



City of Grover Beach Building Division

INFORMATIONAL HANDOUT – SEPTIC TANK ABANDONMENT AND CONNECTION TO CITY SEWER

154 South Eighth Street, Grover Beach, CA 93433 – Phone (805) 473-4520 – www.groverbeach.org

What do I do if my septic tank has failed or needs repairs?

Some properties were developed with septic systems due to the lack of availability of City sewer. As of 2021, the City has made sewer available to almost all properties in the City. Septic tank systems that require repairs or fail shall be abandoned and the property connected to the City sewer system unless repairs and/or replacement may occur as allowed in GBMC Article VII Section 7139. Property owners may also elect to abandon their septic system and connect to City sewer at any time.

Are there any fees associated with connecting to City sewer?

Payment of development impact fees are required prior to connecting and may be a significant cost. Please contact the Building Division to determine the fee based on the existing or proposed use. There are also additional building permit and encroachment permit fees associated with connecting to City sewer.

What steps do I need to complete in order to connect to City sewer?

A Building Permit is required prior to connecting to City sewer. The Building Permit will require a site plan indicating the following:

- Location of the septic tank to be abandoned.
- Location, size and depth of new sewer lateral (excavations more than five-feet deep require an OSHA-approved safety plan).
- Location and size of existing water meter.

An Encroachment Permit is also required prior to connecting to City sewer because work within the City's right-of-way (i.e., street and sidewalk) will be necessary to connect to the City's sewer main located in the street. The Encroachment Permit will ensure work is properly performed and all public improvements are restored to City standards.

After a Building Permit and Encroachment Permit are issued by the City, the contractor hired by the owner (a Type A or C-34 contractor license is required for work in the public right-of-way) may proceed with installing the new sewer lateral and connecting to City sewer. The existing septic system will need to be abandoned after sewer lateral connection has been made. The septic tank shall be pumped out by a California licensed contractor and the property owner shall complete one of the following actions:

- Abandon the septic tank in place by one of the following:
 - Cut at least one 12"x12" hole per chamber and fill with approved aggregates such as sand or clean gravel, or
 - Fill tank entirely with slurry to prevent a future hazard.

An inspection is required prior to backfilling to confirm the tank has been filled.

- Completely remove the septic tank. An inspection is required prior to backfilling to confirm the tank has been removed.
- Convert the septic system to detain on-site stormwater, graywater, or reuse. Please contact the Building Division, a building permit is required.
- For additional questions, please call the Building Division at (805) 473-4520 or email commdev@groverbeach.org.