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|  | Manual: Environmental Health Services |
| | Number: 12000.03 |
| Prepared By: David Brummond | Original Policy Date: 02-1-07 |
| Revised By: David Brummond | Last Revision Date: 11-10-10 |
| Authorized By: Rick Merrifield, Director | Page 1 of 2 |
| TITLE: Onsite Sewage Treatment Systems: Disposal Fields Attached to Cesspools | |

Authority:

Santa Barbara County Code, Chapter 29, Article II

Policy:

Section 29-10(a)(2) of the County Code specifies that cesspools shall be properly abandoned upon discovery in accordance with the criteria specified in Section 29-12. If the cesspool has been augmented with an overflow disposal field, then the disposal field must also be abandoned and replaced. Since cesspools are designed to be self-contained disposal units, a new complete onsite sewage treatment system (OSTS) that meets all of the criteria contained in Chapter 29, Article II will be required to replace the abandoned cesspool. If the property owner can provide approved documentation that the existing overflow disposal field was constructed under permit from the recognized administrative authority, it may be incorporated into the design of the replacement system.

Procedures

The following procedure is to be followed by Environmental Health Services when an inspection by EHS staff or a Qualified Inspector reveals that the OSTS consists of a cesspool or a cesspool connected to an overflow disposal field.

1. When notified that a cesspool exists, EHS will issue the property owner a notice to abandon the cesspool under permit and inspection by EHS and connect to the public sewer. If the sewer is not available, the cesspool is to be replaced with an OSTS that meets the criteria outlined in Chapter 29.
2. If the property owner produces evidence, such as an approved permit or approved plans, that the overflow disposal field was constructed under the oversight of the Administrative Authority, the disposal field may be incorporated into the design of the replacement disposal field. Current regulatory setbacks and requirements are to be met to the maximum extent feasible for the new system.

3. Prior to the commencement of any corrective action required as a result of discovering a cesspool, the property owner or his/her authorized agent shall submit a permit application for a new OSTS.

In applying for an OSTS permit, the owner or his/her authorized representative shall adhere to all standard permit application procedures, including the submittal of plans and specifications, an original application with “wet” signature (not a facsimile or copy), the appropriate fee and subsequent documentation as required.