



**TRINITY COUNTY**  
**Environmental Health Department**  
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## **Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) SETBACKS**

Use these minimum setbacks to create a site map / plot plan for a septic system

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|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>10 feet</b>  | From New Structures (can be 5 ft from existing structures)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>10 feet</b>  | From Property Lines                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>50 feet</b>  | From Septic Tank to Water well                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>100 feet</b> | From Leach Lines to Water Well                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>100 feet</b> | From Unstable Land Masses                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>100 feet</b> | <b>FROM EPHEMERAL STREAMS (SPRINGS / WATERWAYS)</b><br><b>Ephemeral Stream:</b> A <b>stream</b> that flows only briefly during and following a period of rainfall in the immediate locality.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>150 feet</b> | <b>FROM PERENNIAL STREAMS / HIGH WATER MARKS</b><br><b>Perennial Stream:</b> A stream or river that has continuous flow in parts of its stream bed all year-round during years of normal rainfall.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>200 feet</b> | <b>FROM WETLANDS / LAKES / VERNAL POOLS / POND HIGH WATER MARKS</b><br><b>Seeps</b> are small, critical habitats only detected through site visits. <b>Seeps</b> or seepage <b>wetlands</b> are springs, pools, or other wet places where groundwater naturally comes to the surface. Seepage marshes can occur in association with <b>wetland</b> borders, in headwaters, and along stream drainages.<br><br><b>Vernal Pools</b> , also called <b>vernal ponds</b> or ephemeral <b>pools</b> , are seasonal <b>pools</b> of water that provide habitat for distinctive plants and animals. |

Plan ahead – call ahead to schedule an inspection as inspectors may be scheduled out at least one to two weeks.

Do not assume you will be able to schedule an inspection on the day you complete system exposure, especially if you have a contractor or rented equipment on site.

Do not cover anything up until the inspection is complete & always take pictures as backup - no matter what!

If the Site Map/Plot Plan does not accurately reflect the location of your system, you will need to create a new Site Map/Plot Plan showing setback distances – you can draw it out, print out a Google Earth map or any satellite map that shows the parcel, with setback distances reflected on map. Your application may be DENIED if site map is not accurate. You will be required to start the entire application process over again, including paying all associated fees.