

## Section 1 General

### 1.1 Purpose

- A. The *OWTS Manual* amends in its entirety the *Regulations for Onsite Sewage Dispersal in Sonoma County (November 2002 et seq.)* and is intended to establish conformity with standards for the permit approval, installation, and operation of OWTS within the County. Modifications to County OWTS standards are necessary to update, add and/or replace outdated County regulations and to comply with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) *OWTS Policy*. These standards are adopted to address the potential creation of health hazards and nuisance conditions, to protect the quality of surface water and groundwater in Sonoma County, and to meet provisions of **Tier 2 Local Area Management Program (LAMP)** requirements of the *OWTS Policy*.

### 1.2 Authority

- A. This *OWTS Manual* provides the regulatory requirements, policy, procedural and technical details for implementation of the Porter Cologne Water Quality Control Act (California Water Code Section 13000 et seq.), the SWRQB *OWTS Policy*, and applicable sections of Sonoma County Code Chapters 7 and 24. The California Water Code 13282 authorizes counties to adopt and enforce regulations, conditions, restrictions, and limitations regarding the dispersal of waste. The SWRQB *OWTS Policy* authorizes the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) to approve a LAMP for the implementation of the *OWTS Policy*. The Sonoma County Code Chapter 24-31.5 authorizes the Permit Authority Director to adopt and promulgate standards for OWTS.

### 1.3 Applicability

- A. These standards apply to OWTS, where there is a proposed or existing residence, a place of business or other building or place which people occupy, or where persons congregate, reside or are employed and where the maximum daily flow rate of wastewater produced is 10,000 gallons per day or less.
- B. Additionally, review and approval by the RWQCB is required for OWTS in cases where:
1. The maximum wastewater flow rate handled by the OWTS is more than 10,000 gallons per day;
  2. The OWTS is categorized as a community system;
  3. The OWTS receives high-strength wastewater, unless the waste stream is from a commercial food service building;
  4. The OWTS receives wastewater from a commercial food service building: (1) with a BOD higher than 900 milligrams per liter, or (2) that does not have a properly sized and functioning oil/grease interceptor;
  5. The RWQCB asserts jurisdiction.

