



Division of Environmental Health

100 H Street - Suite 100 - Eureka, CA 95501

Phone: 707-445-6215 - Toll Free: 800-963-9241

Fax: 707-441-5699

envhealth@co.humboldt.ca.us

ADU WASTEWATER AND WATER SUPPLY GUIDANCE

In areas where public sewer and public water services are not available, onsite sewage disposal feasibility and water supply availability are significant factors in determining whether a parcel can accommodate an Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU). The information below summarizes the Division of Environmental Health's (DEH) requirements for the construction of an ADU on parcels utilizing private water supply and private sewage disposal.

A few important points to remember during the data gathering phases of your project are listed as follows:

Onsite Wastewater Treatment

- In most cases, the existing Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) associated with the primary residence will not be sized appropriately to accommodate additional sewage flow from the ADU. In such cases, modification of the existing OWTS or development of a new, separate OWTS will be required to support the ADU.
- All proposed OWTS development associated with the ADU, including modifications or new construction, must be approved by DEH and supported by soils testing completed by a Qualified Professional: Registered Civil Engineer, Registered Environmental Health Specialist, Professional Geologist, or Certified Soil Scientist who has experience designing standard or non-standard onsite wastewater treatment systems.
- OWTS soils testing must identify suitable primary and replacement dispersal field areas for both the ADU and primary residence.
- Wet weather testing, if required, should be completed early in the test season to ensure a timely evaluation of your project.
- Typically, OWTS design submittals associated with ADU's shall be sized to accommodate a minimum wastewater flow rate of 300 gallons per day. The ADU wastewater flow rate is considered independent of the primary residence wastewater flow rate.

Water Supply

- The application should clearly describe the proposed water source and its location.
- Water quantity testing must be completed during the dry season (August 1 through September 30) by a qualified consultant, demonstrating a minimum production of 720 gallons per day per dwelling on the parcel.
- When multiple sources are proposed to provide the minimum water supply for a shared water system, each source shall be tested simultaneously.
- Drawdown effects on all wells within 300 feet of the proposed production well, or spring, must be evaluated and disclosed.
- Any water source with more than four (4) service connections is a public water system and must meet California Department of Public Health State Office of Drinking Water requirements for small community water supplies.

Applicants are encouraged to review the *OWTS Regulations and Technical Manual* and *Water Production Standards and Test Procedures* documents for further detail regarding onsite wastewater and water supply requirements, available at: <https://humboldt.gov/730/Land-Use-Program-Documents-and-Forms>. Applicants can also contact DEH's Land Use Program staff for more information at (707) 445-6215 or envhealth@co.humboldt.ca.us.