



# COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

## PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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KATHLEEN MOLLOY PREVISICH, PLANNING DIRECTOR

June 22, 2017

**Agenda Date: July 26, 2017**

**Consent Agenda: Item 6**

Time: after 9:00 a.m.

Planning Commission  
County of Santa Cruz  
701 Ocean Street  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

**Subject: Report back on whether or not portable toilets are allowed under Condition II.D. on Application 151101 (Lester winery).**

Members of the Commission:

On June 14, 2017, your Commission considered Application 151101 (Lester Winery including wine tasting and 16 small winery events in the winery barn, and 10 large special events in the upper site area). Following a duly noted public hearing, your Commission approved the project subject to revised findings and revised conditions of approval, authorizing the proposed wine tasting and 16 small special events in the winery building, and limiting the use to 6 large special events in the upper site area. The commission also directed the Planning Department to report back on clarification of whether the Environmental Health Agency intended to authorize portable toilets as noted under condition II. D. (requiring an Environmental Health approval prior to building permit issuance for the winery, and to provide porta potties for the proposed large winery events, as determined by Environmental Health).

Attached is the Environmental Health policy (Attachment 1) regarding portable toilets and waste water sizing associated with special events. Your Commission will note that the health agency policy allows portable toilets for up to a maximum of 10 special events. Uses that exceed 10 special events are required to provide restrooms with approved septic systems by the health agency. Thus, 6 permitted large special events would meet the requirement to authorize portable toilets, as conditioned in the Lester winery project under Permit 151101. The permitted 16 small winery events were approved within the winery building, which contains two restrooms to serve these special events and do not require portable toilets. Thus the maximum number of special events associated with the permitted use is 6 large special events on the subject property.

### **Staff Recommendation**

It is therefore recommended that your Commission:

1. Accept and File this report regarding Environmental Health Agency Policy regarding the use of portable toilets and waste water sizing standards, substantiating the authorization

of portable toilets for use with special events and substantiating conditions of approval  
II.D. of Application 151101 (Lester winery).

Sincerely,



Sheila McDaniel  
Project Planner  
Development Review

Reviewed By:



Steven Guiney, AICP  
Principal Planner  
Development Review

Attachments

1. Environmental Health Portable Toilet Policy

## **County of Santa Cruz Environmental Health Service**

### **Use of Portable Toilets and Sizing of Onsite Wastewater Disposal Systems to Accommodate Special Events**

The intent of this policy is to provide guidance for requirement of an adequate number of portable toilets and sizing criteria for onsite disposal systems that are commensurate with the number and size of special events. These requirements should be incorporated into the facility's permit. Generally this policy requires larger disposal systems when special events are frequent, but allows for sewage flow to be accommodated using portable toilets when the events are very large and/or less frequent.

Event is defined as any special event authorized under a Use Permit as defined in the Zoning Ordinance, or other temporary event with large assemblages of people that lasts more than two hours.

Visitors per day is defined as the maximum number of visitors at one time during the busiest day.

No person shall promote or conduct, nor shall any person, on property owned by such person permit or allow an activity or activities involving the assemblage of people including but not limited to festivals, weddings, farmers markets, circuses, carnivals, festivals, picnics, barbecues, races or other public assemblages without providing adequate capacity for sewage disposal, which shall be provided by a combination of flush toilets connected to an approved sewage disposal system and portable toilets. Any permanent facilities must be served by an approved sewage disposal system, sized to accommodate the approved occupancy of that facility.

If the use is no more than ten (10) events per calendar year, an adequate number of portable chemical toilets may be used.

1. Adequate flush toilets or adequate chemical toilets shall mean no less than one separate toilet seat per sex and no less than one toilet seat per forty (40) persons whichever number is greater.
2. All toilets must be serviced and cleaned at least once a day. All toilets must be clean, sanitary and serviceable at all times.
3. All toilets must have hand washing facilities either inside each unit or washing stations with running water, sanitizer/soap, and towels.
4. Portable toilets shall not be brought on site prior to 48 hours before the event and shall be promptly serviced and removed within 48 hours after the event.
5. All chemical toilets must be pumped at least once per day at the end of each day.
  - a. Pumpers must have a current valid health permit from the County of Santa Cruz Environmental Health Services Department.
  - b. Disposal of pumped waste must be discharged at an approved disposal site.
6. More frequent pumping shall not be substituted for the required number of toilets.

7. For single user portable toilet units clustered at a single location, at least five percent but no less than one toilet unit shall be made accessible to persons with disabilities. They shall be installed at each cluster whenever typical inaccessible units are provided.
8. Accessible units shall be identified by the International Symbol of Accessibility. Accessible toilet stalls shall be on an accessible route.

The property owner and his agent(s) are expected to maintain portable toilets and hand washing units so that:

1. The holding tank does not leak or overflow.
2. Toilet paper is promptly replaced when the dispenser runs out.
3. Water and soap is promptly replaced when the hand washing units run out.
4. The wait to use a portable toilet shall not be so long that people relieve themselves at other impromptu locations.
5. The portable toilets shall be located in close proximity to the main assemblage(s) of people so that it takes no more than 1 minute to walk to a toilet facility.
6. Reliance upon portable toilets shall not create a public health concern.

Where more than 10 events per year occur, the onsite wastewater system will be sized to fully accommodate the sewage flow based on the eleventh largest event. The additional flow from a smaller number of larger events may be accommodated by portable toilets, pursuant to this policy. Publicly owned facilities, such as buildings, parks, beaches and recreation areas may be exempt from the policy/guidelines, if permanent onsite disposal facilities cannot be provided.

Events where food is sold or otherwise provided must also comply with water and wastewater regulations as required by the California Retail Food Code.

If complaints received are valid, the applicant or current operator of the Use Permit shall increase the number of portable toilets for the remainder of the Special Events and at future Special Events as directed by EHS. When non-compliance by the current operator is documented, fines, enforcement and reinspection fees may be incurred.

Contact Environmental Health Service to discuss your project or clarification of this policy at (831) 454-2022.