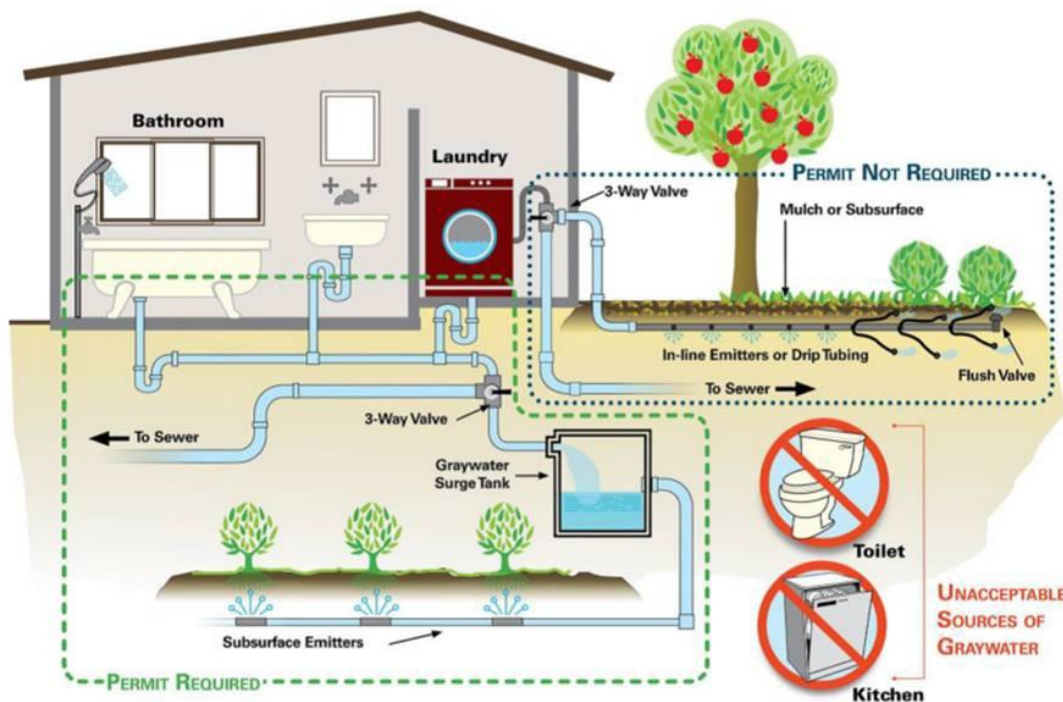


Septic Tank and Seepage Pit



Cesspool

SAMPLE RESIDENTIAL GRAYWATER SYSTEMS



Source: City of San Diego

May 31, 2018

Subject: Sunol Wastewater Feasibility Study – Onsite Wastewater Questionnaire Survey

Dear Property Owner:

Questa Engineering Corporation has been retained by Alameda County Department of Environmental Health (ACDEH), with partial funding from the Sunol Citizens Advisory Council, to conduct a preliminary feasibility study of existing conditions, wastewater treatment and disposal needs, and potential long-term wastewater management alternatives for the Sunol area.

The area of study includes the developed properties mainly in the Sinbad Creek watershed, extending from downtown Sunol up through Kilkare Woods. The study includes review and evaluation of continued use, upgrades and management of existing onsite wastewater treatment systems (OWTS) as well as options for community wastewater treatment and disposal facilities.

An important initial part of the study is to obtain as much information as possible about the type, age and conditions of existing OWTS in the study area. This involves reviewing information in County files and also collecting information directly from property owners. To accomplish this we have prepared the attached questionnaire survey (voluntary) which is being distributed to all property owners. The attachment also includes a glossary of OWTS terminology and graphics to help understand questions on the form. We would appreciate you completing the form to the best of your knowledge and bringing it to the July 10, 2018 meeting of the Sunol Septic Work Group, or returning it by mail to Questa Engineering Corporation, P.O. Box 70356, Richmond, CA 94807.

Please understand that the submittal of the questionnaire is voluntary. The purpose of the survey is to gather general information on the makeup and status of existing OWTS in the different parts of Sunol. Neither the completed survey forms nor specific information reported for individual properties will be provided to ACDEH or others for the purpose of enforcement or abatement action.

The survey forms will be retained by Questa and reviewed solely for the purpose of developing general understanding, assessment and summary of OWTS in different parts of Sunol.

If you have any questions regarding this questionnaire of the study in general, please contact me at (510) 235-6114, ext. 214. Your cooperation and assistance with this survey will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Norman N. Hantzsche, PE
Principal/Managing Engineer

**SUNOL WASTEWATER FEASIBILITY STUDY
SANITARY SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE
(Residential)**

Homeowner Information

1. Date (mm/dd/yyyy)	2. Property Owner	3. Property Contact
4. Property Address		5. Owner's Address

Property Information

6. How many buildings on the property?	7. How many buildings have plumbing drains (sinks, toilets, floor drains)?
8. How many total bedrooms?	9. How many residents? Full time: _____ Part time: _____

10. In the list below, check the type of onsite wastewater treatment system (OWTS) components on the property, along with your best estimate of how old each component is. See attachment for definition of terms and notes.

- ☐ Septic Tank age _____
- ☐ Leachfield age _____
- ☐ Seepage Pit age _____
- ☐ Pump System age _____
- ☐ Cesspool age _____
- ☐ Holding Tank age _____
- ☐ Unknown
- ☐ Other (describe): _____

11. How is graywater (laundry, showers, bathroom sinks) disposed of?

- ☐ Into septic tank
- ☐ Directly to leachfield
- ☐ Separate graywater system
- ☐ Onto ground surface.
- ☐ Unknown
- ☐ Other (describe): _____

12. How often is the septic tank pumped?

- ☐ More than once a year
- ☐ Once a year
- ☐ Every 2 to 5 years
- ☐ Less frequently
- ☐ Never

13. Approximately when was the septic tank last pumped (month & year):

SUNOL WASTEWATER FEASIBILITY STUDY SANITARY SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE (Residential)

14. Have any of the following problems been observed with the current OWTs (check as applicable)?

- A: ☐ slow drainage of plumbing fixtures or backup into house:
☐ year-round
☐ seasonal
☐ after heavy rainfall
☐ occasional for unexplained reason
- B: ☐ wet or noticeably damp soil in leachfield area and/or odors:
☐ year-round
☐ seasonal
☐ after heavy rainfall
☐ occasional for unexplained reason
- C: ☐ visible liquid on ground surface within or near septic tank or leachfield area:
☐ year-round
☐ seasonal
☐ after heavy rainfall
☐ occasional for unexplained reason

15. Has the OWTs ever been inspected?

___ Yes or ___ No; when (date) _____

16. If the OWTS has been repaired provide the date of the repair, the nature of the problem, type of repair work performed, and whether or not the repair resolved the problem.

Year	Problem	Repair Work	Did Repair Fix Problem?
			☐ Yes ☐ No
			☐ Yes ☐ No
			☐ Yes ☐ No

17. Other Comments

[illegible]