



# CITY OF FORT BRAGG

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## **Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Revisions of the Sewer Use Section of the Municipal Code.**

### **Changes to Residential Requirements**

Q. Are there any changes to the Municipal Code that will affect residential home owners?

A. Sewer laterals will be tested by the City when adjacent sewer mains are rehabilitated. Sewer laterals that are in poor condition allow groundwater and surface water to enter into the sanitary sewer system. During the rainy season a significant amount of groundwater and surface water enter the sanitary sewer system which, at times, can exceed the treatment capacity of the wastewater treatment plant. The City will work with property owners to repair sewer laterals when necessary. This will reduce the amount of groundwater and surface water being treated unnecessarily and will effectively increase the capacity and life of the wastewater treatment plant.

Q. Are there any other changes that affect residential home owners?

A. No

### **Changes to Commercial Requirements**

Q. What are the major changes to the current Municipal Code that affect non-residential sewer users?

A. Major changes include:

- Addition of definitions to be consistent with Federal wastewater regulations.
- Update and addition of types of prohibited wastes to be consistent with Federal requirements and to better protect the sensitive operation of the waste water treatment plant.
- Clarifies and simplifies requirements for facilities that operate grease removal devices (grease traps and gravity grease interceptors).
- Elimination of the permitting requirements for facilities with grease removal devices.
- Establishes the authority to issue wastewater discharge permits to significant industrial users and other users that have a potential to have a negative impact on the wastewater treatment facility.
- Establishes reporting requirements for significant industrial users.

- Establishes the authority to cost recover charges for issuing wastewater discharge permits.
- Establishes additional enforcement authority for violations of the sanitary code.
- Establishes the authority to accept hauled wastewater if specific conditions are met.

Q. What facilities are considered significant industrial users?

- Facilities that generate high volume or high strength industrial wastewater. There are very few facilities in the District that will be affected by these new requirements.

### **Changes to Food Service Establishment Requirements**

Q. Why the new requirements?

A. These new requirements are being put into place to ensure compliance with state and federal guidelines and to help increase the health and longevity of the waste water treatment facility. Food waste and associated fats, oils and greases can cause many problems in sewer mains as well as our wastewater treatment facility. Once in the public sewer system, these materials can cause blockages resulting in sewage overflows. Sewage overflows can cause public as well as environmental health concerns. These overflows can also result in costly fines for the District from state and federal regulatory agencies. Even something as simple as running hot water into a grease trap can cause the grease to liquefy and flow into the public sewer, where it will cool and cause a blockage.

Q. What are the changes for food service establishments with grease traps and grease interceptors?

A.1. The addition of enzymes and additives is prohibited. These additives transform the fats oils and greases and results in the discharge of these materials into the public sewer instead of their proper removal at the grease collection devise.

A.2. Facilities with garbage disposals are required to discharge to a large gravity grease interceptor of at least 1,000 gallons in capacity. This will result in the accumulation and removal of high strength food wastes from the grease collection device instead of being discharged to the treatment plant. If the garbage disposal does not discharge to a large gravity grease interceptor it needs to be disconnected.

A.3. Facilities with dish washers are required to discharge directly to the sewer or to a gravity grease interceptor of at least 750 gallons in capacity.