



SUBSURFACE STORMWATER INJECTION REQUIREMENTS

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What are Class V Stormwater Injection Wells?

Several types and configurations of stormwater drainage and infiltration systems are designated as Class V Stormwater Injection wells by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Regulated Class V stormwater systems include dry wells, bored wells, and subsurface distribution systems (such as Contech or Stormtech chambers). Class V systems must comply with federal Underground Injection Control (UIC) program requirements.

These systems may have a variety of designs and names, but are defined in the Federal UIC regulations (40 CFR 144.36) as: *A bored, drilled, or driven shaft whose depth is greater than the largest surface dimension, or, dug hole whose depth is greater than the largest surface dimension, or, an improved sinkhole, or, a subsurface fluid distribution system.*

Are underground infiltration systems covered by this designation?

Yes. Subsurface fluid distribution or infiltration systems (i.e. ADS, Stormtech, or Contech chambers) are included in the Class V Well designation.

Why did the County update their policy on these systems?

Recent changes to regional stormwater requirements have prompted an increase in the use of Class V wells to manage runoff volumes via enhanced infiltration. Apart from regional stormwater management requirements, these systems may also be installed to comply with the Public Improvement Standards. These County's requirements on Class V systems are to be incorporated into the scheduled 2019 Public Improvement Standards update.

There are no detailed State or Federal requirements for the design or approval of new Class V systems. However, the County is the local authority responsible for ensuring that new Class V wells do not endanger underground drinking water supplies. The County's requirements are intended to ensure that new systems

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meet the minimum requirements set forth by the EPA to and protect underground drinking water supplies. **Requirements are summarized on page 3 of this document.**

Is the change in County policy due to new requirements?

No. The Federal requirements that regulate stormwater discharges as Class V wells were most recently updated in 2003. The County changed the policies related to the review and approval of these systems to improve alignment with federal requirements.

What is the process associated with constructing and registering a new Class V system?

Applicants that submit drainage plans to the County for review will be notified of the need to register if the plans include a Class V system. The County will verify that the proposed design meets the requirements, (referenced on page 3) and request corrections if necessary. A condition for *'Public Works Inspection prior to Final'* will be added to the building permit with notes that the applicant must submit evidence to Public Works they have registered their Class V system with the US EPA's Region 9 Office.

All Class V wells in California must be registered with US EPA's Region 9 Office. Registration of Class V Wells is completed by filling out an online form prior to commencement of use. *Completing registration while the system is still planned or under construction is strongly encouraged.*

The registration form can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/uic/forms/underground-injection-wells-registration>

How much does it cost to register a Class V system?

There is no fee associated with registration, and there are no ongoing reporting requirements.

How does this relate to the County's construction permitting process?

The Public Works Department will continue to review drainage plans for new development in San Luis Obispo County.

Where can I find more information about Federal requirements for Class V Wells?

Introduction to Class V wells: <https://www.epa.gov/uic/basic-information-about-class-v-injection-wells>

Additional information about Federal regulations of stormwater discharges and Class V wells: https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-08/documents/fs_storm.pdf

A summary of federal requirements for Class V systems: <https://www.epa.gov/uic/federal-requirements-class-v-wells>

Additional information about Class V systems in California can be found at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_reference/2014fall/docs/dry_wells_fs.pdf

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What are the County’s requirements associated with new Class V systems?

The County will review all development plans proposing subsurface stormwater infiltration systems (either drywells or chamber systems) based on the following criteria:

1. Not permitted on project sites with an elevated risk of releasing contaminants (spills), or on properties susceptible to receiving contaminants from adjacent land uses. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - a. Vehicle repair facilities or fueling stations,
 - b. Facilities that store, transfer or generate hazardous materials,
 - c. Autopart recycling facilities,
 - d. Sites with a history of spills or illegal dumping.
2. Must incorporate a stormwater pre-treatment device to remove solids and ensure that particulate debris is separated and removed from inflows.
3. Must include an operation and maintenance manual and schedule.
4. Applicant must submit soils report which includes:

a. Infiltration Rate

Infiltration (minutes/inch)	Min. distance to groundwater
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<1.....	50 feet
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1-4.....	20 feet
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5-29.....	8 feet
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30 up.....	5 feet
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**Infiltration Rate utilizing Central Coast Low Impact Development Initiative Native Soil Assessment for Small Infiltration-Based Stormwater Control Measures/County of San Luis Obispo Post Construction Handbook Appendix D, or approved alternative.*

5. Setback requirements (minimum)[‡]:

Buildings or structures*.....	10 feet	Reservoirs.....	200 feet
Property lines.....	10 feet	Water supply wells.....	100 feet
Domestic water line.....	10 feet	Trees.....	10 feet
Water Main.....	25 feet	Stream, springs, ponds.....	100 feet

[‡] Refer to guidance of soils engineer.

*Building or structure setbacks for drywells or infiltration chamber systems must conform to Section 1804 of the California Building Code.

6. Additional Dry Well Considerations:

- a. Penetration: 10 feet minimum into permeable porous soils recommended
- b. Dry well surface inlet: 3-inch minimum above bottom of retention basin (as applicable)
- c. Natural ground slopes: 15% maximum recommended, not accepted on slopes greater than 25%.
- d. Proximity to cut or natural slopes: As recommended by soils engineer

7. Additional Subsurface Chamber Considerations:

- a. Must incorporate inspection and maintenance access ports, to be shown on plans.
- b. Port covers must be clearly marked 'STORM'

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Contact Information

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