

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH  
SERVICES**

**ONSITE WASTEWATER  
TREATMENT SYSTEM**

**VOLUNTARY MAINTENANCE  
PROGRAM**

### Background

Hollow seepage pits, cesspools and deteriorated septic tanks = potential hazard.

Following a local tragedy, EHS formed a working group to develop standards for the repair/maintenance of septic tank systems.

**Slide 2**

---

**RM1**

Richard M. Merrifield, 9/17/2007

Ordinance written as a result of workgroup efforts, adopted by Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors in April 1999.

### **Main Elements of Ordinance:**

- Requires inspections and written reports to EHS
- Prohibits use of hollow seepage pits, cesspools
- Requires that “qualified inspectors” perform OWTS inspections
- Defines system failure

### Program Elements

- Pumping is voluntary
- Report on standard form to owner & EHS within 30 days
- Gen Fund supported

Upon servicing, tank is inspected by a qualified inspector with written report on standard form to EHS.

301-110 9-5-07

County of Santa Barbara  
 Department Issue Stamp

Percolation rate, water usage and maintenance of this septic tank system determine its life. As such, County Sanitation Co. does not guarantee this system, nor any its the future.

Date of Service/Maintenance: 8-22-07

Owner's Name: Leslie Gralowski Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Location of inspection: 7390 Shepard Mesa Rd Carpinteria

No. of Bedrooms: unkn Year Septic System Built: unkn

Disposal Site:  Santa Maria  Santa Clara Date of Disposal: 8-21-07

Systems Components:  
 Septic tank with leach field (drywell)  Septic tank with seepage pit (hollow)  Cesspool  Other  
 Estimated capacity of septic tank or cesspool: 2000 No. of compartments: 2 Amount pumped: 1200 gal

No. of access lids: 2 Depth to access lids: 12" Diameter of access lids: 24"

Construction of septic tank or cesspool:  
 Rectangular  Round  Other  
 Concrete  Fiberglass  Plastic  Brick  Other

Condition of tank:  
 Tank distorted:  No  Yes  
 Baffle wall deteriorated:  No  Yes  
 Lids are deteriorated:  No  Yes  
 Heavy grease build-up:  No  Yes

Minimum concrete thickness at lids: 12" Method of measurement:  Tape  N/A

Prior to pumping, was effluent level above outflow tee?  No  Yes (may indicate failing system)

Signs of surfacing effluent?  No  Yes

Comments: Effluent surfacing from D. Box.

System appears to be functioning satisfactorily?  No  Yes  
 Repairs/upgrade required? (see reverse side)  No  Yes

1. ADD-4  
 2. ADD-5  
 3. R.T.C-1

Maintenance Performed: Pu-pob septic tank.

Did a qualified inspector personally inspect system?  No  Yes

County Sanitation Company  
 Sanitation System Contractor  
 CA Lic. #37314 C-42 C-39  
 • 805-687-3168 • 805-688-5513  
 • Fax: 805-745-1305

The useful life of any septic system is determined by numerous factors including, but not limited to, soil characteristics, water usage and proper maintenance. This inspection report is based on observations by the inspector and information provided by the system owner. It is not a guarantee of system adequacy.

Signature of Qualified Inspector: Roger Miller Date: 8-22-07  
 County Sanitation Company Office Review: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 8-22-07

This report is for office use only and is not to be used for certification of the septic tank system.



**County of Santa Barbara  
Septic Tank Inspection Report**

( Please Print or Type )

Department Date Stamp

Date of Service/Maintenance: \_\_\_\_\_

Owner's name : \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of inspection: \_\_\_\_\_ (ADDRESS) \_\_\_\_\_ (CITY) \_\_\_\_\_ (ZIP)

No. of Bedrooms: \_\_\_\_\_ Year Septic System Built: \_\_\_\_\_

Septage disposal location / date: \_\_\_\_\_

System Components:

Septic tank with leach field or drywell  Septic Tank With Seepage Pit (Hollow)  Cesspool  Other

Estimated capacity of septic tank or cesspool: \_\_\_\_\_ gal. No. of compartments: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount pumped: \_\_\_\_\_ gal.

No. of Access Lids: \_\_\_\_\_ Depth to Access Lids: \_\_\_\_\_ Diameter of Access Lids: \_\_\_\_\_

Construction of septic tank or cesspool:

Rectangular  Round  Other

Concrete  Fiberglass  Plastic  Brick  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Condition of tank:

	No	Yes		No	Yes
Tank deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Inlet tee present	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Baffle wall deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Outlet tee present	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lids are deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	House lateral open	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Heavy grease build-up	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Needs pumping	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Minimum concrete thickness of tank top, measured at lids: \_\_\_\_\_ Method of Measurement: \_\_\_\_\_

Prior to pumping, was effluent level above outflow tee?  No  Yes (may indicate failing system)

Signs of surfacing effluent?  No  Yes, location: \_\_\_\_\_

Any signs of past drainage problems?  No  Yes

Maintenance Performed: \_\_\_\_\_

System appears to be functioning satisfactorily? No  Yes

Repairs / upgrade required? (see reverse side) No  Yes

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Comments / Recommendations: \_\_\_\_\_

Did a Qualified Inspector personally inspect system? No  Yes

( Complete or Stamp )

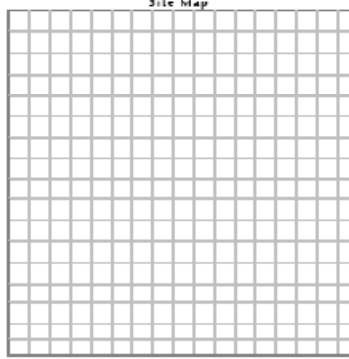
Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration/Contractor's License No.: \_\_\_\_\_

The useful life of any septic system is determined by numerous factors including, but not limited to, soil characteristics, water usage and proper maintenance. This inspection report is based on observations by the inspector and information provided by the system owner. It is not a guarantee of system adequacy.

Signature of Qualified Inspector: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

42-12 (Rev. 7/04)



**County of Santa Barbara  
Septic Tank Inspection Report**

SEPTIC TANK DEFICIENCIES REQUIRING FOLLOW-UP

Reference # for Side 1	Deficiency	Typical Corrective Action	Permit Required
NOD-1	Inadequate access to both compartments	Install risers &/or lids to meet current code requirements	No
NOD-2	Access ports deeper than 24 inches	Install risers to within one foot of grade	No
NOD-3	Deteriorated access lid(s)	Replace lids	No
NOD-4	Deteriorated top of tank	Replace / repair	No
NOD-5	Deteriorated baffle between compartments	Replace / repair	No
NOD-6	Other		
NTC-1	Severely damaged or deteriorated septic tank	Replace septic tank	Yes
NTC-2	Unfilled seepage pit	Fill w/ rock or abandon	Yes
NTC-3	Cesspool (permeable sides & bottom)	Abandon & replace with approved septic tank and disposal field	Yes
NTC-4	Failed disposal field with discharge to surface	Add new field w/ diverter valve - match or exceed existing field	Yes
NTC-5	System constructed without required permit	Obtain permit	Yes
NTC-6	Discharge of graywater to ground surface or drainage course	Direct wastewater to approved disposal field	Yes
NTC-7	Septic tank constructed of metal or wood	Replace septic tank	Yes
NTC-8	Septic tank located under structure	Requires abandonment and replacement with an approved septic tank or removal or relocation of structure	Yes
RTC-1	Disposal field not adequately absorbing septic tank effluent	Clear blockage / repair pipe	No
		Replace / repair disposal field	Yes
RTC-2	Inadequate tank capacity	Replace with proper size tank	Yes
RTC-3	Missing inlet / outlet tee(s)	Replace missing tee(s)	No
RTC-4	Other		

(Update 9/12/07)

Percussion test, water usage and maintenance of this septic tank system determine its life. As such, County Sanitation Co. does not guarantee this system, now or in the future.

**County of Santa Barbara**  
*Septic Tank Inspection Report*

Department Date Stamp

Date of Service/Maintenance: 8-22-07  
 Owner's Name: Leslie Gralewski Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Location of Inspection: 1390 Shepard Mesa Rd. Carpinteria  
 No. of Bedrooms: unknown Year Septic System Built: unknown  
 Disposal Site:  Santa Maria  Santa Clara Date of Disposal: 8-23-07

System Components:  
 Septic tank with leach field (drywell)  Septic tank with seepage pit (bellow)  Cesspool  Other

Estimated capacity of septic tank or cesspool: 1200 gal No. of compartments: 2 Amount pumped: 100 gal

No. of access lids: 2 Depth to access lids: 12" Diameter of access lids: 24"

Construction of septic tank or cesspool:

Rectangular     Round     Other \_\_\_\_\_

Concrete     Fiberglass     Plastic     Brick     Other \_\_\_\_\_

Condition of tank:

	No	Yes		No	Yes
Tank deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Inlet tee present	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Baffle wall deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Outlet tee present	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Lids are deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	House lateral open	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Heavy grease build-up	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Needs pumping	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Minimum concrete thickness at lids: 1 1/2"    Method of measurement:  Tape     N/A

Prior to pumping, was effluent level above outflow tee?     No     Yes (may indicate failing system)

Signs of surfacing effluent?     No     Yes

Comments: Effluent surfacing  
From D. Box.

System appears to be functioning satisfactorily?  No  Yes

Repairs/ upgrade required? (see reverse side)  No  Yes

1. NOD-4

2. NOD-5

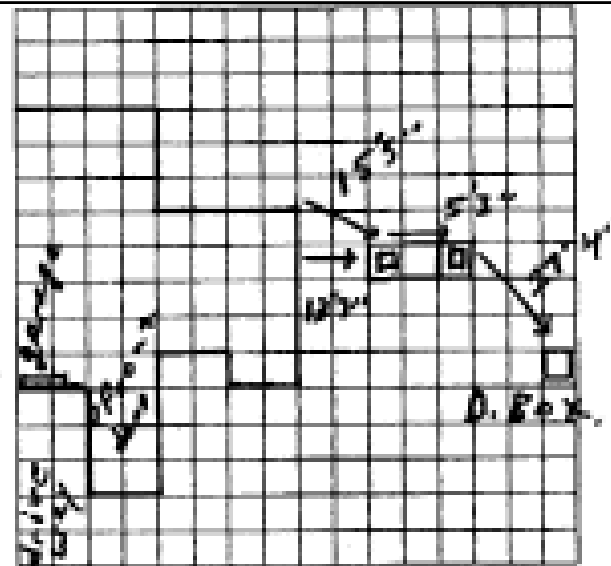
3. B.T.C-1

Maintenance Performed: Pumped septic tank.

Did a qualified inspector personally inspect system?  No  Yes



Sanitation System Contractor  
 CA Lic #375514 C-42 C-38  
 + 805-682-3168 + 805-688-5513  
 + Fax: 805-745-1305





+ Fax: 805-745-1305



The useful life of any septic system is determined by numerous factors including, but not limited to, soil characteristics, water usage and proper maintenance. This inspection report is based on observations by the inspector and information provided by the system owner. It is not a guarantee of system adequacy.

Signature of Qualified Inspector: Roger Matis Date: 8-22-07  
County Sanitation Company Office Review: [Signature] Date: 8-22-07

*This report is for office use only and is not to be used for certification of the septic tank system.*

**Qualified Inspector means a contractor holding a license classification from the California State License Board for:**

- **Plumbing (C-36)**
- **Sanitation System (C-42)**
- **General Engineering Contractor (A) or**
- **An individual who has satisfactorily completed an on-site sewage treatment system inspection and certification program approved by the Administrative Authority.**

### Deficiencies:

- \* Major problems
- \* Minor problems
- \* Recommendations to correct minor deficiencies

### Major Violations include:

- \* Severely damaged or deteriorated tank
- \* Unfilled seepage pit
- \* Cesspool (permeable sides and bottom)
- \* Failed disposal field with surface discharge
- \* System constructed, modified or abandoned w/o permit
- \* Graywater discharge to ground

Minor deficiencies requiring correction include:

- \* Access ports >24 in. below grade
- \* Deteriorated access lids
- \* Deteriorated top of tank
- \* Deteriorated baffle wall
- \* Inadequate access to both compartments
- \* Other

Minor deficiencies with recommendations to correct include:

- \* Liquid higher than outlet
- \* Tank constructed of metal or wood
- \* Inadequate tank capacity
- \* Missing tee(s)
- \* Other

Inspection results entered into Envision database

- \* **Each parcel with an OWTS is given an ID number (ON #)**
- \* **Inspections are entered using Daily Activity screen and linked to the parcel ID#**
- \* **Codes for any noted deficiencies are also entered and linked to the parcel ID#I**

**Deficiencies noted in inspection reports result in appropriate notice sent to property owner.**

- **Notice to Correct**
- **Notice of Deficiency**
- **Recommendation to Correct**

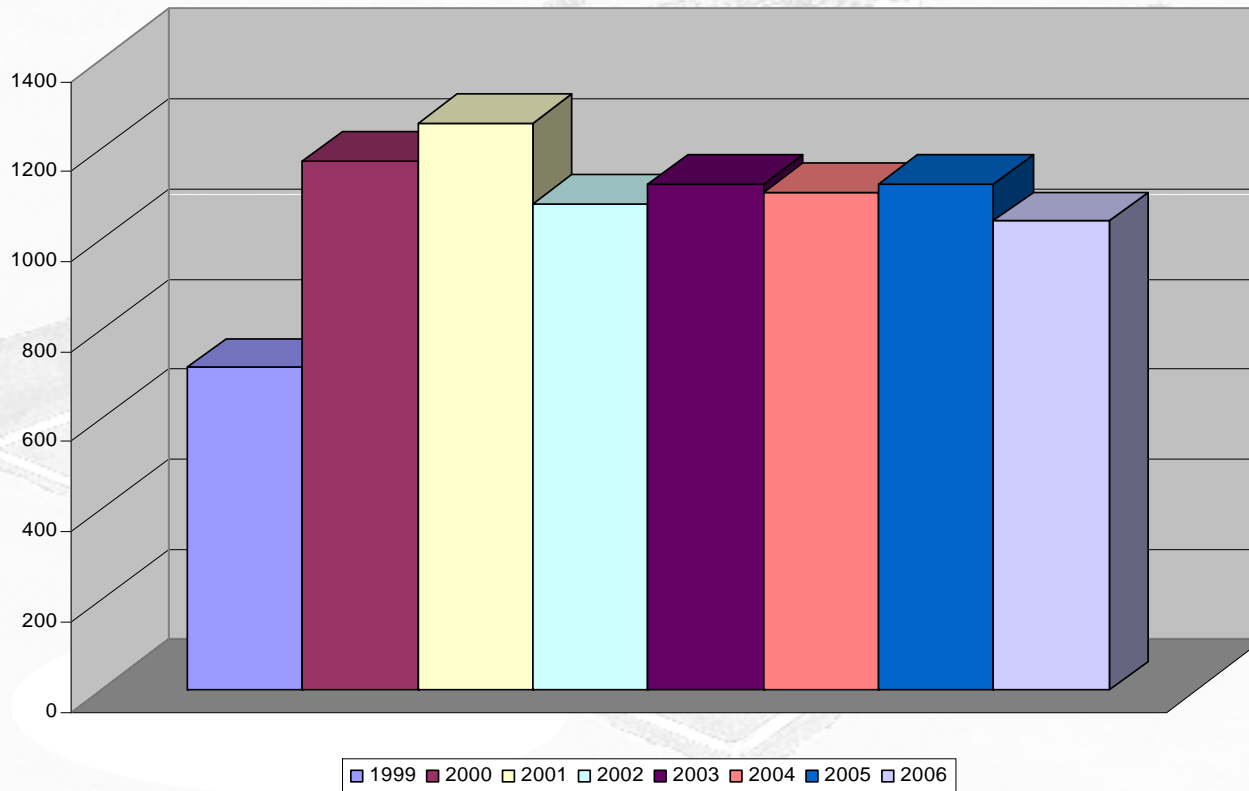
### Program Overview

- Program is voluntary in that maintenance is not required at a predetermined frequency. All OWTS require maintenance at some point, so repairs will be made and data collected in a more passive manner.
- A survey completed in 2003 estimated that there are approx 10,000 septic systems in use in S.B.County.
- Since its inception, EHS has received, reviewed and logged >8,600 OWTS inspection reports.

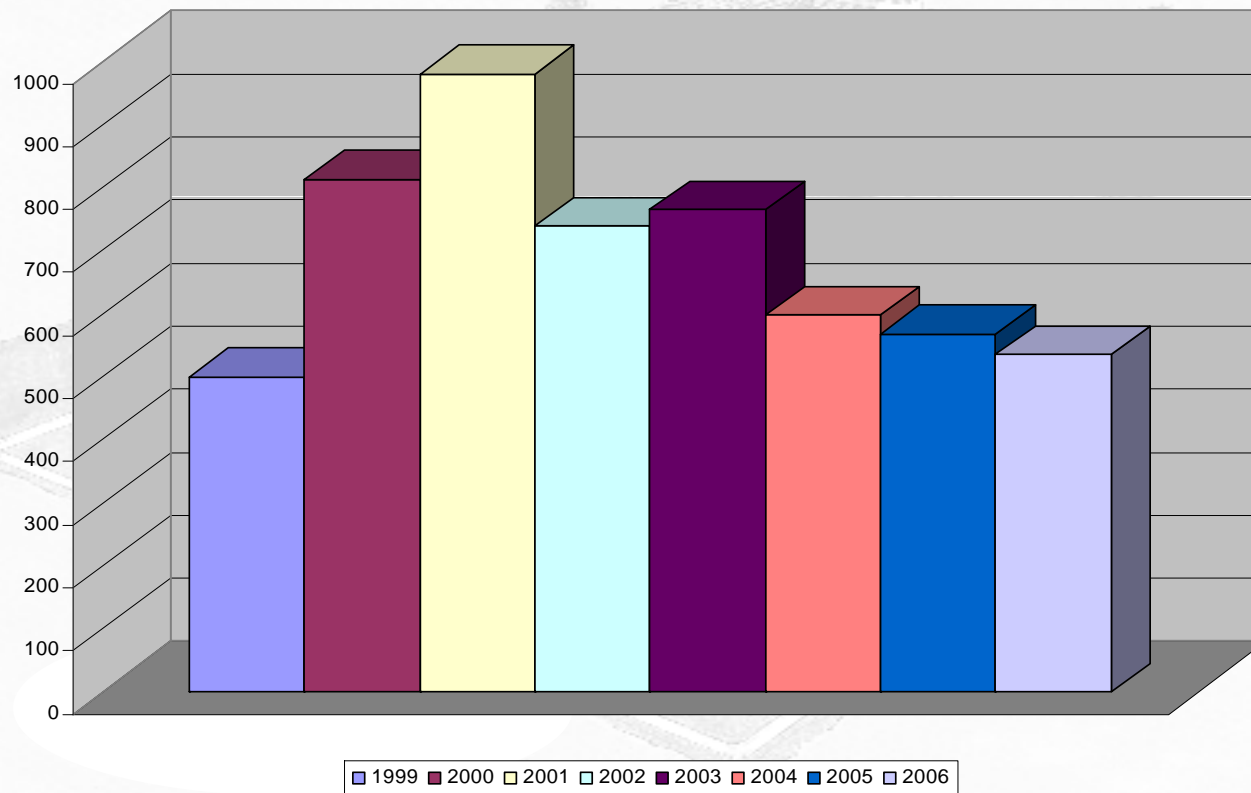
### Program Results

- 320 unfilled seepage pits or cesspools have been located, modified & filled.
- 240 systems that were found to be in a state of failure, discharging effluent to the ground surface, were repaired or abandoned.
- 260 septic tanks that were severely damaged or deteriorated were replaced.
- 1,500 septic tanks with varying degrees of deterioration were repaired.
- 1,400 system disposal fields were found to not be adequately absorbing effluent

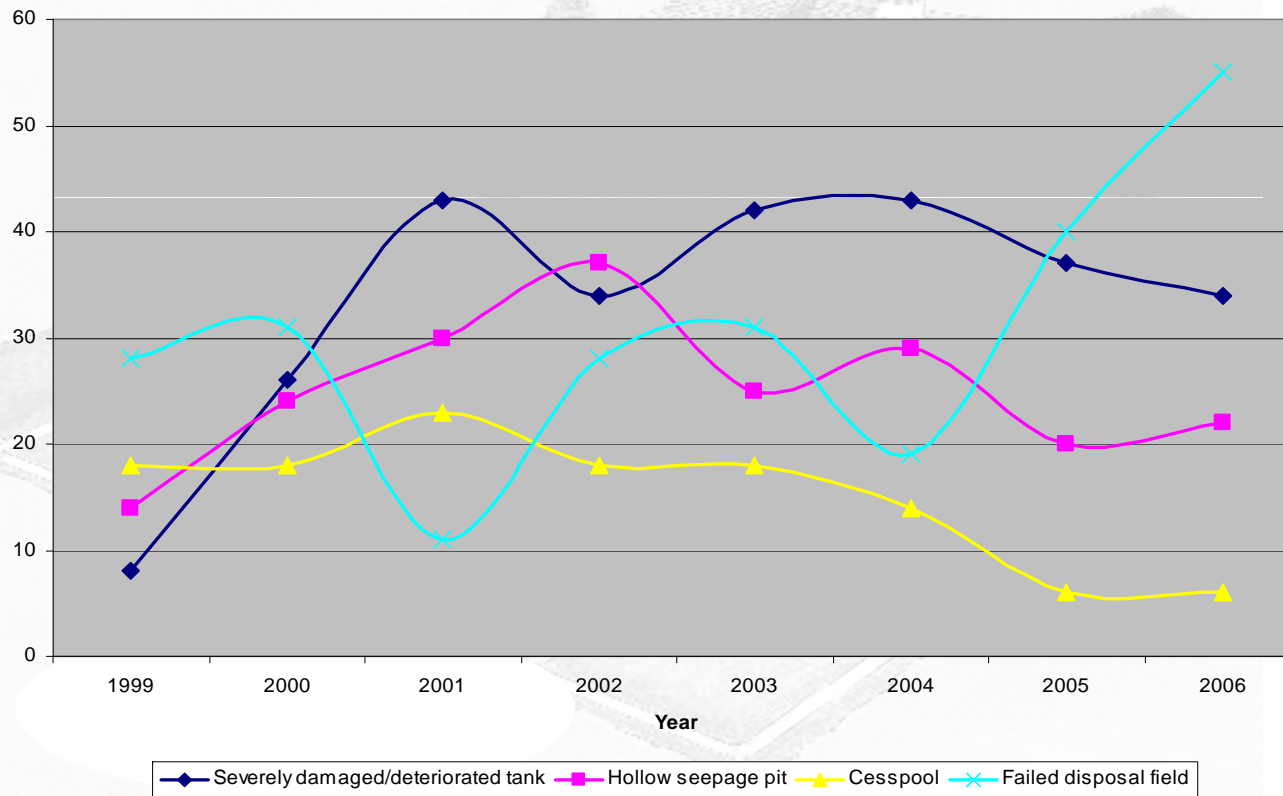
OWTS INSPECTION REPORTS



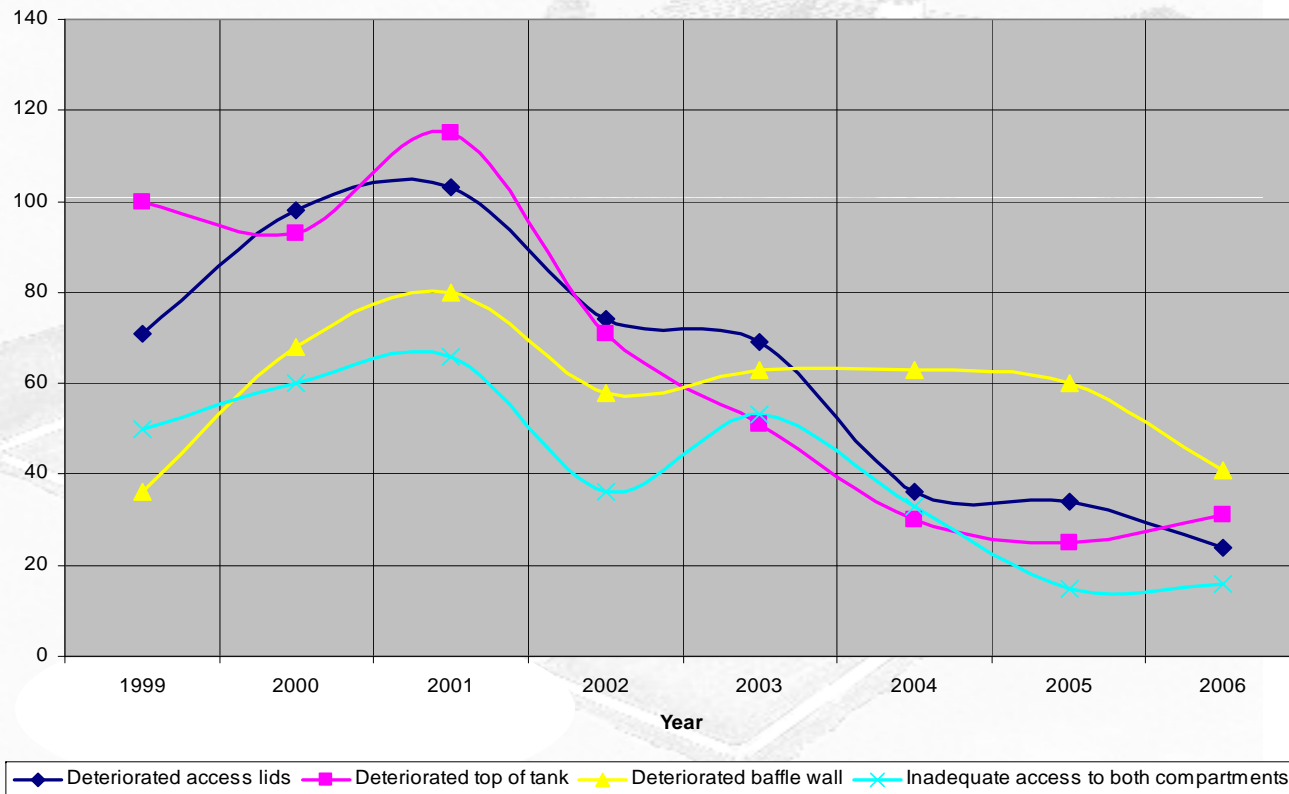
TOTAL NOTICES SENT



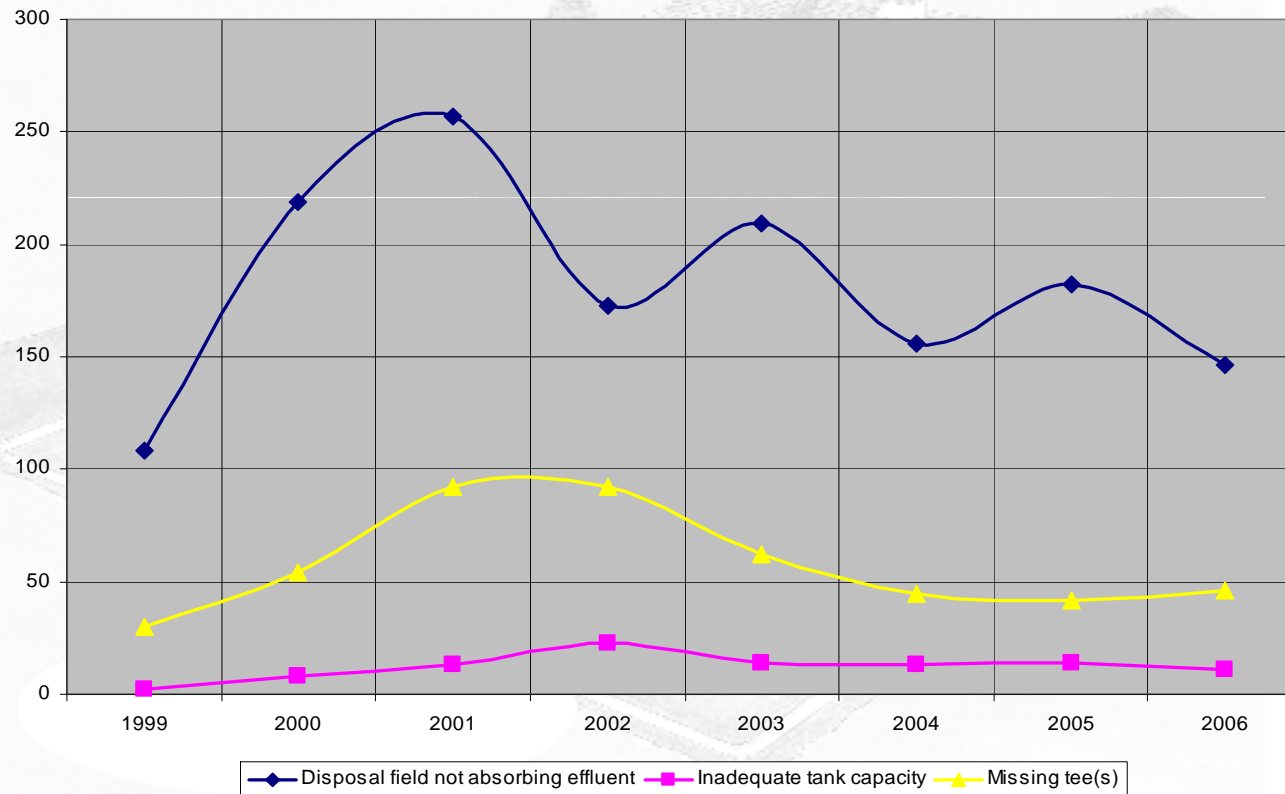
## NOTICES TO CORRECT



NOTICES OF DEFICIENCY



## RECOMMENDATIONS TO CORRECT



Voluntary Maintenance Program has been successful on several levels:

- \* Removing or repairing numerous unsafe or failing systems.
- \* Educating property owners on the need for routine maintenance of their OWTS.
- \* Use of qualified inspectors provides reasonable assurance of minimal inspector skill level.
- \* Interest from other jurisdictions, including the CCRWQCB interested in implementing similar programs.

## Questions

