

VENTURA COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION

# LOCAL AGENCY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR ONSITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS



Approved by the Ventura County Board of Supervisors August 7, 2018  
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Effective August 7, 2018

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### Appendix A

VENTURA COUNTY ORDINANCE CODE (VENTURA COUNTY BUILDING CODE)  
<http://www.vcrma.org/buildingsafety/code/build-codes.html>

Note: The link above takes you to the existing Ventura County Building Code (VCBC). The VCBC must be amended to conform to the LAMP, once approved. Additionally, on recommendation of the Division's Technical Advisory Committee, the Division is researching the issue of treated effluent dispersal into artificial fill for inclusion into the VCBC.

### Appendix B

TECHNICAL INFORMATION MANUAL  
[https://docs.vcrma.org/images/eh/isds/Onsite\\_Wastewater\\_Treatment\\_System\\_Technical\\_Manual.pdf.pdf](https://docs.vcrma.org/images/eh/isds/Onsite_Wastewater_Treatment_System_Technical_Manual.pdf.pdf)

### Appendix C

SWRCB OWTS POLICY  
[http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/owts/docs/owts\\_policy.pdf](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/owts/docs/owts_policy.pdf)

### Appendix D

VENTURA COUNTY SEWER POLICY  
<https://docs.vcrma.org/images/pdf/eh/land-use/sewer-policy-guide.pdf>

### Appendix E

[OWTS CHECKLIST](#)

### Appendix F

[CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION PROCEDURE](#)

## LIST OF ACRONYMS

**APMP** – Advanced Protection Management Plan

**CA HSC** – California Health and Safety Code

**CPC** – California Plumbing Code

**CSA 32** – County Service Area 32

**CWA 303(d)** – Clean Water Act 303(d) list of impaired water bodies

**GIS** – Geographic Information System

**LAMP** – Local Agency Management Program

**NPDES** – National Pollution Discharge Elimination System

**OWTS** – Onsite Wastewater Treatment System

**REHS** – Registered Environmental Health Specialist

**STPIP** – Septic Tank Pumper Inspection Program

**SWRCB** – State Water Resources Control Board

**TMDL** – Total Maximum Daily Load

**VCBC** – Ventura County Building Code

**VCOC** – Ventura County Ordinance Code

**WDR** – Waste Discharge Requirements

**WQAP** – Water Quality Assessment Program

## RECITATIONS

[RESERVED] Recitations to be added upon approval of this Local Agency Management Program by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, and the Director of the Environmental Health Division upon authorization by the Ventura County Board of Supervisors.

## SEVERABILITY

The provisions of this Local Agency Management Program (LAMP) are severable. If any provision of this LAMP or the application of any provision of this LAMP is held invalid, the provision and/or application of such provision to other circumstances and the remainder of this LAMP shall not be affected.

## **SECTION 1 – GENERAL DESCRIPTION**

The County of Ventura was formed on January 1, 1873, when it separated from Santa Barbara County and is one of 58 counties in the State of California. The County offers 42 miles of coastline, and the Los Padres National Forest in the northern portion of the county. Fertile valleys in the southern half of the county make Ventura County a leading agricultural producer. Together, farming and the Los Padres National Forest occupy half of the county's 1.2 million acres. The unincorporated areas, along with the ten incorporated cities of Camarillo, Fillmore, Moorpark, Ojai, Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Santa Paula, Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks, and San Buenaventura (Ventura) ranks Ventura as the 11th most populous county in the State.

In areas of Ventura County where a centralized waste water collection and treatment facility is unavailable, individual Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS) are required and necessary. When properly sited, designed, operated and maintained, OWTS treat domestic wastewater to reduce its polluting impact on the environment and protect public health. The Ventura County Environmental Health Division (Division) is authorized to approve OWTS design and construction. In addition, through a Memorandum of Understanding with the Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board), the Division authorizes subsurface discharges from OWTS.

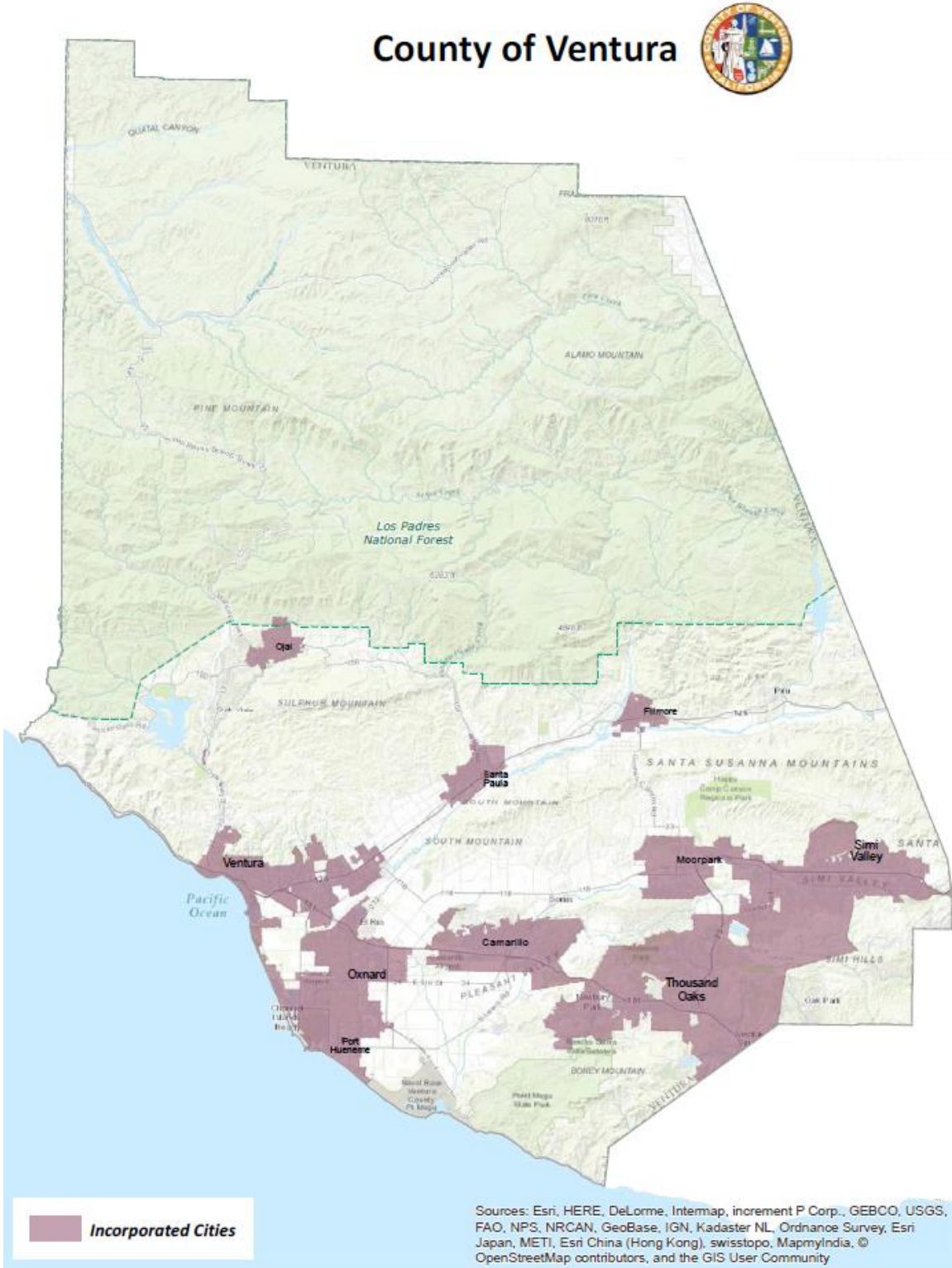
On June 19, 2012, the State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB) Siting, Design, Operation and Maintenance of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems Policy (OWTS Policy) became effective. The OWTS Policy established water quality protection requirements by adopting statewide minimum standards for OWTS. Sixty months after the effective date of the OWTS Policy (June 19, 2018), the existing Memorandum of Understanding between the Division and RWQCB will be dissolved and OWTS Tier 1 statewide standards will apply to OWTS installed in Ventura County. However, under Section 3.1 and 3.2 of the OWTS Policy, Local Agencies are provided the option to implement a Tier 2 Local Agency Management Program (LAMP) within their jurisdiction, in lieu of the OWTS Policy Tier I standards.

To maintain local standards for protection of the water quality and public health, the Division notified the Regional Board of the intent to develop a Tier 2 LAMP, and submitted a draft LAMP for the Regional Board to review on March 13, 2014. The LAMP is intended to cover unincorporated portions of Ventura County to further protect the groundwater and surface waters from domestic sewage in accordance with Tier 2 of the OWTS Policy (See Figure 1a). The Division will notify the SWRCB of any agreements between the Division and an incorporated city in the County, in which the Division is granted authority to review and approve any OWTS within the city's limits.

This LAMP provides for site suitability analyses, OWTS design review and OWTS installation permitting, inspection, and OWTS recordkeeping functions. Existing OWTS installations are also reviewed for capacity, condition, and/or setback reviews when changes to existing developments served by OWTSs are proposed. The criteria detailed in this program are designed to work together to protect water quality and public health as required by Section 9.5 of the SWRCB OWTS Policy.



Figure 1a: Jurisdictional Map



## **Section 1.1 - Overview of Local Agency Management Program**

Section 2 of this LAMP describes OWTS limitations, including: lot sizing, evaluating proximity to public sewer, and prohibited systems.

Section 3 of this LAMP describes the OWTS permitting process, including: site suitability analyses, system design review, and installation inspections for new OWTS, complete OWTS replacement, and expansion of existing OWTSs to accommodate additional dispersal volume.

Section 4 of this LAMP addresses Water Quality Assessment Program (WQAP), including reporting requirements and water quality data sources to be used.

Section 5 of this LAMP includes an Advanced Protection Management Program (APMP) component to provide for OWTS oversight in areas near impaired water bodies. The APMP considers applicable OWTS management requirements contained in adopted TMDL documents, other special provisions based upon sensitive environmental settings, and (in the absence of an adopted TMDL) OWTSs located in within 600 feet of a waterbody on the Clean Water Act 303(d) list.

Section 6 of this LAMP describes the Septic Tank Pumper Inspection Program (STPIP) which incorporates the annual inspection and permitting of all septic tank pumper trucks authorized to service OWTSs in Ventura County. The STPIP also includes requirements for the periodic submittal of OWTS pumping information to the Division. This information is used to identify failing OWTSs before surficial discharge occurs and facilitate the prevention of illegal discharges, and to ensure septage collected in Ventura County is properly disposed of at an approved wastewater facility.

Section 7 of this LAMP addresses Public Education and is intended to facilitate compliance by the public with laws, regulations, and good management practices relative to OWTS installation and care. This is accomplished by the distribution of information sheets, the Ventura County OWTS Technical Information Manual, a searchable on-line database of OWTS location and site suitability data, and comprehensive web-based information.

Section 8 of this LAMP describes how the Division responds to complaints from the public regarding OWTS discharges. Public complaints are tracked via the Envision database, where complaint information, enforcement actions, and the complaint resolution are documented.

## **Section 1.2 - Authority**

The Division will carry out the regulation of OWTS and this LAMP in Ventura County pursuant to the following authorities and authorizations:

- a. Title 24, California Code of Regulations (California Plumbing Code) as adopted into and modified by the Ventura County Building Code (VCBC).

The Division will amend the VCBC within the time frame required under applicable state law or regulation following the effective date of any statewide standards adopted pursuant to Sections 13290 and 13291 of the California Water Code (CWC).

- b. California Water Code, Section 13290 et seq; Title 23, California Code of Regulations, Section 2924; SWRCB OWTS Policy, Sections 3.1 and 3.2 as authorized by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board).
- c. California Health & Safety Code (CA HSC), Section 117405 et seq.

### **Section 1.3 - Local Agency Responsibility**

In accordance with the VCBC and the OWTS Policy, the Division is responsible for sites utilizing OWTS that:

- a. Have a projected flow of less than 5,000 gallons per day and
- b. Receive only domestic waste that is discharged below the ground surface, and
- c. Receive domestic waste from any of the following:
  - single family dwellings,
  - multifamily dwellings,
  - commercial buildings, including rental properties, or
  - commercial food service buildings whose wastewater has a biochemical oxygen demand of less than 900 milligrams per liter and has a properly sized and functioning grease interceptor (as specified in Section 2.6 of the OWTS Policy).

The Regional Board is responsible for OWTS in the County which are not allowed to be authorized by the Division and this LAMP. The Division will not be responsible for or authorize discharges from the following:

- a. Any OWTS listed in Section 9.4 of the OWTS Policy.
- b. OWTS serving entities under the jurisdiction of the California Department of Housing Community Development.
- c. Facilities which utilize a package treatment plant.

The Division will refer OWTS applicants to the Regional Board proposing to use OWTS which fall outside of local authority, including this LAMP.

In accordance with OWTS Policy Section 3.4, the Division shall retain permanent records of all permitting actions and will make those records available within 10 working

days upon written request for review by the Regional Board. The records for each permit shall reference the Tier under which the permit was issued.

The Division shall submit an annual report to the Regional Board no later than February 1<sup>st</sup> of each year, beginning with the first year after the LAMP approval. This annual report shall contain the following information:

- a. OWTS complaints - Number and location of complaints received by the Division which pertain to OWTS operation and maintenance, and identification of those which were investigated and how they were resolved. OWTS complaint procedures may be found in Section 8 of this LAMP.
- b. Septic Pumper Truck Registration – Applications and registrations issued to septic pumper trucks by the Division pursuant to California Health and Safety Code 117400 et. seq. Information on the Septic Pumper Truck Program may be found in Section 6 of this LAMP.
- c. New/Replacement OWTS Permits – Number, location, and description of permits issued by the Division for new and replacement OWTS. OWTS permitting and repair programs may be found in Section 2 and Section 3 of this LAMP.

#### **Section 1.4 – Staff Qualifications**

Division staff assigned to the OWTS program includes Registered Environmental Health Specialists (REHS), Environmental Health Specialists (EHS), and clerical support staff.

In accordance with the OWTS Policy, all site suitability evaluations and OWTS design reviews shall be conducted by a qualified professional, as defined in section 1.0 of the OWTS Policy. Field site suitability investigations and construction inspections may be performed by an EHS under indirect supervision of a qualified professional.

Division staff may consult with County of Ventura Public Works Agency engineering staff in the event complex or large volume excavation or grading concerns are identified during project review.

OWTS pumper truck inspections shall be carried out by an REHS, or non-REHS staff under indirect supervision of an REHS.

All other LAMP activities may be carried out by REHS or non-REHS professional staff, or clerical support staff as appropriate.

### Section 1.5 - Resources

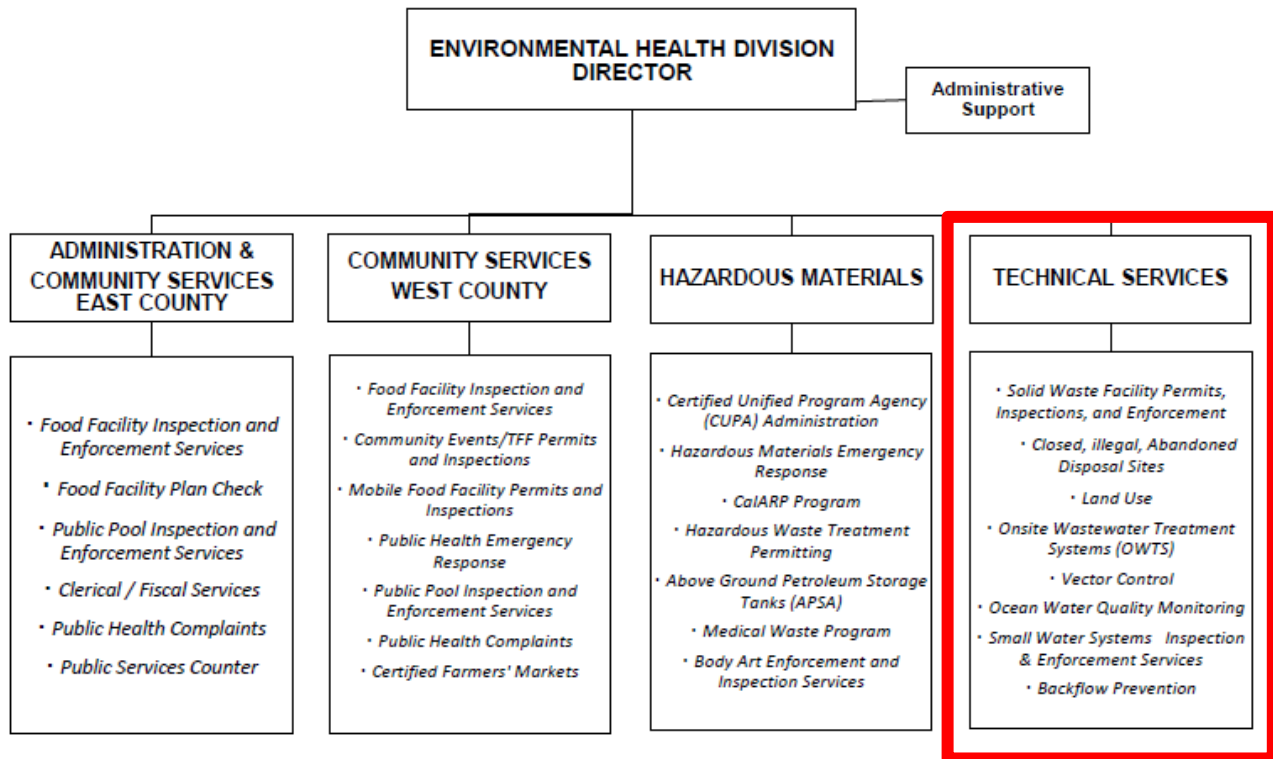
The Technical Services Section contains the OWTS program. The Division shall maintain adequate staff levels in this program to ensure that all LAMP activities are carried out in a timely fashion. Additionally, data management resources shall be maintained to ensure that data storage, retrieval, and reporting functions can be carried out in a timely manner. Figure 1b show the Division organizational structure.

Figure 1b: Environmental Health Division Organizational Chart



## Environmental Health Division Organizational Chart

County of Ventura Resource Management Agency • Environmental Health Division  
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## **SECTION 2 – OWTS LIMITATIONS ON LOCATION AND DENSITY**

Consideration of OWTS density, parcel size and potential cumulative OWTS impact issues (e.g., nitrate loading and bacterial loading) is addressed in the County on a case-by-case basis and involves cumulative impact assessments for certain types of locations. Planning, Land Use, and Watershed Protection District (WPD) agencies work cooperatively to identify and incorporate guidelines in areas of special concern due to background nitrate levels in groundwater. Local OWTS limitations are described in the following section.

### **Section 2.1 - Density and Lot Size**

The County of Ventura has a comprehensive environmental land use review process for discretionary projects, including building restrictions and minimum lot size requirements for projects proposing to use OWTS for domestic wastewater disposal. Any subdivision, or discretionary change in land use having a direct effect upon the volume of sewage, shall be required to connect to a public sewer system if available unless an exception is granted. Local OWTS lot size limitations are described in the following section.

#### 1) Ventura County Sewer Policy for Subdivisions:

- a. Minimum lot size of 40,000 sq. ft. for residential development (deed restriction allowed to limit to one single family dwelling per lot and decrease the lot size to 20,000 sq. ft.)
- b. Minimum lot size of 20,000 sq. ft. commercial for every 1,500 gallons of OWTS capacity.
- c. Connection to public sewer is required if available within 1/2 mile of the property line.

#### 2) Nitrate Impacted Groundwater Basins:

Projects proposing to utilize OWTS within groundwater basins identified by the County WPD as “nitrate impacted” may be subject to building and lot size restrictions. Restrictions for a project are determined by WPD and are based on their “nitrate formula.”

#### 3) Local Zoning Ordinances:

Ventura County Coastal and Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinances describe lot size restrictions throughout the County. Where zoning regulations require larger lot sizes, those regulations shall take precedent over those described in this LAMP.

## Section 2.2 - Additional OWTS Restrictions

In addition to lot size restrictions, the following areas are subject to additional OWTS restrictions:

1) Siete Robles Tract in Ojai:

An advisory notice has been issued by the Division for this tract prohibiting new conventional OWTS installation due to poor soil conditions, high groundwater and high potential of flooding during heavy rain events.

2) Oxnard Forebay Septic System Prohibition:

The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board adopted an Order which prohibits the discharge of septic systems in the Oxnard Forebay. The Division is precluded from approving new OWTS and expansions of existing OWTS.

3) 303(d) Listed Areas:

Requirements for existing, new, and replacement OWTS located near water bodies listed as impaired by nitrogen and/or pathogens pursuant to Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act are described in Tier 3 of the OWTS Policy and in Section 5 of this LAMP.

## Section 2.3 - Proximity to Public Sewer

According to Section 713.0 of the Ventura County Building Code (VCBC), connection to a public sewer utility is required:

- When the applicant seeks to install a new conventional private sewage disposal system, the public sewer may be considered as not being available when such public sewer is located more than two hundred (200) feet from any property line or the sewer service agency has determined that a connection cannot be made. (VCBC Section 713.4(a))
- When the applicant seeks to repair/replace a conventional private sewage disposal system, the public sewer may be considered as not being available when such public sewer is located more than two hundred (200) feet from any building containing a drainage system or the sewer service agency has determined that a connection cannot be made. (VCBC Section 713.4(b))
- When the applicant seeks to install a new alternate private sewage disposal system, the public sewer may be considered as not being available when such sewer is located more than one-half mile (2,640 feet) from any property line or

the sewer service agency has determined that a connection cannot be made. (VCBC Section 713.4.1(a))

- When the applicant seeks to repair/replace an alternate private sewage disposal system, the public sewer may be considered as not being available when such public sewer is located more than one-half mile (2,640 feet) from any building containing a drainage system or the sewer service agency has determined that a connection cannot be made. (VCBC Section 713.4.1(b))

Procedures for determining public sewer availability include the following methods:

1. Using GIS maps and measuring tools to locate OWTS to nearest sewer connection.
2. Contacting local sanitary district having jurisdiction to assess sewer connection availability.

## **Section 2.4 - Prohibitions**

The SWRCB OWTS Policy (Appendix C) outlines the limitations for the design and installation of all OWTS. These limitations include, but are not limited to:

1. prohibition of cesspools\*\*
2. prohibition of aboveground dispersal,
3. mandatory connection to public sewer when available,
4. prohibition of conventional OWTS that do not meet setback requirements.

\*\* Section H-8.0 of the VCBC (Appendix H) also addresses cesspools:

- (a) New and replacement cesspools are prohibited.
- (b) Any increase in the number of plumbing fixture units or bedrooms in a structure connected to a cesspool is prohibited.

An unknown number of cesspools may exist in the county and will be phased out as they are discovered in response to overflowing sewage complaint investigations, applications for OWTS repairs, or during inspections. All cesspools will be reported to the Regional Board in the Division's annual report as they are discovered.



## **SECTION 3 – OWTS PERMITTING AND INSPECTION PROGRAM**

Applications for new onsite wastewater treatment systems (OWTS), and changes to or replacements of existing systems must be completed and submitted for review to the Division. All applications are reviewed and evaluated by Division staff. Once the application has been approved, a permit to construct can be issued. A permit must be obtained before construction can begin.

### **Section 3.1 – Types of OWTS Permits**

General requirements for Permit Processing are delineated in the OWTS Technical Manual (Appendix B). Below is a brief overview:

Types of Applications:

#### **1. New OWTS**

All applications for new and replacement OWTS are reviewed and evaluated by Division staff. Evaluations consist of:

- a) Review of Soils engineering reports and OWTS design report
- b) Site Plans
- c) Historical records
- d) GIS data
- e) On-site evaluation

#### **2. Full Certification**

A Full Certification is required when the applicant is proposing to add either a bedroom or bedroom equivalents and plumbing fixtures to an existing structure.

#### **3. Setback Certification**

A setback certification is required when the applicant is proposing to expand the footprint of an existing structure and/or the addition of other structures on the property that do not contain bedrooms or plumbing fixtures.

#### **4. Permit to Construct: New, Repair, Replacement, Alteration or Abandonment**

All new OWTS installations and repairs, alterations or abandonments of existing OWTS components must conform to the applicable sections of the VCBC. A Permit to Construct is required for new installations and repairs, alterations or abandonments of existing OWTS components.

### Section 3.2 - Soil Evaluation and System Design

The site/soil evaluation, and system design review utilizes the resources listed below:

- A. Soils reports prepared by a California registered engineer, geologist or REHS is required. Existing soils engineering reports are maintained in Division document imaging files and the Ventura County Building and Safety document files. An updated soils report may be required if none exist at the time of original installation or if alternative treatment will now be required. Additional reports may be required to address slope stability, land sliding, or flood plain issues.

Reports shall include OWTS design requirements, site evaluations, and testing as outlined below, and are described in the OWTS Technical Manual (Appendix B) in greater detail:

- 1) Percolation Test Procedures – Percolation Tests are required to determine percolation rate of the site. It includes digging or boring a hole, filling the hole with water, and measuring the drop-in water level. Test data must be submitted to the Division for evaluation along with the date and times of pre-saturation period, date and times tests were conducted, name of person conducting tests, and temperature and weather conditions at time of testing.
- 2) Septic Tank Specifications – The septic tank removes many of the solids, oils, greases, and floating debris in the raw wastewater. Tanks must be listed and approved by the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO) or an ANSI accredited testing agency. Tanks must be watertight, properly vented, allow access for inspection and cleaning, and be adequately sized for the proposed use.
- 3) Leach Line Specifications – Leach lines provide horizontal distribution of septic tank effluent. They must meet certain requirements with regards to pipe material, setback, trench size, and location.
- 4) Seepage Pit Specifications – Seepage pits consist of a drilled pit filled with drain rock for vertical distribution of septic tank effluent. Seepage pits shall be 4-6 feet in diameter, maintain a 10-foot setback to groundwater, and shall extend no greater than 60 feet deep. The bottom of the perforated pipe shall be capped.
- 5) Alternate OWTS Specifications – Alternate OWTS are systems designed and engineered for use in localities where features such as shallow groundwater, bedrock, adverse soil, or other geologic and/or hydrologic conditions makes the use of conventional a OWTS potentially harmful to public health. Alternate OWTS designed are limited to mound systems, subsurface sand filtration systems, supplemental treatment systems designed for nitrogen and/or pathogen removal, or others as approved by this Division.

- 6) Evaluation of the Highest Historical Groundwater Level (seasonal or permanent). A minimum of 10 feet must be maintained between the bottom of any seepage pit and the highest historical groundwater and a minimum of 5 feet must be maintained between the bottom of any leach line trench or bed and the highest historical groundwater. Groundwater level is evaluated as part of the soil report prepared by a qualified individual and provided to the Division by the applicant.
- B. Scaled site plans are required showing proposed OWTS, 100% expansion area, wells, contours, water bodies, waterlines and property lines and other information as required.
- C. County of Ventura maintains records of past OWTS permits, certifications, and applications that have been approved.
- D. GIS data contains locations of property lines, wells, streams, water bodies, structures, flood plains, earthquake fault hazards, etc.
- E. On-site inspections are conducted to evaluate the suitability of OWTS design and construction. An on-site checklist is enclosed in Appendix E.
- F. Setback requirements are delineated in the OWTS Technical Manual and in the VCBC: Table CPC Appendix H-1 (see Figure 3a).
- G. A site evaluation is to be completed including a geologic report that describes, depth to groundwater or bedrock, the soil conditions, and a slope stability study if it is proposed to place the dispersal field on a slope greater than 30%.

### **Section 3.3 - OWTS Installation and Inspection**

All OWTS installations are governed under the issuance of a Permit. OWTS construction procedures are delineated in the OWTS Technical Manual and must meet the requirements of the latest edition of the VCBC. OWTS Construction Inspections procedures are enclosed in Appendix F. The Building Code is available at:

- <https://vcrma.org/building-codes-and-permits>
- [Appendix A](#)

Figure 3a: Setback Requirements for OWTS (Table CPC Appendix H-1 of VCBC)

(Superscript numbers refer to footnotes (1) through (10))

<b>Minimum Horizontal Distance in Feet From:</b>	<b>Building Sewer</b>	<b>Septic Tank<sup>9</sup></b>	<b>Disposal Field</b>	<b>Seepage Pit</b>	<b>Subsurface Sand Filtration System</b>	<b>Mound System</b>
<b>Building or Structures<sup>1</sup></b>	2	5	8	8	8	20 <sup>7</sup>
<b>Property line adjoining private property</b>	Clear <sup>2</sup>	5	5	8	8	10
<b>Private Water supply well on suction line</b>	50 <sup>3</sup>	50	100	150	100 <sup>8</sup>	100
<b>Streams, lakes, tidal waters or ocean waters</b>	50	50	100	150	100	100
<b>Large Trees</b>	--	10	--	10	10	--
<b>Seepage pits cesspools</b>	--	5	5	12	--	--
<b>Disposal Field</b>	--	5	4 <sup>4</sup>	5	--	--
<b>On site domestic water service line</b>	1 <sup>5</sup>	5	5	5	5	5
<b>Distribution Box</b>	--	--	5	5	--	--
<b>Pressure public water main</b>	10 <sup>6</sup>	10	10	10	10	10
<b>Public water well</b>	50 <sup>3</sup>	50	150	200 <sup>10</sup>	150-200 <sup>10</sup>	150
<b>Public water systems' surface water intake point</b>	--	--	200-400 <sup>10</sup>	200-400 <sup>10</sup>	200-400 <sup>10</sup>	200-400 <sup>10</sup>

## FOOTNOTES TO TABLE CPC APPENDIX H-1

NOTE: When disposal fields or seepage pits are installed in sloping ground, the minimum horizontal distance between any part of the leaching system and ground surface shall be fifteen (15) feet.

When facilities are located near tidal or ocean waters, the horizontal distance shall be measured from the historically most landward location of the beach at the mean high tide elevation. Structures or facilities shall be constructed in accordance with Federal, State and local laws to prevent erosion of the beaches and movement of the mean high tide closer than the horizontal distances specified above.

- (1) Including porches and steps, whether covered or uncovered, breezeways, roofed port-cocheres, roofed patios, carports, covered walks, covered driveways and similar appurtenances.*
- (2) See Section 313.3 of the CPC.*
- (3) The distance may be reduced to not less than twenty-five (25) feet when approved metallic piping is installed. Where special hazards are involved, the distance required shall be increased as may be directed by the County Health Officer or the Administrative Authority.*
- (4) Plus two (2) feet for each additional foot of depth in excess of one (1) foot below the bottom of the drain line (see Section H6(i) of the CPC).*
- (5) See Section 720.0 of the CPC.*
- (6) For parallel construction. For crossings, approval by the Administrative Authority is required.*
- (7) This distance shall be increased to 30 feet when the system is located upslope of the structure.*
- (8) This distance shall be increased to 150 feet when seepage pits are used as a component of the system.*
- (9) Includes components of Supplemental Treatment*
- (10) Except as provided for in 10 (f) and 10 (g), new or replacement OWTS with minimum horizontal setbacks less than any of the following are not authorized:*
  - (a) 150 feet from a public water well where the depth of the effluent dispersal system does not exceed 10 feet in depth.*
  - (b) 200 feet from a public water well where the depth of the effluent dispersal system exceeds 10 feet in depth.*
  - (c) Where the effluent dispersal system is within 600 feet of a public water well and exceeds 20 feet in depth the horizontal setback required to achieve a two-year travel time for microbiological contaminants shall be evaluated. A qualified professional shall conduct this evaluation. However, in no case shall the setback be less than 200 feet.*
  - (d) Where the effluent dispersal system is within 1,200 feet from a public water systems' surface water intake point, within the catchment of the drainage, and located such that it may impact water quality at the intake point such as upstream of the intake point for flowing water*

- bodies, the dispersal system shall be no less than 400 feet from the high-water mark of the reservoir, lake or flowing water body.*
- (e) Where the effluent dispersal system is located more than 1,200 feet but less than 2,500 feet from a public water systems' surface water intake point, within the catchment area of the drainage, and located such that it may impact water quality at the intake point such as upstream of the intake point for flowing water bodies, the dispersal system shall be no less than 200 feet from the high-water mark of the reservoir, lake or flowing water body.*
- (f) For replacement OWTS that do not meet the above horizontal separation requirements, the replacement OWTS shall meet the horizontal separation to the greatest extent practicable. In such case, the replacement OWTS shall utilize supplemental treatment and other mitigation measures, unless the permitting authority finds that there is no indication that the previous system is adversely affecting the public water source, and there is limited potential that the replacement system could impact the water source based on topography, soil depth, soil texture, and groundwater separation.*
- (g) For new OWTS, installed on parcels of record existing at the time of the effective date of this Policy, that cannot meet the above horizontal separation requirements, the OWTS shall meet the horizontal separation to the greatest extent practicable and shall utilize supplemental treatment for pathogens as specified in section 10.8 of the State OWTS Policy and any other mitigation measures prescribed by the Authority Having Jurisdiction.*

## **SECTION 4 – WATER QUALITY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

### **Section 4.1 - General Method**

Numerous local and state entities collect data concerning the quality of groundwater and surface water in the County. This LAMP's Water Quality Assessment Program (WQAP) reviews groundwater and surface water quality data for those groundwater basins where OWTS discharges are present. This information is obtained through several monitoring programs, as is consistent with OWTS Policy section 9.3.2, and are described in Section 4.2 of this LAMP.

In addition to reviewing water quality data, the Division will review information obtained from OWTS permitting activities, OWTS complaint investigations, OWTS failures, and any other relevant information resulting from OWTS inspection activities.

The Division will assess the potential impact of OWTS discharges upon both groundwater and surface water resources of Ventura County, with an emphasis upon nitrate pollution and pathogens.

Field sampling is funding dependent and will be minimized to the greatest extent possible. Data mining of existing water quality resources shall be utilized in lieu of field monitoring wherever feasible.

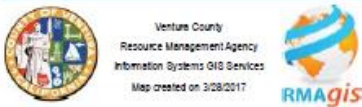
All groundwater monitoring data generated by the Division in any field sampling activities performed by Division staff shall be submitted in Electronic Deliverable Format (EDF) for inclusion to the State Water Board Geotracker database. All surface water data generated by the Division in any field sampling activities performed by Division staff shall be submitted to the California Environmental Data Exchange Network (CEDEN) database in a Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) comparable format.

### **Section 4.2 - Review of Water Quality Data**

The following data sources may be reviewed for inclusion in the WQAP:

- 1) Domestic well certification: Persons in the County who want to utilize a private, on-site water well as a potable water supply must first obtain approval from the Division. This process includes submittal of bacteriological and nitrogen water quality analytical results.
- 2) WPD Groundwater well sampling program: The majority of accessible groundwater is found in 32 groundwater basins within Ventura County (see Figure 4a). Ventura County Watershed Protection District, Groundwater

Figure 4a: Map of Ventura County Groundwater Basins



### County of Ventura Groundwater Basins

0 2.5 5 10 Miles

Disclaimer: this map was created by the Ventura County Resource Management Agency Information Systems GIS, which is designed and operated solely for the convenience of the County and related public agencies. The County does not warrant the accuracy of this map and no decision involving a risk of economic loss or physical injury should be made in reliance therein.



Resources staff collects water quality data to analyze and obtain a general overview of the quality of the groundwater in County groundwater basins. The Groundwater Section publishes an Annual Report of Groundwater Conditions for the County.

- 3) State Small Water Systems: State small water systems under permit with the Division are required to submit water quality analytical results for bacteria (monthly or quarterly) and nitrogen (quarterly or annually).
- 4) NPDES and WDR Reporting Data: The Regional Board issues National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits for point source discharges to surface waters, and establishes Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) for discharges to land. Both NPDES and WDR permittees have monitoring and sampling requirements.
- 5) Ocean Water Quality Monitoring Program: Division staff sample 20-40 public beaches weekly along the entire 42 miles of Ventura County coastline. Ocean water samples are collected and tested for three different "indicator" bacteria: total coliform; fecal coliform; and enterococcus.
- 6) GAMA and CEDEN Databases: The Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment (GAMA) Program is California's comprehensive groundwater quality monitoring program. Geotracker GAMA provides a searchable public database for a variety of groundwater constituents from various sampling sources. The Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) aims to assess the conditions of surface waters in California, and supports the development, deployment, and maintenance of the California Environmental Data Exchange Network (CEDEN) to permanently store surface water monitoring data collected throughout California.
- 7) CWA 303(d) list: The State assesses water quality monitoring data for California's surface waters and determines if they contain pollutants at levels that exceed protective water quality standards. Water body and pollutants that exceed protective water quality standards are placed on the State's 303(d) List.

#### **Section 4.3 - Data Analyses, Interpretation, and Reporting**

In conformance with OWTS Policy Section 9.3.2, the WQAP will utilize Ventura County GIS resources, OWTS inventory, and the relevant data sources listed above to determine the general operation status of OWTS and to evaluate the potential impact of OWTS discharges to water quality.

In conformance with OWTS Policy Section 9.3.3, the Division will submit an annual report to Regional Board summarizing the status of the WQAP. The annual report will

be submitted no later than February 1 of the following year. The first annual report will serve as the WQAP baseline condition.

In conformance with OWTS Policy Section 9.3.3, every fifth year the Division will submit an evaluation of the monitoring program and an assessment of whether water quality is being impacted by OWTS, identifying any changes in the Local Agency Management Program that will be undertaken to address impacts from OWTS.

**SECTION 5 – ADVANCED PROTECTION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

The Advanced Protection Management Program (APMP) addresses existing, new, and replacement OWTS located near water bodies listed as impaired due to nitrogen or pathogen indicators pursuant to Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. APMP areas are established by a TMDL and its implementation plan or special provisions that may be contained in the LAMP. If there is no TMDL or special provisions, new or replacement OWTS within 600 feet of impaired water bodies listed in Attachment 2 of the OWTS Policy must meet the applicable specific requirements outlined in Tier 3 of the OWTS Policy. The table below shows all water bodies in Ventura County identified in Attachment 2 of the OWTS Policy:

<b>Water Body Name</b>	<b>Impairment</b>
Rincon Creek	Pathogens
Rincon Beach	Pathogens
Canada Larga (Ventura River Watershed)	Pathogens
San Antonio Creek (Tributary to Ventura River Reach 4)	Nitrogen and Pathogens
Ventura River Reach 3 (Weldon Canyon to Confl. w/ Coyote Creek)	Pathogens

**Section 5.1 - Identifying Geographic Area for APMP**

The geographic area for each water body’s APMP is defined by the water body’s applicable TMDL, if one has been approved. For impaired water bodies listed in the OWTS Policy under Attachment 2 for which a TMDL has not been approved, the area shall be 600 linear feet [in the horizontal (map) direction] of these water bodies where the edge of that water body is the natural or levied bank for creeks and the mean high tide line for beaches.

Geographic Information System (GIS) tools are utilized to identify the location of the impaired area and set back distance in proximity to the existing or proposed OWTS. If the initial evaluation of the OWTS location or APMP area is disputed, the applicant can use other methods, approved by the Division, to determine the exact APMP geographic area and the location of the OWTS.

**Section 5.2 – Existing TMDL with Implementation Plan and OWTS Policy  
Attachment 2 Water Bodies**

The Algae, Eutrophic Conditions, and Nutrients Total Maximum Daily Loads for Ventura River and its Tributaries (Ventura River Algae TMDL) is in effect for the entire Ventura River watershed. The geographic area for the APMP to implement the Ventura River Algae TMDL is the entire Ventura River watershed until the Division completes, and the

Regional Board approves, a study to refine the APMP. Subsequent studies or reduction of the nutrient load in the watershed may also further refine the geographical boundaries of the APMP.

The Ventura River watershed also contains a list of impaired water bodies in Attachment 2 of the OWTS Policy. However, the Ventura River Algae TMDL implementation plan supersedes all other Tier 3 requirements for those impaired water bodies located in the Ventura River watershed.

### **Section 5.3 - Types of OWTS Not Covered in an APMP**

Section 10.6 of the OWTS Policy identifies new, replacement, and existing OWTS located in an Advanced Protection Management Program (APMP) that are not covered by this Policy's waiver (Section 12.0 of the Policy) but may be authorized by a separate Regional Water Board order.

### **Section 5.4 - OWTS Supplemental Treatment Requirements**

OWTS in an APMP shall meet supplemental treatment requirements for nitrogen and pathogens outlined in the Policy Sections 10.8 - 10.15. The following standards apply to OWTS system component independent third-party laboratory testing requirements as incorporated into the VCBC:

1. Supplemental Treatment Components required for Nitrogen reduction:

Effluent from the supplemental treatment components designed to reduce nitrogen shall be certified by NSF (NSF/ANSI Standard 245) to meet a 50 percent reduction in total nitrogen when comparing the 30-day average influent to the 30-day average effluent.

2. Supplemental Treatment Components required for Pathogen reduction:

Supplemental treatment components designed to perform disinfection shall be certified by NSF (NSF/ANSI Standard 40 or 245) to provide sufficient pretreatment of the wastewater so that effluent from the supplemental treatment components does not exceed a 30-day average TSS of 30 mg/L and shall further achieve an effluent fecal coliform bacteria concentration less than or equal to 200 Most Probable Number (MPN) per 100 milliliters.

### **Section 5.5 – County Service Area 32**

County Service Area 32 (CSA 32) is a Countywide OWTS monitoring and maintenance district, created to provide limited district services to properties served by alternative technology OWTS (alternate systems) and OWTS serving commercial facilities. An

"offer to grant an easement" to CSA 32 fulfills the Ventura County Ordinance Code requirement and applicable policies of the Ventura County General Plan for properties served by alternate and commercial systems. The easement offer, if/when accepted by the Ventura County, includes inspection, operation, maintenance, repair, construction, and reconstruction of OWTS and appurtenances thereto.

The CSA 32 offer shall be submitted at time of OWTS plan submittal. OWTS supplemental treatment shall be installed according to the manufacturer's specifications and approved OWTS design.

## **SECTION 6 – SEPTIC TANK PUMPING AND SEPTAGE DISPOSAL**

Pursuant to Section 117400 et. seq. of the California Health and Safety Code, the Division inspects and permits all septic tank pumper trucks authorized to service OWTs in unincorporated Ventura County. The LAMP Septic Tank Pumper Inspection Program (STPIP) incorporates the annual inspection and permitting of all septic tank pumper trucks, and includes requirements for the periodic submittal of OWTs pumping information to the Division. This information is used to verify proper disposal of septic tank sludge, as well as to identify failing OWTs before surficial discharge occurs, and facilitate the prevention of illegal discharges.

### **Section 6.1 – Septic Tank Pumper Inspection Program**

Per CA HSC Section 117405, septic tank pumpers (pumpers) that service chemical toilets and/or OWTs in Ventura County are required to obtain an annual permit (registration) to operate from the Division, except government entities that exclusively use their own equipment to service their own chemical toilets and/or OWTs.

Registration applications shall state the name in full, if a partnership then names of each of the partners, the relation of the applicant to the firm or partnership, the place of business and place of residence of the applicant for registration and of each of the partners in the business, if a partnership, and shall state the exact location of the place at which it is proposed to dispose of cleanings.

The registration shall be issued only after a satisfactory examination by the health officer or his or her duly authorized representative as specified in CA HSC Sec. 117420. Registrations are renewed annually based upon billing month. Registration may be revoked by the issuing health officer for cause on 10 days' notice to the applicant.

### **Section 6.2 - Pumping Reports**

Each registered pumper must file a pumping report containing the information below:

- (1) The name and address of the owner or tenant of each one of the premises serviced by the pumper.
- (2) The date of each cleaning.
- (3) The location where the cleanings are disposed of and by whom.
- (4) Discharges of waste that may result in violation of laws or ordinances required to be known by the registrant pursuant to CA HSC Sec. 117420.

The pumping report must be prepared for each calendar month, and must be submitted to the Division at least annually.

### Section 6.3 – Septage Disposal Site Verification

The Division takes steps to ensure that the septage collected in Ventura County is properly disposed at an approved facility via a program of site inspection and interagency information exchange.

Registered pumpers are required to identify the location of the place at which they dispose of cleanings. Division staff contacts the operator of the septage disposal site and confirms that the disposal site is receiving septage from the septic tank pumper in question, and is operating in conformance with applicable requirements.

Septage disposal sites located within Ventura County are as follows:

<b>Disposal Site Location</b>	<b>Capacity</b>	<b>Discharge Permit</b>
Ojai Valley Sanitation District (OVSD) located at 1072 Tico Rd. Ojai, CA	3 million gallon per day wastewater treatment facility owned and operated by OVSD.	Tertiary treated effluent is discharged to the Ventura River under NPDES permit No. CA0053961
Simi Valley Sanitation Services, Water Quality Control Plant located at 600 West Los Angeles Ave. Simi Valley, CA	10 million gallon per day wastewater treatment plant owned and operated by Simi Valley Department of Public Works.	Tertiary treated effluent is discharged into the Arroyo Simi under NPDES permit No. CA0055221
City of Fillmore Water Recycling Plant located at 1580 River St. Fillmore, CA	2.4 million gallon per day wastewater treatment plant owned and by the City of Fillmore and operated by American Water.	Designed as a zero-discharge facility; 100% of treated water is used to irrigate schools, landscape, city parks and green areas throughout Fillmore.

Septage disposal sites located in Santa Barbara County or Los Angeles County, which received septage from Ventura County permitted septic pumper vehicles are:

<b>Disposal Site Location</b>	<b>Capacity</b>	<b>Discharge Permit</b>
City of Santa Maria Waste Water Treatment Plant located at 601 S. Black Rd. Santa Maria, CA	13.5 million gallon per day wastewater treatment plant owned and operated by City of Santa Maria Utilities Department.	Treated effluent is discharged into nearby percolation ponds under Order No. R3-2010-0001, Waste Discharger Identification No. 3 420109001.

VENTURA COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION LOCAL AGENCY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM  
FOR ONSITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS

Marborg Industries Pre-treatment Facility located at 119 North Quaratina St. Santa Barbara, CA	40,000 gallon per day wastewater pre-treatment facility; pre-treated effluent goes to El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plan.	N/A
El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plan located at 520 E. Yanonali St. Santa Barbara, CA.	8 million gallons per day secondary treatment facility owned and operated by the City of Santa Barbara.	Treated effluent is discharged into the Pacific Ocean under, NPDES Permit No. CA0048143.
Joint Water Pollution Control Plant (JWPCP) located at 24501 S. Figueroa St. Carson, CA	400 million gallon per day wastewater treatment plant owned and operated by LA County Sanitation.	Tertiary treated effluent is discharged to the Pacific Ocean through a series of outfalls under NPDES permit No. CA0053813
Saugus Water Reclamation Plan located at 26200 Springbrook Ave. Santa Clarita, CA	6.5 million gallons per day wastewater treatment plant owned and operated by Santa Clarita Sanitation.	Tertiary treated effluent is discharged to the Santa Clara River under NPDES permit No. CA0054313
Donald C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant located at 6100 Woodley Ave. Van Nuys, CA	80 million gallon per day wastewater treatment plant owned by the City of Los Angeles	Tertiary treated effluent is discharged to the Los Angeles River under NPDES permit No. CA0056227.
Pomona Water Reclamation Plant located at 295 Humane Way Pomona, CA	15 million gallon per day wastewater treatment plant owned by LA County Sanitation.	Tertiary treated effluent is discharged to the San Jose Creek under NPDES permit No. CA0053619

The volume of septage wastes received from OWTS located in Ventura County at the above treatment facilities is small relative to the total permitted capacity of these facilities. No formal predictions for future septage generation are necessary, as the facilities could accommodate a significant increase in the amounts of septage currently received.

### Section 6.4 - Recordkeeping

As part of STPIP, the Division maintains septage disposal records for all Ventura County registered pumpers. This includes the quantities of septage disposed of at the treatment facilities listed above. The Division maintains a searchable database of all OWTS pumping records. This database provides for identification of failing OWTS and



incipient OWTS failure as indicated by frequent and excessive pumping. Records are available to the public via the Public Records Act.

In accordance with Section 3.3.2 of the OWTS Policy, the Division shall include the registrations issued as part of the STPIP to the Regional Board in the annual report by February 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Section 6.5 - Enforcement**

Violation of any codified provisions of the above or of any order or orders of a health officer made pursuant to these codified provisions for the protection of human health and comfort shall constitute a misdemeanor and shall be punishable by a fine of not less than two hundred dollars (\$200) for each offense or by imprisonment for not less than thirty (30) days or by both the fine and imprisonment (H&S Code 117450).

## SECTION 7 - PUBLIC EDUCATION

Ventura County Environmental Health Division (Division) provides public education as follows:

- a) The Division maintains counter hours where OWTS staff is available to answer questions regarding issues pertaining to OWTS. The Division staff is available to answer questions regarding OWTS issues over the phone during normal working hours.
- b) The Division maintains numerous documents that are available to the public via public counter or on-line, to assist with questions on OWTS. On-line information is accessible on the Division's Onsite Wastewater Treatment System webpage at the following web address:  
<https://vcrma.org/onsite-wastewater-treatment-systems>

On-line resources accessible to the public are as follows:

- An OWTS Frequently Asked Questions page, which includes questions such as:
    - "What are the required setback distances?"
    - "Who designs my OWTS?"
    - "When do I need an OWTS construction permit?"
    - "Who is licensed to install an OWTS?"
    - "What size OWTS is required for a re-model of an existing house or for a proposed new residence?"
  - OWTS On-line records search containing document imaged site plans, applications, and reports of historic OWTSs in the County.
  - Links to local and State adopted OWTS standards, including the Ventura County Building Code, the State Water Resources Control Board OWTS Policy page, and the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board homepage.
  - Information sheets on designing a new OWTS to answer questions regarding setbacks, tank size, fill material, percolation tests, County Service Area 32, and more.
  - OWTS Construction Example Slideshows
- c) The Division provides information to the public through a Records Search Request.

- d) The Division provides a OWTS Technical Manual (Appendix B) to the public. The purpose of this technical information manual is to provide guidance to OWTS owners, designers, and installers.
- e) In accordance with Section 9.2.11 of the OWTS Policy, the Division shall notify the owner of a public water system in writing prior to issuing an installation or repair permit for an OWTS, if the OWTS is:
- within 1,200 feet of an intake point for a surface water treatment plant for drinking water;
  - in the drainage area catchment in which the intake point is located, and is located such that it may impact water quality at the intake point, such as upstream of the intake point for a flowing water body;
  - within a horizontal sanitary setback from a public well

## **SECTION 8 – PUBLIC COMPLAINT RESPONSE PROCEDURES**

The Division responds to public complaints regarding OWTS issues. Public complaints are processed in conformance with the Division Public Complaints Policy 2.4. This includes provisions for reporting and notification, complaint response timeliness, and complaint tracking.

### **Section 8.1 – Reporting and Notification Requirements**

Where an unauthorized discharge of sewage, septage, or sewage sludge is visually confirmed by Division staff, a Proposition 65 report form must be prepared and submitted to the Division Proposition 65 report coordinator within 24 hours of the visual confirmation.

Where an unauthorized discharge of sewage, septage, or sewage sludge has entered a stream channel, flood control channel, or otherwise entered or potentially entered a surface water body of any kind, the Public Works Agency Watershed Protection District and the appropriate Regional Water Quality Control Board shall be notified by e-mail of the discharge within 24 hours of discharge confirmation. If applicable and supported by evidence, the Division shall report any failed OWTS that has impacted the groundwater to the Regional Board.

In accordance with Section 3.3.1 of the OWTS Policy, the Division shall include the number and location of complaints pertaining to OWTS operation and maintenance, including how they were resolved, to the Regional Board in the annual report by February 1st.

### **Section 8.2 – Complaint Investigations and Enforcement**

Division policy requires staff to investigate all potential sewage releases, residential or commercial, within jurisdictional boundaries. Reports of suspected failing OWTS, OWTS discharge, and other complaints are investigated within two working days of receipt.

In the event of a sewage release resulting from OWTS failure, the owner of the OWTS is written a Notice of Violation (NOV) to discontinue the unauthorized sewage release, and repair or replace the failed OWTS system. If public sewer is available as determined pursuant to VCBC requirements and Section 2.2 of this LAMP, the owner will be required to abandon the OWTS and connect to public sewer. Any OWTS repair or replacement shall be conducted in conformance with the applicable VCBC requirements and the requirements of this LAMP.

Enforcement is conducted in accordance with the provisions delineated in the Ventura County Ordinance Code, VCBC, CA HSC, and Section 11.0 of the OWTS Policy.

### **Section 8.3 - Recordkeeping**

Records of complaints received, as well as investigation findings and resolutions, are maintained in the Division's Envision Connect data base. Inspections records are available to the public through the Public Records Act.