

---

**POLICY NUMBER: 26-021****CONNECTION TO CITY SEWER****PURPOSE:**

To establish a clear and uniform standard for applying **California Plumbing Code (CPC) Section 713.5**, ensuring that connection to the City's public sewer system is required whenever it is available. This policy is intended to guide consistent permitting decisions, protect public health and safety, prevent overloading of private sewage disposal systems, and provide staff with clear criteria for when private sewage systems may continue in use versus when a public sewer connection must be made.

**POLICY:****1. Legal Basis**

CPC § 713.5 states: "No permit shall be issued for the installation, alteration, or repair of any private sewage disposal system, or part thereof, on any lot for which a connection with a public sewer is available."

This policy ensures that when a public sewer connection is available, private septic or disposal systems are not further expanded or newly permitted.

**2. Definitions & Terms**

- **Public Sewer Available** — a public sewer main within a specified maximum distance (e.g., 200 feet) from the building exterior, per this City's adopted standard.
- **Increase in Demand** — the addition of plumbing fixtures, bedrooms, or other uses that increase load on a wastewater system beyond existing conditions.
- **Failure of Private System** — When a private sewage disposal system ceases to properly function (e.g., backups, overflows, structural failure).

**3. Application Scenarios****3.1 Vacant Parcels / New Construction**

- Any new building proposed on a vacant parcel is subject to CPC § 713 and § 713.5, requiring connection to the public sewer when available.
- The public sewer is deemed "available" if a legal and physical connection point lies within **200 feet** of the building exterior.
- If the public sewer is available, no permit shall be issued for a new private sewage disposal system.

**3.2 Occupied Parcels / Existing Structures**

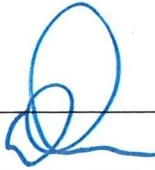
- CPC § 101.4.1.3 allows continued use of an existing private sewage disposal system **provided** it is properly maintained and does not pose danger, unsanitary conditions, or public health risks.
- However, when a proposed permit increases the load or demand on the private system (for example, adding plumbing fixtures, extra bedrooms, or expanding use), the applicant must connect to the public sewer if it is available.
- Replacement or repair of existing fixtures (without increasing demand) may be permitted to remain on private disposal, subject to health/safety review.

**3.3 Private System Failure**

- In the event of a failure in a private sewage disposal system (e.g., contingencies, backups, structural collapse), a connection to the public sewer must be made if the public sewer is available.

**ANALYSIS & IMPLEMENTATION:**

- Staff shall refer to the current list from the City of Garden Grove Sanitation Division identifying parcels not yet connected to the public sewer.
- For any permit application, the appropriate Divisions will verify whether the property is included on the list or is within a service territory with available sewer access.
- Minor repairs or non-demand-increasing improvements on existing systems may be allowed to continue under private disposal, but major renovations or additions require public connection if available.
- This policy balances property owner flexibility for maintenance work with public health goals and efficient utility service expansion.

<b>Approved:</b> David Dent <i>Deputy Director/Chief Building Official</i>	Signature: 
	Date: 3/4/22