

## ACTION ITEM 8.1 – SEPTIC SYSTEM PLANNING

### ACTION ITEM

Develop a plan that identifies where and under what conditions septic systems are appropriate considering long-term water quality and quantity concerns.

### OBJECTIVE

Protect human and environmental health by requiring the proper planning of septic systems.

### DESCRIPTION OF MEASURE

Each local government in the Metro Water District must identify appropriate locations and conditions for septic system usage and then identify and plan for future sewered and unsewered areas as part of their Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) and local wastewater master plan. This planning will include how to handle the wastewater generated in transitional areas that are currently served by septic but in the future will become sewered. This septic system planning will be coordinated with and included in the local wastewater system master plan as described in Section 9 of this Plan, the local water supply master plan as described in the Water Supply and Water Conservation Management Plan, CLUP and coordinated with the County Board of Health. This planning should consider any need for return flows identified in the Water Supply and Water Conservation Management Plan.

Local governments should begin the septic system planning process by identifying the general location of existing septic systems as well as existing sewer lines. The next step is to determine the areas planned for future septic systems as well as the number of anticipated septic systems based on local zoning within their community. Areas that are not intended to be served by sewer in the future should be zoned appropriately for long-term septic system use. For most areas in the Metro Water District, minimum lot sizes of one-acre or greater should be considered to ensure enough suitable soil for the initial septic system as well as a full size replacement drainfield.

Local governments need to identify the areas that are currently undeveloped or served by septic system but are planned for sewer service in the future. Once these transitional areas have been identified the local government will need to determine if development on private decentralized facilities will be allowed or if development will occur on septic systems. If private decentralized systems are used then local wastewater master plans should account for these private systems and create a plan to tie in the areas, including obtaining easements, served by these facilities into the larger collection system once those private facilities are decommissioned. Planning for future wastewater service, septic systems, and decentralized systems will be based on the future land use plan created as part of the CLUP process.

Septic system planning must include necessary policies to address connection to sewer in the near term, (for example, within the next 5 years) and long term, within the next 20 years. This topic is further discussed in Action Item 9.2.

<b>Responsible Party</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Government
<input type="checkbox"/> Local Wastewater Provider
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<b>In Coordination With</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site Plan Review Staff
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Development/ Zoning
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Stormwater Program
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Wastewater Providers
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Water Provider
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County Board of Health
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>neighboring local governments and wastewater providers (where appropriate)</u>

## Section 8: SEPTIC SYSTEMS AND DECENTRALIZED SYSTEMS

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Areas that are planned for septic systems, both short and long-term should consider how the septage generated from regular maintenance of septic systems will be handled. Septage disposal is discussed further in Action Item 8.4 with anticipated flows by county shown in Figure 3-3.

### SPECIFIC SUB-TASKS

Sub-Task	Description
Determine future septic system areas and local requirements	Identify areas planned for future sanitary sewer service and areas intended for long-term septic usage.
Develop near term and long-term policies for transitioning unsewered areas to sewer areas.	Develop policies to address the conversion of septic system to sewer as the system extends and the requirements for connection to sewer.