

**675 Wildwood Avenue  
Rio Dell, CA 95562  
(707) 764-3532**



**City of Rio Dell Sewer Lateral Testing Requirements and Procedures  
Section 13.10.467 *et. seq.* Rio Dell Municipal Code**

**13.10.467 Transfer of property and testing.**

Whenever any property is to be sold or transferred to or vested in any other entity, the sewer lateral(s) to the property shall be tested for infiltration and all necessary repairs or replacements performed to prevent all infiltration.

This test will be set up by a licensed contractor, paid for by the property seller or buyer, and signed off by the City Manager or authorized representative. Test requirements are available at City Hall. An inspection card signed by an authorized City inspector must accompany title transfer proceedings. It is the responsibility of the property buyer or seller to repair, replace and conform to all infiltration requirements prior to transfer of property connected to the City sewer system.



Exceptions: This section shall not apply to:

- (1) Condominium or cooperative apartment buildings;
- (2) To all buildings where the City Manager, or authorized representative, determines that testing and repair or replacement of lateral(s) has been performed to City standards within the last three years;
- (3) To all buildings where the City Manager, or authorized representative, determines that new sewer construction has been inspected and passed within the last three years.

This determination shall be made by a test performed by City staff. Except for standard permit costs, there will be no charge to the property owner for this test. In the event that the test fails, refer to RDMC 13.10.469. [Ord. 322 § 1, 2014; Ord. 286, 2012.]

### **13.10.468 Sewer lateral testing.**

The property owner or his/her appointed contractor shall obtain a plumbing permit for sewer lateral testing prior to commencing with the testing procedure. Testing methods and procedures shall conform to standard testing specifications (Sewer Testing Procedures) adopted by the City, copies of which are on file in the City Clerk's office. All conditions and access shall be made ready prior to scheduling an inspection. If an inspection is scheduled and cannot be performed because of inadequate condition or access to the sewer lateral, the City may recover costs. [Ord. 322 § 1, 2014; Ord. 286, 2012.]

### **13.10.469 Failure of test.**

Should the lateral fail the test, the lateral shall be either repaired or replaced and retested. A plumbing permit will be required in order to perform the necessary repairs or replacement. This process shall continue until the lateral passes the required test.

Lateral Certification. Once the lateral has successfully passed the testing procedure, the City inspector witnessing the test will sign the permit inspection card as approved. [Ord. 322 § 1, 2014; Ord. 286, 2012.]

### **Testing Procedures.**

In connection with the City of Rio Dell Sewer Ordinance, excessive infiltration testing, sewer lateral testing, and lateral testing upon sale shall be performed as follows:

1. The test procedure shall be performed as follows:
  - A. Each lateral is to have a clean-out, as located in the City right of way, on private property adjacent to the City right of way, or on a public utility easement.
  - B. If one does not exist, a clean-out shall be installed prior to performing any testing.
    1. Installation of the clean-out, if necessary, shall require a plumbing permit.
    2. Clean-out shall be run to grade and covered by a valve box and lid.
    3. A clean-out located adjacent to the building (within 30") will be a help in the test and repair of the lateral and is required by the Uniform Plumbing Code for any new construction.
  - C. The Test must be witnessed by City Staff. Please note there is no charge for City staff's time.
  - D. All arrangements and set up should be completed by the time the City Staff arrives to witness the test.

## 2. Method of Testing:

### A. Water Exfiltration Test

1. The owner's contractor shall furnish all materials and equipment at owner's expense, except the calibrated bucket.
2. The contractor shall plug the lateral and riser at the City clean-out and surcharge the line with water to a point equal to the foundation grade (floor joist level) or slab floor.
3. The minimum height of the water level shall be two (2) feet above the lateral invert at the City Clean-out.
  - a. If there is any fixture inside the structure lower than the testing water level, the contractor will have to either plug the fixture or the lateral at the building.
  - b. An approved backwater valve must be installed if there are any plumbing fixtures whose level is below the City clean-out. A plumbing permit is required for this work.
4. The lateral shall be surcharged for thirty (30) minutes and the amount of water lost shall be measured.
5. The lateral shall be considered acceptable if the amount of water lost is less than four (4) gallons for a four (4") inch lateral.
6. On an individual basis the amount of allowable water loss may be adjusted by the City Engineer for a six (6") inch diameter lateral or unusually long lateral lengths.

### B. Air Testing

1. Air testing shall be conducted in accordance to section 306-1.4.4 of the Standard Specifications for the Public Works Construction, American Public Works Association, latest addition.
2. 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 test.
3. The line shall be allowed a maximum loss of ½ psi in five (5) minutes.
4. If the loss exceeds ½ psi, the test may be attempted one additional time. A second loss of pressure constitutes a failure of the line.

***If you have questions regarding the required sewer lateral testing, please contact the City's Wastewater Division at (707) 764-3541.***