

**SEPTIC SITE EVALUATION GENERAL GUIDELINES
(COUNTY DECLARED DISASTER)****WLS-045**

PURPOSE: To provide guidance for septic site evaluations related to County declared disaster rebuilding efforts.

BACKGROUND: In an effort to provide greater customer service and efficiency to the septic permitting process related to County declared disaster rebuilding, participation of staff in septic site evaluation field work will not be required for single-lot residential developments on legally existing parcels. Qualified Consultants shall independently perform septic site evaluations related to County declared disaster rebuilding septic permits. 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. Septic site evaluations include soil profile evaluations (pre-percs), soil percolation testing, and wet weather groundwater determinations.

Since staff will not be participating in septic site evaluation field work, Permit Sonoma has developed this alternate method by which to ensure septic systems are appropriately located and designed. The alternate method relies on the expertise, professionalism, and integrity of the Qualified Consultants in our community. Qualified Consultants do not need to submit a Request for Service form or obtain a septic site evaluation permit. Qualified Consultants should not contact staff or schedule inspections to perform these septic site evaluations. However, submission of septic site evaluation results shall be required with the septic permit application.

Septic Permit Application Submittal Requirements

Permit Sonoma is requiring the submittal of all applicable standardized forms, documenting and certifying results of septic site evaluation field work performed by Qualified Consultants, be included with septic permit applications.

Soil Profile Evaluations (Pre-Percs)

Soil profile evaluations are required for all new and replacement septic systems.

Soil Percolation Testing

Soil percolation testing is required for undeveloped properties and for sites with soils classified as Zone 3 or 4 (according to the Soil Texture Triangle Chart):

- If soil is classified as Zone 3 or 4 and has a Plasticity Index less than 20 then the soil percolation testing may be performed year-round.
- If soil is classified as Zone 3 or 4 and has a Plasticity Index greater than or equal to 20 then the soil percolation testing must be performed during open wet weather testing periods.

Wet Weather Groundwater Determinations

Wet weather groundwater determinations are required for all new and replacement septic systems proposed to be located in areas with slopes less than or equal to 5% and shall only be performed during open wet weather testing periods.

Wet Weather Testing Periods

Information regarding wet weather testing periods can be found here

<http://sonomacounty.ca.gov/PRMD/Eng-and-Constr/Wet-Weather-Testing/>