



November 1, 2023

To: City of Las Vegas Planning Department
From: Northwest Area Resident's Association (NARA)
Ref: Septic Tank Removal

Planning,

We have follow up questions to the recent City/County ordinance revision for septic tank waste water reclamation to the City sewer system. May 21st, Clark County Commissioner Marilyn Kirkpatrick and Doa Ross, P.E. Deputy General Manager Engineering Las Vegas Valley Water District attended our regularly scheduled neighborhood association meeting and gave an update of the pending AB220 septic tank ordinance revision proposal(s) in progress. It was a "full house" with a lot of "RNP interest." Subsequent to that we have articles on file from the Review Journal.

With that, there are specific questions residents are still asking that we are not sure about. We are also not sure if this a Planning Department, Licensure Department, or other office to answer these questions. If this is not a Planning Department issue we would appreciate it if you would direct it to the appropriate authority.

Again, we would appreciate it if we could please get input on questions for the specific situations and scenarios listed to below.

1. The criteria to remember for septic tank replacement is the 600 foot rule. With that, RNP and residential areas with septic systems beyond the 600 foot distance are not affected...at least for the present. Is this correct?
2. The City/County has funding to cover the cost of extending a sewer line to a septic system residency street location within the 600 foot distance criteria for hook up. Is this correct?

3. Who pays for the connection from the septic system residence home to the new street sewer line connection? The homeowner? The City? Or is there a shared cost with this expense?

4. If there is a failed septic tank or leach field beyond the 600 ft sewer line distance, no matter what the distance (650 ft, 2,000 ft., etc.) it would seem reasonable that the home owner can continue with his septic system and simply apply for a waiver to allow for the tank/leach field to be replaced. Is this in fact part of the ordinance revision?

5. When these septic systems were originally put in, (some of them well over half a century ago), there was no consideration that in the future there would be a mandatory sewer connection requirement for whatever reasons. With that, some septic systems are located in the residential back yard. When the septic tank and leach field is in the back yard, this presents a totally cost prohibitive sewer connection scenario for most homeowners. With that:

- Can a resident with a septic system in the back yard within the 600 foot criteria apply for a waiver for a sewer connection and continue use of their operational septic system?
- Without a functional septic system or sewer connection a residence will have to be abandoned! If a back yard tank or leach field fails, can they have it repaired/replaced and continue use of their system?

6. A residentially zoned parcel has to have access to either a sewer line or a septic system to build on it. If the parcel is beyond the 600 ft. criteria (650 ft, 2,000 ft, whatever) it would seem reasonable that a septic system is justified.

- Will the City allow a new septic system to be built on the vacant residentially zoned parcel for home occupancy? Or,
- Will the parcel owner be required to keep the property vacant as an empty lot with no recourse to build?

7. Can a septic system be left in place when there is a new hook up to a sewer system, or does the septic tank and leach field have to be removed and new fill dirt put in "the hole"?

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