



Questions submitted during the OWTS Manual Public Outreach of September 29, 2018

Monte Rio Community Center

Q1. Conversion of a laundry room to a bathroom (interior TI)

Q2. How do you know if you have a cesspool?
Refer to County records if not, then findings report.

Q3. W&S informed homeowner that we had to inspect at a cost of \$4k
This is going away with current proposed manual.

Q4. Will a cesspool trigger an inspection?
Not by the County, but possibly by the State.

Q5. What does "Evaluate Septic Area" mean in Permit Sonoma flow chart?

Q6. What is TMDL?

Charles Reed, Regional Water Board: TMDL: Total Maximum Daily Load the maximum amount of a pollutant that a water body can handle and still meet the requirements is also a process to bring water quality back to water quality standards. If OWTS is identified as a source Nitrogen or pathogen impairment the APMP there are then 3 options defined by the regional Water Board. How this will affect the public depends upon the source. Concerns from public are parcel geography and cost. State has a pilot program with funding from the state water board with funding and established a consumer advisory group to provide input from the community. County is funding a TMDL ombudsman for lower Russian River area.

Q7. TMDL-how will the state water board know there is a problem?

They will send letters requesting information. They will also using the county's records. If not a cesspool, and hydraulically overloaded it would not comply and would be referred back to the county. Pretreatment not compliant with the TMDL it will be referred back to the county to bring into compliance.



Q8. My house is within 600 feet of the river, will I be impacted?

It will be up to the states TMDL if soil is good.

Q9. What is a supplemental system?

There are several but cannot be recommended.

Q10. Will supplemental systems be required for all houses within 600 feet?

If permitted with septic and leach field, you should be fine and not need supplemental.

Q11. Question regarding findings report.

Qualified Consultant can provide and estimated at \$3k.

Q12. Our property is outside 600 feet but bounded by a small ephemeral stream on one side and another on the other side question is a tributary to the river.

May have trouble meeting the setback and the process to address boundary increase. Perennial is 25 tank and variance would require mitigation using advance treatment there are 10s of thousands of systems and they have their hands full and tanks instead of utilizing the soil to process.

Q13. Can the County be proactive in providing assistance to homeowners?

Supervisor Lynda Hopkins has been working with the Regional and State Board seeking funding to assist homeowners and possible utilizing county finding to frontload the other funding. There could potentially be a revolving fund. Also possibly utilizing property taxes to assist financing

Q14. What classifies a room as a bedroom to trigger a septic evaluation?

A bedroom must have a closet, if not a bedroom must not have a closet must add bookshelves or desk or 4 foot wide opening into other living space or a half wall.

Q15. What if you do not have room on your property for a compliant system?

If you are within the TMDL boundary and you receive a letter from the state, they will require you to upgrade. A small lot with steep terrain may require supplemental and advanced treatment with disinfection and dispersal. One option might be to upgrade or utilize a community system. They may have the option to connect to another system. The Regional Water Board is considering all possible options.

Q16. When will public sewer be available if ever to other parts of Forestville?

Supervisor Hopkins is working on this and addressing this to improve the environment and interest in sewer extensions on Board of LAFCO expansion of sewer districts with Forestville

wastewater the opportunity to expand. We are exploring all possible options through the grant funding; sharing of property for leach fields etc.

Q17. What is the possibility of a sewage system in Monte Rio?

Historically, this has been an issue.

Q18. What is a supplemental system? Various types, sizes, costs, etc. Typically it is larger than a septic tank and some may be buried. An in-tank treatment seems more affordable and may help restore a leach field that is not able to handle the capacity.

Q19. What about composting toilets? They are part of the experimental program. We need more installed so that we can see how well they operate.

Q20. Will a use permit trigger septic review?

Many will not as they do not affect septic capacity. A restaurant use permit, for example, would if you are doubling your patrons.

Q21. What is the County doing about vacation rentals that exceed septic capacity?

Supervisor Hopkins requested that you report illegal vacation rentals to Code Enforcement.

Q22. Does the county intend to refer instances of cesspools or non-compliant systems to the State? No. The state has requested our data for reference and they may utilize that information.

Q23. I want to remove or replace my leach line using the same footprint it would be deeper and using gravel.

Repair is 600 feet in same trench, replacement is new and if you would like to put in up to 24% of existing lineal footage feet as repair.

Q24. Is there any way to modify the replacement for cesspools?

The only way is for the state to change their policy on this.

Q25. What is our estimate on the number of cesspools?

A lot as the area was used for vacations using older technology.

Q26. If we have a cesspool and put our house on the market does the County report anything?

No we do not.