



Division of Environmental Health

100 H Street - Suite 100 - Eureka, CA 95501

Phone: 707-445-6215 - Toll Free: 800-963-9241

Fax: 707-441-5699

envhealth@co.humboldt.ca.us

TINY HOUSE VILLAGE WASTEWATER AND WATER SUPPLY GUIDANCE

In areas where public sewer and public water services are not available, onsite sewage disposal feasibility and water supply availability are significant factors in determining whether a parcel can accommodate a Tiny House Village. The information below highlights important factors for Tiny House Village development on parcels utilizing private water supply and private sewage disposal.

Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS)

- All proposed OWTS development associated with a Tiny House Village must be permitted by the Planning and Building Department with design approval by DEH, supported by soils testing completed by a Qualified Professional: Registered Civil Engineer, Registered Environmental Health Specialist, Professional Geologist, or Certified Soil Scientist who has experience designing standard or non-standard onsite wastewater treatment systems.
- OWTS soils testing must identify suitable primary and replacement dispersal field areas for the Tiny House Village. Applicants are encouraged to be thoughtful while considering parking and structure placement to ensure adequate dispersal field areas can be located on-site.
- Wet weather testing, if required, should be completed early in the test season to ensure a timely evaluation of your project.
- OWTS design submittals associated with Tiny House Villages must be sized to accommodate a minimum wastewater flow rate of 120 gallons per day per tiny house. Increased wastewater flow rates may be necessary depending on anticipated tiny house occupancy or accessory services proposed (ex. shared laundry services).
- Proposed OWTS designed to accommodate more than 1,500 gallons per day must assess cumulative impacts related to potential groundwater mounding and nitrate loading effects by the system.

Water Supply

- The application should clearly describe the proposed drinking water source and identify its location on submitted site plans.
- Any water source with more than four (4) service connections is a state small water system and requires additional permitting through Humboldt County Division of Environmental Health. Any water source with more than fourteen (14) service connections or serving twenty-five (25) or

more persons any sixty-day period per year is a public water system and requires additional permitting through the State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water.

- Water quantity testing must be completed during the dry season (August 1 through September 30) by a qualified consultant, demonstrating a minimum production of 720 gallons per day per dwelling on the parcel for individual water systems and 3 gallons per minute for state small water systems and public water systems.
 - When multiple sources are proposed to provide the minimum water supply for a shared water system, each source shall be tested simultaneously.
 - Drawdown effects on all wells within 300 feet of the proposed production well, or spring, must be evaluated and disclosed.

Applicants are encouraged to review the *OWTS Regulations and Technical Manual* and *Water Production Standards and Test Procedures* documents for further detail regarding onsite wastewater and water supply requirements, available at: <https://humboldt.gov/730/Land-Use-Program-Documents-and-Forms>. Applicants can also contact DEH's Land Use Program staff for more information at (707) 445-6215 or envhealth@co.humboldt.ca.us.