



County of Santa Cruz

Department of Community Development and Infrastructure

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Matt Machado –Deputy CAO, Director of Community Development & Infrastructure

Sandhills Septic & Well Addendum

(filled in by EH)

Name

Address

APN

This form is to notify you that your proposed septic system or well project is located in sandhills habitat, and that there are special requirements for ground-disturbance activities within this habitat. Sandhills habitat is characterized by coarse sandy soils and is host to several federally listed endangered or threatened species. Any disturbance in sandhills habitat has the potential for take of federally listed species. Any such activity requires an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) from US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) as well as biotic approval from the County. The County holds an ITP that the applicant may sign on to (under the Interim Programmatic Habitat Conservation Plan, or IPHCP). Alternatively, the applicant may pursue their own Habitat Conservation Plan.

If you choose to sign onto the County ITP, it shall be a condition of approval of your septic/well permit that you take one of following two measures to mitigate impacts to this habitat. In either case, it is the property owner's responsibility to ensure the minimum area necessary for the repair is disturbed. Some septic repairs have only temporary impacts. Some may have permanent and temporary impacts (this includes wells). Below we describe conditions for each.

Scenario 1 - Sandhills Disturbance within the approved IPHCP area (see County GIS map)

Identify on your plot plan the area to be disturbed for the new leach field and/or new septic tank or well location. Delineate on that plot plan with a thick bold dashed line the area of temporary disturbance and include the square footage of this area. Examples of temporary disturbance include a leach field, buried septic, shallow drip, and any other area where soil is disturbed. All disturbed areas will require restoration to pre-disturbance conditions.

Additionally, where permanent impacts will occur, delineate on your plot plan with a thick bold solid line and label the area of permanent disturbance (i.e. above ground tank, or residential well), including the square footage of this area. Provide the plot plans to Environmental Health staff. For the area of permanent disturbance, calculate the square footage of permanent disturbance that will result from the proposed project. Upon permit approval, contact the Zayante Sandhills Conservation Bank (ZSCB) and purchase credits at a ratio of 2:1. Provide proof of purchase to Kathleen McLaughlin in Environmental Planning.

Scenario 2 Sandhills Disturbance outside the approved IPHCP area (see County GIS map)

Identify on your plot plan the area to be disturbed for the new leach field and/or new septic tank or well location. Delineate on that plot plan with a thick bold dashed line the area of temporary disturbance and include the square footage of this area. Examples of temporary disturbance include a leach field, buried septic, shallow drip, and any other area where soil is disturbed. All disturbed areas will require restoration to pre-disturbance conditions.

Additionally, where permanent impacts will occur, delineate on your plot plan with a thick bold solid line and label the area of permanent disturbance (i.e. above ground tank, or residential well), including the square

footage of this area. Provide the plot plans to Environmental Health staff. For all areas of disturbance, temporary and permanent, calculate the square footage of disturbance that will result from the proposed project. USFWS requires a different ratio of mitigation credits for projects not included within the approved IPHCP area. Upon permit approval, contact the Zayante Sandhills Conservation Bank (ZSCB) and purchase credits at a ratio of 3:1. Provide proof of purchase to Kathleen McLaughlin in Environmental Planning. The County charges a fee of **\$320** to cover the costs of tracking and a site inspection to ensure compliance with the Sensitive Habitat Ordinance in Sandhills Habitat, regardless of which option above is selected.

I, _____ (owner/agent), understand that my septic/well project is located within sensitive sandhills habitat. In order to mitigate impacts to this habitat I agree to the actions listed above for the following options **(circle one) Scenario 1 - Sandhills Disturbance within the approved IPHCP area** or Scenario 2 - Sandhills Disturbance outside the approved IPHCP area within 120 days of the issuance of my septic/well permit.

Owner/agent
By signing this form I agree to the above conditions

Date

6-11-24