

**GENERAL LISTENING SESSION  
FOR THE  
PROPOSED ONSITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM ORDINANCE**

**Session #4 Minutes  
August 10, 2010  
6:00PM to 8:30PM  
Glassel Park Señor Center  
3750 Verdugo rd, Los Angeles, CA 90065**

The following is a summary of some of the session's questions and answers:

1. Q. Who is the City of Los Angeles mailing our outreach material to?  
A. Bureau of Sanitation gets their list of addresses that do not currently pay sewer fees from the DWP. Those addresses are assumed to be on septic.
2. Q. Why do we have to self-certify when the City of Los Angeles already knows who is on septic?  
A. Self certifying every 5 years keeps the City updated on who is responsible for maintaining the septic system.
3. Q. What is the fee charged for costs of staff to run the OWTS program for (In regards to money to be collected from self- certification fees)?  
A. The fees will be as minimal as possible.
4. Q. What benefit does the homeowner have by participating in the OWTS program other than paying fees and satisfying the state?  
A. Some of the fees generated will be used to help low income homeowners to fix or upgrade their septic system. By participating in the program, homeowners will get the satisfaction that they are playing an important part in protecting the environment and help improve their own communities by reducing the number of septic failures.
5. Q. Why can't particular homeowner's non-compliance with their septic systems solely rest on them and not everyone else in the City of Los Angeles?  
A. Homeowners are responsible for their own septic system.
6. Q. Will the City of Los Angeles send homeowners a letter regarding self-certification or do we have to remember?  
A. Yes, the City will send letters of notifications of any major changes or events.
7. Q. When a homeowner gets self-certificated, do they have to get their system inspected?  
A. No, the homeowner is not required unless they are in a high-risk area.
8. Q. How can a homeowner tell whether they have a good septic system and determine whether it is working properly?  
A. A properly operating and well maintained septic system should only be pumped every 5 to 7 years. Should a homeowner feels the need to pump out their septic tank more often than the recommended frequency, then a thorough

inspection of the septic system is recommended to determine if repairs are necessary.

9. Q. How do we find out where the nearest waterwells are in our neighborhood?  
A. That information is available at our website [www.lasewers.org](http://www.lasewers.org). You may view our overall maps and all the locations of active water wells.
10. Q. How do you find out the location of the sewer line?  
A. That information is available at [www.navigatela.lacity.org](http://www.navigatela.lacity.org).
11. Q. If you have a septic tank that works well and is very close to the street, is there a problem with that?  
A. No, it is only a problem if the septic system fails.
12. Q. Does the homeowner have the right to inspect his/her own septic system? Does he/she need to provide proof for the City of Los Angeles that their system is working?  
A. Yes, homeowners in non high risk areas may inspect their own septic system. Only septic tanks in high risk areas are required to provide proof of inspection to the City.
13. Q. Where is the money that is collected from this OWTS ordinance going?  
A. The homeowners are paying for the City of Los Angeles to continue to be a buffer between the city and the state. The OWTS program is independent of the general fund, therefore, any fees generated will be used to cover costs such as: administration, web and online permitting maintenance, inspections, technical support & consultation for homeowners, contractors, realtors, etc., outreach & public education. We are considering using some of the fees generated to help low income homeowners with failing septic systems to fix or upgrade their septic systems.
16. Q. What about septic systems in RV parks?  
A. They are considered commercial OWTS and is included in the Ordinance
14. Q. When you talk about septic tank, does that include seepage pits as well?  
A. Seepage pits are a part of a septic system.

The following is a summary of some of the session's comments:

1. The City of Los Angeles should use the revenue collected from self-certification fees to help people that need to connect to the sewer and do not have the finances to do so.
2. LADBS does not need to get paid for their participants in the OWTS program because they are already City of Los Angeles employees.
3. Suggestions to reduce City council salaries and distribute the money saved as a result to the OWTS program to create funding for septic system owners.

4. The compliance and regulation of this OWTS ordinance within the City of Los Angeles is threatening to the homeowner.
5. Fear that the fees associated by this OWTS ordinance will get more expensive and more restrictive year by year.
6. Issue with the homeowner only having 30 days to correct a failed OWTS.
7. Why can't we make the presentation of the OWTS ordinance educational and supportive rather than punitive and threatening?
8. Homeowners need to hear that the City of Los Angeles is working with them.
9. The fees associated by this OWTS ordinance should be locked in somehow.
10. Concern about septic systems in RV parks. Issue with residents dumping their septic waste straight into the sewer.
11. Issues with the OWTS program being cost neutral. Some feel that OWTS employees don't need to be compensated for doing their job.
12. City of Los Angeles does not know who is on sewer and who has a septic system. Issues with people being charged monthly fees for sewer connection while on septic. Some feel that the City of Los Angeles' system of keeping track is had been flawed from the beginning.
13. Some feel t self-inspection costs the BOS nothing and that the BOS can afford to pay the fees associated with the OWTS ordinance for homeowners.
14. Some think that the BOS is trying to create work for other people by implementing this ordinance.
15. Struggling to see the benefit of the OWTS owner paying the other than to run the program.

**Next Meetings:**

1. Listening Session #1 (already held on 08/03/10)
2. Listening Session #2, Tuesday, (already held on 08/10/10)
3. Listening Session #3, Thursday, (already held on 08/12/10)
4. Listening Session #4, Thursday, (already held on 08/10/10)
5. Arleta NC. 6:30pm. Arleta First Assembly of God, 9757 Arleta ave (Already held)
6. Arroyo Seco NC. 7pm. Ramona Hall 4580 N. Figueroa st. August 24, 2010