



# NOTICE: Sewer Use and Stormwater Ordinance Updates

The City of Palo Alto invites public comment on proposed updates to its Sewer Use and Stormwater Ordinances ([Palo Alto Municipal Code, Chapters 16.09 and 16.11](#)). These updates will align the ordinance with new state regulations and permit requirements and will include administrative revisions to organize the content into four separate chapters: Sewer Use, Stormwater, Hauled Liquid Waste (Septic Hauler), and Fats, Oils, & Grease (FOG). These Ordinance provisions are administered by the City of Palo Alto Public Works–Watershed Protection which oversees water pollution prevention services.

## Highlights of Ordinance revisions are summarized below:



### Sewer Use Ordinance

- Updates apply primarily to businesses and permitted facilities.
- Residents with backyard swimming pools may be impacted by ordinance changes related to pool draining permit requirements.



### Stormwater Ordinance

- Updates include new pollution prevention practices that will impact commercial and industrial businesses and development projects.



### Hauled Liquid Waste (Septic Hauler) Ordinance

- This new municipal code chapter applies to haulers of septic wastes (such as sewage collected from a septic tank, cesspool, or chemical toilet) that discharge at the Regional Water Quality Control Plant. Changes capture and codify current City practices.



### Fats, Oils, and Grease Ordinance

- Updates apply to restaurants and other food facilities such as hotels, cafeterias, cafes, and religious institutions, and include requirements to manage grease-related waste.

Ordinance revisions, opportunity to comment,  
and public meeting dates are available at  
[cityofpaloalto.org/SewerStormOrdinanceUpdate](http://cityofpaloalto.org/SewerStormOrdinanceUpdate)

Email [cleanbay@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:cleanbay@cityofpaloalto.org), or call 650.329.2122 for more information.