



**WET WEATHER GROUNDWATER DETERMINATION  
(COUNTY DECLARED DISASTER)**

**WLS-041**

**PURPOSE:** To determine presence and depth of groundwater to site and design septic systems.

**PROCEDURE:** Qualified Consultants shall independently perform wet weather groundwater determinations only during open wet weather testing periods. A Qualified Consultant is a Civil Engineer, Environmental Health Specialist, Soil Scientist or Geologist currently licensed or registered in the state of California with expertise in septic systems. Permit Sonoma shall open wet weather testing periods based on the criteria within the County of Sonoma Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Regulations and Technical Standards (OWTS Manual) and shall provide a public notice online.

Observation holes shall be dug to determine the presence and depth of groundwater in areas proposed to install septic systems. A minimum of three observation holes shall be dug for the primary dispersal area and a minimum of three observations holes shall be dug for the reserve replacement area. Observations holes shall be spaced no greater than 50 feet apart. While complying with the aforementioned criteria, the Qualified Consultant shall determine the appropriate number and locations of observation holes based on the size and type of the anticipated septic system.

- A. Create observations holes by any the following methods:
  - 1. Excavate a soil profile hole. Leave the hole open, undisturbed, and adequately protected for a minimum of 24 hours before performing groundwater readings.
  - 2. Excavate a soil profile hole. Insert a perforated pipe vertically in the hole. Place native, uncompacted, non-mounded soil around the pipe. Wait a minimum of 24 hours before performing groundwater readings.
  - 3. Hand dig or bore a hole to at least 36 inches below the proposed disposal system depth. Insert a perforated pipe vertically in the hole. Fill the annular space with gravel to a depth adequate to stabilize the pipe. Wait a minimum of 24 hours before performing groundwater readings.
  - 4. Observations holes shall be setback a minimum of 50 feet from any interceptor drains.
- B. Create a site plan that includes all applicable features noted in the Required Site Plan Information section of this form. All observation holes (passing and failing) shall be identified numerically on the site plan and by GPS coordinates within the table provided in this form.

**Note:** A minimum of three passing holes in the primary dispersal area and three passing holes in the reserve replacement area are required. Plan accordingly to meet criteria.
- C. Use a tape measure to measure the vertical distance between the ground surface and the groundwater surface elevation in each hole.
- D. Record each groundwater reading in the table provided within this form.
- E. Complete all remaining fields within this form and sign, stamp, and date the Qualified Consultant Certification section.
- F. Submit a completed copy of this form with the septic permit application.

**WET WEATHER GROUNDWATER DETERMINATION  
(COUNTY DECLARED DISASTER)**

**WLS-041**

**Wet Weather Groundwater Determination Form  
(County Declared Disaster)**

**Site Information:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Site Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City/Town/Location

\_\_\_\_\_  
Assessor's Parcel Number(s)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Observations

**Qualified Consultant:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Company (if applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

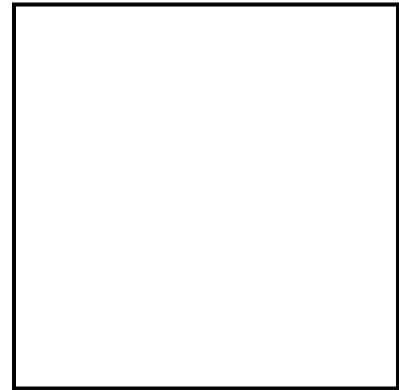
\_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

**Qualified Consultant Certification:**

*"I certify that groundwater observations and determinations have been performed by me, or under my responsible charge, in compliance with the procedures contained within this document and the County of Sonoma Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Regulations and Technical Standards (OWTS Manual). The results reported on this form represent the true and accurate groundwater readings of work performed at the site address on the date of observation noted above."*



\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Qualified Consultant

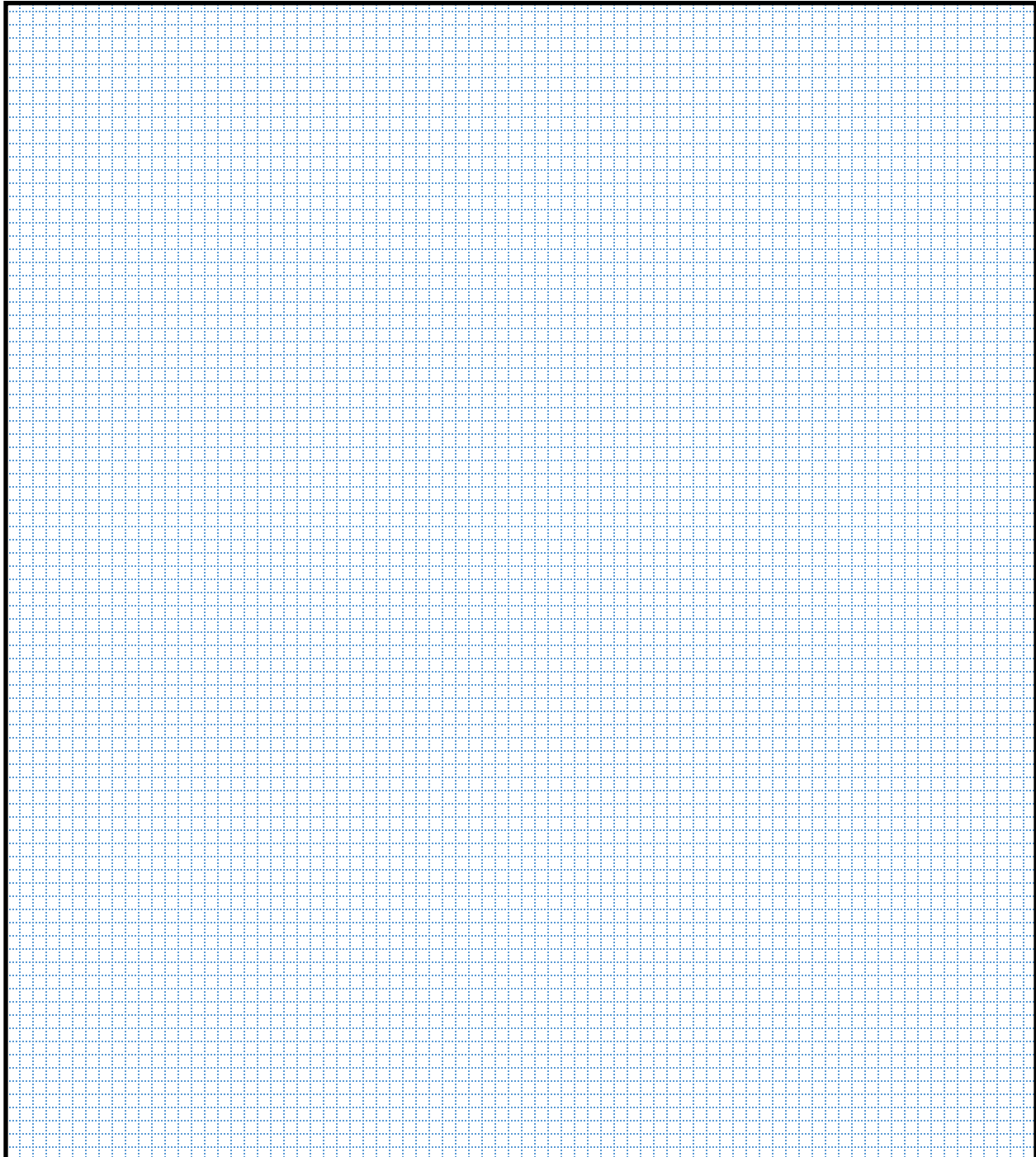
Professional Seal

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
License/Registration Expiration Date

**Required Site Plan Information:**

A site plan is required to identify the location of observation holes and significant features of the property. The site plan must be of sufficient clarity to identify the following minimum requirements: all observation holes (passing and failing) clearly labeled and identified, north arrow, property lines, building locations, roads, existing septic system components (if applicable), interceptor drains (if applicable), and any other significant site features. The site plan shall either be drawn in the space provided below or be created using conventional drafting techniques or software and be submitted as an addendum to this form.



**WET WEATHER GROUNDWATER DETERMINATION  
(COUNTY DECLARED DISASTER)**

**WLS-041**

**Observation Holes Data:**

Use the table provided below to record groundwater readings. Attach additional sheets as needed.

Hole #			

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_