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Chapter 100 Individual Sewage Disposal Systems

- **Section 010 Title**
 - This chapter shall be known as the "Individual Sewage Disposal System Code of Glenn County." (Ord. 960 § 1 (part), 1990.)
- **Section 020 Scope**
 - A. Every individual sewage disposal system shall be designed, located and constructed to prevent the discharge of sewage or partially treated sewage onto the ground surface, into the structure served, into surface waters, or into the ground water, including zones of seasonal soil saturation.
 - B. Every individual sewage disposal system shall be designed, located and constructed so as not to create a nuisance.
 - C. Every individual sewage disposal system shall be designed and constructed to adequately dispose of all the liquid waste generated from the structure or facility it is serving.
 - D. Every individual sewage disposal system shall be adequately maintained.
 - E. Every individual sewage disposal system site evaluation and design shall be performed by a registered environmental health specialist (REHS), registered civil engineer, registered geologist or other qualified professional who is knowledgeable to the satisfaction of the health officer in the procedures required by this chapter. (Ord. 960 § 1 (part), 1990.)
- **Section 030 Higher Requirements Authorized**
 - Nothing contained in this chapter shall be construed to prevent the health officer from requiring compliance with higher requirements than those contained herein where such higher requirements are essential to maintain a safe and sanitary condition. (Ord. 960 § 1 (part), 1990.)
- **Section 040 Design Standards & Site Evaluation Procedures**

- A. The health department shall publish design standards and site evaluation procedures for standard and alternative disposal systems and any other facilities normally found in conjunction with on-site sewage disposal systems.
- B. When and as required, the health department shall revise the published design standards to reflect the current public health concepts and legal requirements.
- C. The design and evaluation standards shall be presented to the county board of supervisors for adoption by resolution. When adopted, these standards shall have the force and effect of law. (Ord. 960 § 1 (part), 1990.)

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Section 060 Authority

- The board of supervisors of the county adopts this chapter pursuant to the California Health and Safety Code Section 5415. (Ord. 960 § 1 (part), 1990.)

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Section 070 Section

- This chapter shall apply to all territory embraced within the unincorporated limits of the county. (Ord. 960 § 1 (part), 1990.)

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Section 100 General

- A. Public Sewer Connection. When public sewers become available to the premises served, the use of the individual sewage disposal system shall be discontinued and abandoned in accordance with Section 7.10.160 within that period of time required by law.
 - B. Failing System. A failing or malfunctioning individual sewage disposal system shall be corrected or its use discontinued.
 - C. Failures. A failing individual sewage disposal system shall be one which causes or results in any of the following conditions:
 1. The failure to accept sewage discharges creating backup of sewage into the structure served by the individual sewage disposal system;
 2. The discharge of sewage to the surface of the ground;
 3. The discharge of sewage to any surface waters; or
 4. The lack of an unsaturated vertical soil separation between the bottom of the soil absorption system and ground water.
 - D. Soil Capacity Restriction on Improved Property. No property shall be improved in excess of its capacity to absorb sewage effluent in the quantities and by the means provided in this code. (Ord. 960 § 1 (part), 1990.)
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Section 120 Applicability

- A. General. Every person owning, leasing, occupying or using any structure designed or used for human habitation, industrial use or commercial activities shall be required either to provide and maintain a properly functioning sewage disposal system or to provide and maintain a connection to a public sewer. The health officer may establish additional conditions necessary for the health and safety of the occupants.
- B. Referenced Standards. Where differences occur between provisions of this chapter and referenced standards, the provisions of this chapter shall apply.
- C. Definitions contained in the county administrative regulations shall also apply to this chapter. (Ord. 960 § 1 (part), 1990.)

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Section 130 Existing Systems

- A. Alterations or Additions. Alterations or additions may be made to any system without requiring the existing system to comply with all the requirements of this chapter, provided such new work conforms to that required for a new system. Alterations or additions shall not cause an existing system to become unsafe or adversely affect the performance of the sewage disposal system.
- B. Repairs. Repairs to failing individual sewage disposal systems shall conform to the requirements of this chapter, except variations specifically approved by the health officer.
- C. Permit Required. Alterations, additions, abandonment and repairs shall be done only after obtaining a permit therefor. (Ord. 960 § 1 (part), 1990.)

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Section 140 Existing Use

- A. Continuation. The use of a sewage disposal system existing on the date of adoption of the ordinance codified in this chapter may be continued without change, except as may be specifically covered in this chapter or deemed necessary by the health officer for the general safety and welfare of the occupants and the public.
- B. Change in use. It is unlawful to make any change in the use or occupancy of any structure that may affect the sewage disposal system without approval of the health officer. Any new use shall comply with the provisions of this chapter. (Ord. 960 § 1 (part), 1990.)

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Section 150 Maintenance

- All systems and appurtenances, both existing and new, shall be maintained in a safe and sanitary condition. The owner shall be responsible for the safe and sanitary maintenance of the system and appurtenances. (Ord. 960 § 1 (part), 1990.)

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• **Section 160 Removal From Service**

- Before a sewage disposal system serving a structure can be removed from service, the owner shall properly abandon the sewage disposal system. All abandoned treatment tanks, ungraveled seepage pits, and cesspools shall have the contents pumped and discarded properly. The tank shall be removed or immediately filled with earthen materials and compacted. (Ord. 960 § 1 (part), 1990.)

• **Section 190 Duties & Powers of the Health Officer**

- A. General. The health officer shall enforce all the provisions of this chapter. No variance from the standards specified in this chapter shall be permitted unless first approved by the health officer.

B. Right of Entry. In the discharge of duties, the health officer shall have the authority to enter at any reasonable hour any structure or premises in the jurisdiction to enforce the provisions of this chapter.

(Ord. 960 § 1 (part), 1990.)

• **Section 200 Specific Limitations**

- A. Liquid Waste. All liquid waste shall enter the septic tank unless otherwise specifically exempted by the health officer or this chapter.

B. Clear Water. The discharge of surface, rain or other clear water into a sewage disposal system is prohibited.

C. Water Softener and Iron Filter Backwash. Water softener, iron filter discharge or swimming pool and spa filter backwash shall not discharge into the sewage disposal system.

D. System location. Sewage disposal systems shall be located so as to be accessible for maintenance and repair. Septic tanks shall be located so as to allow pumping.

(Ord. 960 § 1 (part), 1990.)

• **Section 210 Violations**

- A. No person shall install, use, operate, maintain, extend, alter, repair or abandon any individual sewage disposal system that does not conform to the requirements of this chapter and any additional requirements promulgated by the health officer.

B. The health officer shall serve a notice of violation or order on the person responsible for work in violation of the provisions of this chapter. Such order shall direct the discontinuance of the illegal action or condition and the abatement of the violation.

(Ord. 1060 § 32, 1995; Ord. 960 § 1 (part), 1990.)

• **Section 220 Stop Work Order**

- Upon notice from the health officer that work on the sewage disposal system is being conducted in violation of this chapter, or in an unsafe and dangerous manner, such work shall be immediately stopped. The stop work order shall be in writing and shall be issued to the owner of the property involved or to the person doing the work. It shall state the conditions under which work may be resumed. (Ord. 960 § 1 (part), 1990.)

Section 230 Permits

- A. Permit Required. No person, firm, association, organization, partnership, joint venture, business trust, corporation, company or special district formed under the laws of this state shall within the unincorporated area of the county construct, repair or alter an on-site sewage disposal system without first obtaining a permit from the health officer.

B. Action on the Permit Application. The health officer shall review all completed applications for permits. If the application, site evaluation or plans do not conform to the requirements of all pertinent laws, such application shall be denied in writing, stating the reasons there for. If the health officer is satisfied that the proposed work conforms to the requirements of this chapter and all laws and ordinances, a permit shall be approved.

C. Approved Plans. The health officer shall stamp or endorse in writing all permits and all sets of approved plans. One set of such approved plans and the permit shall be retained by the health officer and another set shall be kept at the construction site, open to inspection of the health officer at all reasonable times. All work shall conform to the approved plans for which the permit has been issued and any approved amendments.

D. Expiration of Permit. Any permit shall expire if the authorized work is not completed within one year after issuance. One renewal for one year may be granted prior to permit expiration.

E. Order to Revoke or Suspend:

 1. A permit issued pursuant to the provisions of this chapter may be revoked or suspended by the health officer if he or she determines that a violation of this chapter exists, that written notice has been directed to the permittee specifying the violation, and that the permittee has failed or neglected to make the necessary adjustment within thirty days after receiving such notice.
 2. A permit may also be revoked or suspended by the health officer upon determination that the permit was obtained by false statement or misrepresentation and that the owner has been notified in writing of the action. The suspension or revocation shall be effective upon date of mailing to the owner.

F. Appeal from Denial, Revocation, or Suspension.

 1. An owner whose application for a sewage disposal permit has been denied or whose permit once issued has been revoked, or suspended, may file an appeal in writing with the county board of supervisors. The appeal shall be accompanied by the filing fee established by resolution of the board of supervisors.
 2. The appeal shall be made in writing and shall demonstrate that all of the following circumstances apply:

- a. The property clearly meets all standards of this chapter;
- b. The use of a sewage disposal system on the property is consistent with the intent of the general plan and with all applicable zoning provisions;
- c. The use of an individual sewage disposal system on the property does not pose any danger to the public health and safety.

(Ord. 960 § 1 (part), 1990.)

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Section 240 Emergency Measures

- A. Order to Abate an Emergency Sewage Condition. The health officer shall determine whether or not any of the conditions investigated constitute an emergency sewage condition. If the health officer determines that any such conditions constitute an emergency sewage condition, a written order may be issued to the owner and occupant requiring that the conditions which produced the emergency sewage condition be abated forthwith.

B. Service of Notice and Orders. Each notice or order given or made under this chapter shall be served upon the person occupying the premises upon which the sewage nuisance exists. The order shall be posted upon the premises in a conspicuous place. In addition, a copy of the notice or order shall be mailed to the property owners as their names and addresses appear upon the current assessment roll.

(Ord. 960 § 1 (part), 1990.)

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