

**STATE REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD PROHIBITIONS**  
**Individual, Alternative and Community Systems Prohibitions (Mandatory)**

**Discharges from new soil absorption systems in sites with any of the following conditions are prohibited:**

1. Soils or formations contain continuous channels, cracks, or fractures.<sup>1</sup>
2. For drywells, soils or formations containing 60 percent or greater clay (a soil particle less than two microns in size) unless parcel size is at least two acres.
3. Distances between trench bottom and usable ground water, including perched ground water, less than separation specified by appropriate percolation rate:

Percolation Rate, min/in	Distance, ft.
<1	50 <sup>1</sup>
1-4	20 <sup>1</sup>
5-29	8
>30	5

4. For drywells, distances between pit bottom and usable ground water, including perched ground water, less than separation specified by appropriate soil type:

Soil	Distance, ft.
Gravel's <sup>2</sup>	50 <sup>1</sup>
Gravel's with few fines <sup>3</sup>	20 <sup>1</sup>
Other	10

5. Distances between trench/pit bottom and bedrock or other impervious layer less than ten feet.
6. For leachfields, where percolation rates are slower than 120 min/in, unless parcel size is at least two acres.
7. For leachfields, where soil percolation rates are slower than 60 min./in unless the effluent application rate is 0.1 gpd/ft<sup>2</sup> or less.
8. Areas subject to inundation from a ten-year flood.
9. Natural ground slope of the disposal area exceeds 30 percent.
10. Setback distances less than:

**Minimum Setback  
Distance, Feet**

Domestic water supply well in unconfined aquifer	100
Watercourse <sup>4</sup> where geologic conditions permit water migration	100
Reservoir <sup>5</sup> spillway elevation	200
Springs, natural or any part of man-made spring	100

11. While new septic tank systems should generally be limited to new divisions of land having a minimum parcel size of one acre, where soil and other physical constraints are particularly favorable, parcel size shall not be less than one-half acre.
12. Within a reservoir<sup>5</sup> watershed where the density for each land division is less than 2.5 acres for areas without approved Wastewater Management Plans.
13. For individual systems on new land divisions and commercial, institutional, and sanitary industrial systems

- without an area set aside for dual leachfields (100 percent replacement area).
14. Commercial, institutional, or sanitary industrial systems not basing design on daily peak flow estimate.
15. Any site unable to maintain subsurface disposal.
16. Any subdivision unless the subdivider clearly demonstrates the use of the system will be in the best public interest, that beneficial water uses will not be adversely affected, and compliance with all Basin Plan prohibitions is demonstrated.
17. Lot sizes, dwelling densities or site conditions causing detrimental impacts to water quality.
18. Any area where continued use of on-site systems constitutes a public health hazard, an existing or threatened condition of water pollution, or nuisance.

**Discharge from community subsurface disposal systems (serving more than five parcels or more than five dwelling units) are prohibited unless:**

1. Drywells have at least 15 vertical feet between pit bottom and highest usable ground water, including perched ground water.
2. Sewerage facilities are operated by a public agency. (If a demonstration is made to the Board that an existing public agency is unavailable and formation of a new public agency is unreasonable, a private entity with adequate financial, legal, and institutional resources to assume responsibility for waste discharges).
3. Dual disposal systems are installed (200% of total of original calculated disposal area).
4. An expansion area is included for replacement of the original system (300% total).
5. Community systems provide duplicate individual equipment components subject to failure.
6. Discharge from community systems does not exceed 40 grams per day total nitrogen, on the average, per ½ acre of total development overlying ground water recharge areas, unless local governing jurisdictions adopt Wastewater Management Plans subsequently approved by the Regional Board.

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<sup>1</sup> Unless a set-back distance of at least 250 feet to any domestic water supply well or surface water is assured.  
<sup>2</sup> Gravel's - Soils with over 95 percent by weight coarser than a No. 200 sieve and over half of the coarse fraction larger than a No. 4 sieve.  
<sup>3</sup> Gravel's with few fines - Soils with 90 percent to 94 percent coarse fraction larger than a No. 4 sieve.  
<sup>4</sup> Watercourse - ① A natural or artificial channel for passage of water. ② A running stream of water. ③ A natural stream fed from permanent or natural sources, including rivers, creeks, runs, and rivulets. There must be a stream, usually flowing in a particular direction (through it need not flow continuously) in a definite channel, having a bed or banks and usually discharging into some stream or body of water.  
<sup>5</sup> Reservoir - A pond, lake, tank, basin, or other space either natural or created in whole or in part by the building of engineering structures, which is used for storage, regulation, and control of water, recreation, power, flood control, or drinking.