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Date: December 9, 2025  
To: All Interested Parties  
From: Nevada County Department of Environmental Health (NCDEH)  
Subject: Guidance for Temporary RV Occupancy and Sewage Disposal

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In unincorporated Nevada County, temporary recreational vehicle (RV) occupancy during construction is permitted through a Temporary Residence Permit issued by the Building Department (Nevada County Code Section 12.03.150(C)). This document provides clarification on acceptable methods of sewage disposal for individuals seeking to temporarily occupy an RV under a Temporary Residence Permit, in accordance with Nevada County Department of Environmental Health (NCDEH) standards.

**Important Notice:**

RVs are designed to hold wastewater in a storage tank. According to [EPA Guidance](#), some RV holding tank chemicals contain formaldehyde, para-dichlorobenzene, zinc, benzene, toluene, xylene, ethylene glycol, methylene chloride, TCA, TCE, PCE, sulfuric acid, or caustic soda that can destroy septic system biological activity, damage tanks and pipes, and may pass through the septic system flowing to the soil, groundwater, and possibly nearby surface waters. Before using tank additives, please read labels carefully to identify any hazardous ingredients and consider using biodegradable alternatives.

**Approved Methods for Sewage Disposal:**

The selected method of sewage disposal must be clearly indicated on the plans submitted to the Building Department. All approvals are contingent upon compliance with zoning requirements and the issuance of a valid building permit. For purposes of this requirement, "sewage" includes blackwater, graywater, and any liquid contaminated with such materials (Nevada County Code Section 15.01.020(Q)).

1. Utilize Sewage Pumping Service

For NCDEH Building permit clearance, provide a copy of the septic pumping contract using a Nevada County permitted septage hauler. A list of permitted septage hauling companies is available upon request from NCDEH.

2. Utilize a Permitted RV Dump Station

For NCDEH Building permit clearance, applicants will be required to provide copies of RV dump station receipts to Environmental Health on a monthly basis.

3. Utilize Existing On-Site Permitted Septic System

The Local Area Management Plan ([LAMP](#)) prohibits onsite wastewater treatment systems (septic systems) from receiving significant amounts of waste dumped from RV

holding tanks. Septic systems are designed to accept only domestic wastewater, which may include **incidental** discharges from RV holding tank wastes. (LAMP Section A-008; OWTS Policy 1.1 & 9.4.7) Accordingly, a **temporary** RV sewage connection may be permitted only as an incidental use.

Applicants seeking NCDEH clearance for a building permit that allows temporary RV occupancy under this option must have a permitted and finalized septic system. The plans submitted to the Building Department shall include:

- **Scaled site plan** showing all existing and proposed improvements, the location of any well(s), approximate slopes, the septic system location, and the proposed RV placement with the temporary connection point to the approved septic system.
- **Connection details** demonstrating how the RV sewer line will be securely connected to the sewer lateral upstream of the septic tank inlet. The connection must be watertight and conform to applicable plumbing code requirements.

Once NCDEH conditionally approves the building permit and the permit is issued, an inspection by the Building Department is required to verify the RV's connection to the approved septic system.

As a condition of approval, NCDEH will require a **disconnection inspection** by the Building Department prior to permit final.

If the building permit expires, the temporary connection approval shall automatically terminate, and temporary RV occupancy must be discontinued.