

**NORTH TAHOE PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
SEWER ORDINANCE
Section 4 - As Revised**

Note: Section 4.04 G Amended by Ordinance 377, adopted 6/9/2009.)

SECTION 417
TESTING17

SECTION 4

TESTING

4.01 PURPOSE

The intent of this section is to reasonably insure the soundness of the sewer collection system in order to prevent infiltration and to insure compliance for both new and existing lines. Because of the nature and physical location of existing lines, the Manager has the authority to alter the testing methods if the methods stated herein are deemed impractical.

4.02 APPLICABILITY

- A. All new connections to the public sewers shall be tested in accordance with the provisions of this section, to include gravity and pumped sewer services. No person shall use or introduce wastewater into the public sewer until the service lateral has passed a test as specified in Section 4.03.

- B. No existing service lateral shall be allowed to remain connected to the public sewer which is incapable of passing a test as specified in Section 4.04.

- C. All service laterals, including those serving residential, multiple residential and commercial, connected to a District sanitary sewer shall be cleaned and tested in accordance with Section 4, herein, under occurrence of any of the following conditions:
 - 1. Remodeling of the house, building or property served to an extent of more than fifty percent (50%), as determined by Placer County assessed valuation, or
 - 2. Installation of additional toilet facilities in the house, building or property served, or
 - 3. Change of use of the house, building or property serviced from residential to business or commercial, or from non-restaurant commercial to restaurant commercial, or
 - 4. Upon repair or replacement of all or part of the building sewer, or
 - 5. Upon addition to structures of living quarters, such as guest cabins on the property served or plumbing of garages into living quarters, or

6. Prior to close of escrow upon sale of the house, building or property served, or
7. Upon determination of the General Manager that the cleaning and testing is required for the protection of the public health, safety and welfare.

4.03 TESTING PROTOCOL FOR SERVICE LATERALS, SERVICE STUBS, SEWER STUBS AND CLEANOUTS THEREON

A. All new service laterals shall be tested by either an air or water method, at the discretion of the District. The test section shall be from the WYE at the main to the building cleanout or from the service stub at the property line to the building cleanout, corresponding to the line installed.

1. The air test shall consist of plugging each end of the service lateral and applying a pressure of three and one half pounds per square inch (3.5 psi) to the section under the test. The line shall be allowed a maximum loss in pressure of 1/2 psi in five (5) minutes. If the loss exceeds 1/2 psi, the test may be attempted one additional time. A second loss of pressure constitutes failure of the line.
2. The water test shall consist of plugging the downstream end of a service lateral, placing a section(s) of pipe in the vertical branch of the building cleanout and filling the test section with water such that the depth of water is 10 feet to the lowest point on the service lateral. Additional cleanouts may have to be installed in steep lines and the line tested in sections. In no case shall the total depth of water exceed fifteen (15') feet to any point in the line. The line shall be allowed a maximum loss of water level of one (1") inch in five (5) minutes for a four (4") inch or six (6") inch lateral per one hundred (100') feet in length. If the loss exceeds the allowable, the line may be re-tested one additional time. A second loss exceeding the allowable constitutes a failure of the line.

B. If a line fails, the owner shall be responsible for correction of the condition causing failure, notifying the District when such work has been completed, and for scheduling a new test.

4.04 TESTING PROCEDURE FOR SERVICE LATERALS, SERVICE STUBS, SEWER STUBS, AND CLEANOUTS THEREON

A. It shall be unlawful for any owner of a house, building, or property connected to a District sanitary sewer to maintain the building sewer in a condition where leakage is such that the tests contained herein cannot be successfully accomplished.

- B. If a cleanout has not been installed at the property line, a cleanout shall be installed prior to cleaning and testing. The property owner shall be responsible for such installation.
- C. The owner of any house, building, or property shall conduct all cleaning and testing required at his sole expense and shall notify the District in 24 hours prior to cleaning and testing. Operations conducted without such notice shall not satisfy the requirements of this Section.
- D. Existing service laterals shall be tested by the air or water method, at the discretion of the District. Testing shall be in accordance with Section 4.03 A or 4.03 B, as applicable. In the event that a service lateral fails, the owner shall cause corrective work and re-testing to be performed within thirty (30) days from the date of the original test.
- E. If the sewer line fails the testing as specified herein, it shall be repaired or replaced in accordance with manufacturers recommendations or specifications contained herein. Patch repairs shall not be made using cement grout, glues, epoxies, or other fillers. Damaged portions of the pipe shall be cut out and replaced. Replacement sections of pipe shall be of a material and classification as approved in Section 3.03, Materials.
- F. In the event that sewer cleaning, testing, repair or replacement would be required, at a time when weather conditions or excavation restrictions (October 15 until May 1) prohibit such repairs, the Manager may defer completion of such requirement until June 15th or such earlier date as agreed upon with the property owner. If the test is deferred, the Owner may post a performance bond with the District in an amount equal to one hundred twenty-five (125%) percent of the District's estimate of the cost of replacing the service lateral. The bond shall be callable on the date when the owner should have completed testing and the funds will be released to the District.

In place of a performance bond, the owner shall escrow funds in an amount equal to one hundred twenty-five (125%) percent of the Engineer's estimate, if the property is being sold. Funds escrowed will not be released without written notification by the District to the title company holding such funds. If the cleaning and testing is not completed by the time set by the Ordinance, the funds held in escrow shall be released to the District. Said funds may be used by the District for physical disconnection, testing, repair or replacement of the sewer service. Should such costs exceed the amount held in escrow, the difference will be billed to the property owner of record. Such costs shall become a lien on the property in accordance with normal service charge billing procedures.

During the period from May 1st until September 15th no funds shall be held in escrow or performance bond posted in lieu of testing and acceptance of the sewer service lateral prior to close of escrow.

The District may, upon written notice to the property owner, discontinue water and/or sewer service to the property until such repairs are made. The cost of discontinuing service and restoring service will be the responsibility of the property owner. Services left unconnected for a period of one year or greater shall be subject to the connection fees in effect at the time of reconnection.

- G. ~~The Manager may waive the cleaning and testing requirements if the building sewer has been installed and tested by the District within a prior eight (8) year period or tested within a prior five (5) year period and there is good reason to believe that such testing is not necessary.~~

The Manager may waive the cleaning and testing requirements if the sewer lateral has been successfully tested in accordance with the protocol set forth in Section 4.03 within the prior fifteen (15) year period and there is good reason to believe that such testing is not necessary. (Note: Section 4.04 G Amended by Ordinance 377 adopted 6/9/2009.)

- H. The District shall not require tests at the request of the property owner unless the Manager determines that such testing is necessary or will be necessary within a reasonable time.
- I. Nothing herein shall constitute a warranty by the District of the soundness or ability of the service lateral to accomplish it's purpose or to remain in compliance with this Ordinance.

4.05 RESPONSIBILITY

- A. The owner shall be responsible to have the test fully prepared and ready to be observed by the District.
- B. The owner shall be responsible for any consequential damage to the public sewer as a result of cleaning and testing.
- C. If the District determines that the number of inspections required under this section are excessive the General Manager may impose a charge for additional inspections as shown in Exhibit A, Table 3.