COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & BUILDING

BLD-1065
08/03/2026

Pre-2020 ADU Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems-Submittal Requirements

The following documentation is required to be submitted with each construction permit application for new or previously unpermitted ADUs served by Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS), or when there is a conversion of an existing structure to an ADU. Additional requirements may apply based on site-specific conditions. OWTS serving pre-2020 ADUS shall comply with the requirements of the SLO County Local Area Management Program (LAMP).

For complete requirements for OWTS please see the LAMP. If you have questions regarding these requirements, please call 805-781-5600 and ask for the Environmental Health Specialist.

☐ **Percolation Test and Deep Soil Boring:**

- ☐ A percolation test performed by a qualified professional (Registered Civil Engineer, Registered Geologist, or Registered Environmental Health Specialist), having a minimum of four contiguous usable percolation borings no greater than 100' from proposed dispersal system. Percolation testing procedures must adhere to the standards mentioned in Section 4 of the County of San Luis Obispo LAMP. Additional test holes may be necessary on a site-specific basis.
- ☐ A deep soil boring performed by a qualified professional to a depth no less than 20' to verify separation to groundwater. Exploratory boring procedures must adhere to the standards mentioned in Section 3 of the County of San Luis Obispo LAMP. If groundwater is encountered or if the County has reason to believe groundwater could rise to an unacceptable level during the course of an average rainfall season, additional monitoring and/or installation of a supplemental treatments system may be required.

☐ **OWTS Layout by Qualified Professional:**

- ☐ The layout shall be prepared, designed, stamped and signed by a qualified professional. Qualified Professional is defined in the LAMP as a Registered Civil Engineer, Registered Geologist, or Registered Environmental Health Specialist. The layout shall contain all the information referenced in the LAMP Section 2.E. including but not limited to the following:
  - Site Address and APN;
  - Purpose of project (e.g. new dwelling, addition, etc.);
  - Vicinity map, scale, north arrow;
  - Property lines and dimensions;
  - Proposed OWTS design details including sizing calculations in accordance with the LAMP;
  - All known recorded easements;
  - Identified source of potable water;
  - Location of all wells within 300' of proposed OWTS;
  - Setbacks to stream/creeks, drainage courses, etc.
- ☐ The layout drawing shall use standard engineer's scale on 11" x 17" or larger size paper on indexed sheets within full-size plan set.
- ☐ The layout shall depict the location of all existing septic systems on the parcel and 100% expansion areas for existing systems as well as proposed system and 100% expansion area for that system. Note that all dispersal fields and expansion areas shall meet all required setbacks, be equivalent and separate, sized according to current standards, and available for future use. If you cannot meet all the setbacks and provide 100% expansion areas for all systems the application will **not** be approved.
- ☐ The qualified professional needs to determine if the existing system complies with the LAMP, or propose upgrades needed to meet the LAMP.

- An ADU 0 - 799 square feet may use or modify an existing/combined onsite wastewater treatment system (OWTS) with main residence to meet additional demand. ADUs 800 - 1,200 square feet must utilize a separate OWTS with distinct reserve area. See SLO LAMP Section 2.D.5.
- If the parcel is less than 1 acre in size and is not served by a public water system (i.e. individual domestic well), an ADU cannot be permitted.
- If the parcel is located within the Nipomo Septic Prohibition Area or the Los Osos Septic Prohibition Area, the County may not permit OWTS. Connection to public sewer is required. Any requests for exemptions in the areas identified in Figures 4 and 5 of the LAMP must be reviewed and approved by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) for the OWTS. Permits in these areas for new or replacement systems or repairs cannot be reviewed or approved by the County.
- If sewer is available as defined in the LAMP, the ADU may be required to connect to sewer.

For re-use of existing septic system components, an inspection needs to be completed and documented by a contractor with an A, C-36, or C-42 license and competency in the operation and maintenance of OWTS. A plot plan needs to be provided along with the information on page 3. The system must be pumped by a registered liquid waste hauler.

All access lids and risers must be replaced and secured before leaving the site. All inspection and testing procedures and field activities must be fully documented. Test results indicating surface effluent must be reported to P&B immediately and action must be taken immediately to mitigate the surfacing effluent (i.e. pumping by registered pumper). Repairs to correct failures must be completed under permit as soon as feasible.

Plot Plan Design Submittal Requirements

All Information Scaled: 1” = 10’ to 1” = 40’

Septic plot plans may be drawn on an 8 ½” by 11” piece of blank paper.

On the plot plan show the septic design and location of the Sewage Disposal System and 100% Expansion Area in relation to all attached dwellings, structures, wells, rocks, watercourses, and other pertinent objects.

Certification of Existing Subsurface Sewage Disposal System	Date of Inspection:
APN Number:	Permit Number:
Property Address:	Owner's Name:

I, _____, examined the existing subsurface sewage disposal system at the above location on the date noted above and determined that the septic tank capacity is _____ gallons.

There are _____ bedrooms in the dwelling.

There are _____ leach lines, each leach line is _____ feet long.

There are _____ seepage pits, each _____ feet in diameter and _____ feet deep.

The leach bed is _____ feet by _____ feet, totaling _____ square feet of leach bed area.

The septic tank is constructed (choose one): ____ concrete ____ fiberglass _____ other (please specify)

The septic tank is in good condition. The inlet and outlet tees are present, and the baffle is not cracked, broken, or displaced. (Please verify and comment below): ____ YES ____ NO

Comments: _____

While pumping the tank, did effluent flow back into the tank from the absorption system? ____ YES ____ NO

Prior to pumping, was the liquid level in the tank above the outlet tee? ____ YES ____ NO

Is the system design gravity feed? ____ YES ____ NO

Are there wells located on the adjacent property? ____ YES* ____ NO

* Indicate distance of the well(s) from: Septic Tank _____ft. , Leach lines _____ft. , Seepage Pit _____ft.

Indicate distances from springs, lakes, and other natural drainage course for the following:

Septic Tank _____ ft. Leach lines _____ ft. Seepage Pits _____ ft.

Hydraulic Load Test: Volume of water/time:

Signs of surfacing effluent:

Pass/Fail:

Additional Comments: _____

Initial: _____ It is my opinion that the system appears to be in good working order and can be expected to function properly with proper maintenance. No repairs are necessary at this time.

Initial: _____ It is my opinion that the system is not in good working order and will not function properly without the following repairs:
_____

I certify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct:

Signature	License Number	Expiration Date

Name of Company holding License

Address	Phone Number