

Monterey County Health Department

Environmental Health Bureau

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Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS) Qualified Professionals

The Monterey County LAMP, Section 5.6, specifies that OWTS must be sited, designed and constructed properly in order to meet the goals and objectives of the LAMP. Therefore, specific qualifications and licenses are required to design, construct, maintain, repair and/or replace an OWTS in Monterey County. In or around July 2019, the Environmental Health Bureau (EHB) intends to establish a Qualified Professional registration program that will require an individual or entity to maintain an annual permit to participate in OWTS siting, design, construction and/or maintenance.

Qualified Consultants conduct site evaluations, soil investigations and percolation testing. A qualified consultant shall be a registered California professional, including Civil Engineer, Professional Geologist, or Certified Engineering Geologist or other qualified professional as approved by the EHB.

Qualified Designers design an OWTS using information prepared by a qualified consultant. A qualified designer shall be a California Registered Civil Engineer, Registered Environmental Health Specialist, or other qualified professional as approved by the EHB.

Individuals or entities that lack the specific professional license or certification specified above but have experience in OWTS design may submit a written request for consideration by the Director of EHB to obtain interim approval to design conventional OWTS. The request shall include the following at a minimum:

- *Narrative indicating an understanding of Monterey County Code, Chapter 15.20, and the Monterey County LAMP; and*
- *Explanation of how findings and recommendations from a Qualified Consultant will be incorporated into the OWTS design; and*
- *Narrative indicating experience in OWTS siting, design and/or construction that demonstrates an ability to act in the capacity of a Qualified Designer.*

Qualified Installers construct, modify, repair, replace, abandon, or demolish an OWTS. A qualified installer shall be a contractor duly licensed by the California State Contractor's Board to install OWTS, such as an A, C-36, C-42 or B license holder (provided the B-license holder is installing the OWTS in conjunction with a new construction project as appropriate under applicable State contractor's law. An owner/builder may abandon or demolish an OWTS septic tank under permit from the EHB without a contractor's license.

Qualified Liquid Waste Haulers facilitate routine and emergency maintenance of a septic tank by pumping septage and hauling it to an approved wastewater treatment facility. Liquid waste haulers are required to maintain a separate license to operate in Monterey County and shall not be required to register as qualified professionals.

Qualified Service Providers operate, maintain and service alternative OWTS. A qualified service provider shall be an individual or company certified by an alternative OWTS manufacturer or proprietor to conduct operation, maintenance and service activities for each type of supplemental treatment or alternative dispersal system they service, or other qualified service provider as approved by the EHB.