

# DRAFT Guidelines for Contractors

These guidelines provide plumbing contractors with information about private sewer lateral (PSL) testing requirements in order for them to assist their customers with meeting the requirements of the Regional PSL Program and obtaining an EBMUD PSL Compliance Certificate.

## Regional PSL Program Requirements Overview

The Regional PSL Program requires property owners who plan to sell their property, perform construction or remodeling in excess of \$100,000 or change the size of their water meter to have their PSL fixed(if necessary) and pass an air or water verification test to obtain a Compliance Certificate as proof that the pipe is free of leaks. Compliance Certificates are required to allow the property owner to close escrow, have their final building permit signed off or to complete the processing of their water meter application.

Property owners will need to work with a contractor to have any required repair work done and to prepare the PSL for the air or water verification that will be witnessed by an EBMUD inspector.

### Who is affected?

The program applies to residential, commercial and industrial property owners in EBMUD's wastewater service area in Emeryville, Oakland, Piedmont, and the Stege Sanitary District which serves Kensington, El Cerrito and the Richmond Annex.

### When does the Regional PSL Program take effect?

The Regional PSL Program will begin in Summer 2011 and be phased in through January 2012. Effective dates for each community are posted at [www.eastbaypsl.com](http://www.eastbaypsl.com).

### When is a Compliance Certificate issued and when will it expire?

Once it is demonstrated that the PSL is free of leaks, EBMUD will issue a PSL Compliance Certificate. PSLs that are completely replaced and that successfully pass the testing requirements, will receive a Compliance Certificate that is valid for 20 years from date of issuance. A replacement includes lining of the entire length of the PSL. PSLs that are repaired and that successfully pass the testing requirements, will receive a Compliance Certificate that is valid for 7 years from date of issuance. A repair is a correction of an isolated defect of the PSL.

## Guidelines

### Step 1: Obtain Permits

Appropriate building and/or sewer permits must be obtained prior to the commencement of PSL repair or replacement activities. In addition, PSL repair, replacement, and testing must be performed in accordance with local ordinance requirements and the Regional PSL Program Ordinance (Ordinance No. 311, Title VIII). Contact the agency where work is being performed for permit information and local requirements.

City of Emeryville Building Department	(510) 596-4310
City of Oakland	(510) 238-3891
City of Piedmont Public Works Department	(510) 420-3050
Stege Sanitary District	(510) 524-4668

## Step 2: Complete Required Work

Complete any required work to bring the PSL into compliance.

## Step 3: Schedule an Inspection and Pay Compliance Certificate Fee on behalf of the Property Owner

After work on the PSL is completed, go online to [www.eastbaypsl.com](http://www.eastbaypsl.com) to schedule an inspection for EBMUD to witness an air or water pressure verification test on the lateral and use a credit card to pay the \$150 Compliance Certificate fee. You may also pay by cash or check at the EBMUD New Business Office at 375 11th Street, First Floor, Oakland, CA 94607.

*Contractors must be ready to conduct the verification test at the beginning of the inspection appointment window. Contractors who are not ready to conduct the verification test at the beginning of the appointment window may be required to reschedule the inspection appointment and forfeit the fee.*

## Step 4: Set Up Water or Air Verification Test

The contractor may elect to use either a hydrostatic (water) test or a low-pressure air test to demonstrate that the PSL meets the Regional PSL Program compliance requirements. (See attached test setups.)

## Step 5: Pass Air or Water Verification Test

A PSL meets the Regional PSL compliance requirements when one of the following criteria is met.

Test Type	Passing Criteria
Hydrostatic (water) Test	There is no observable water level loss in a 5 ft. (60 inch) standpipe after 5 minutes under 5 ft. of head.
Low Pressure Air Test	Pressure cannot drop more than one psi in 5 minutes (the minimum starting pressure is 3.5 psi).

## Retesting the Upper Lateral if the test fails

In the event that the testing of the lateral results in a failed test, the contractor may be required to reposition the testing equipment so that only the upper lateral can be tested for compliance with Regional Program requirements. If there is not sufficient time within the scheduled appointment window to accomplish this, the contractor will need to schedule another appointment so that this testing can be performed. To schedule the test, call 1-866-40-EBMUD to make a same or next day appointment (if available). A Compliance Certificate will be issued once the entire lateral passes the test.

## Step 6: Print or Download Compliance Certificate

After the PSL passes a water or air verification test, a Compliance Certificate will be available to print or download from any computer with internet access at [www.eastbaypsl.com](http://www.eastbaypsl.com). The Process is complete.

## Program Audits

To ensure that verification tests are conducted in accordance with these guidelines and that the results are accurately reported, EBMUD may audit the process. The audits may include on-site audits of contractor test documentation and/or re-testing selected laterals using EBMUD staff or other contractors. Enforcement action may be taken against contractors who fail to maintain adequate records or who are found to have falsified test results in order to obtain a Compliance Certificate.

For additional information go to [www.eastbaypsl.com](http://www.eastbaypsl.com) or contact EBMUD's Private Sewer Lateral Program Administrator at (510) 287-0205.

# EAST BAY REGIONAL PRIVATE SEWER LATERAL PROGRAM

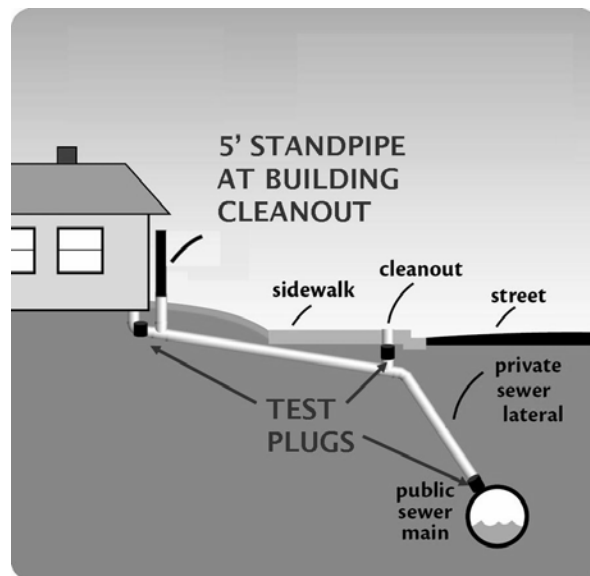
## Hydrostatic (Water) Test

The contractor shall provide all materials and equipment necessary for conducting the test. The test assembly shall include the following equipment:

- Appropriate pipe test plugs and caps to be used during lateral testing.
- A standpipe that can be connected to the building cleanout riser to allow a pressure head of 5 feet (60 inches) above the highest point of the lateral section being tested. The diameter of the standpipe shall be no greater than 4 inches and no less than 2 inches.

## Testing Procedure

- Plug the sewer lateral immediately upstream of the connection to the sewer main and immediately upstream of the building cleanout. A wye connection may be installed for the insertion of a testing plug in the lateral just above the joint at the public sewer main. (Check with the City for requirements. After the test is complete, the wye should be capped and buried.) If there is a curb or property line cleanout present, plug the cleanout riser using an airtight cleanout cover or plug located near the top of the cleanout riser (*Note: Failure to bleed the air out of the cleanout riser while filling the pipe with water may result in a failed test.*)
- Install a temporary standpipe at the building cleanout with the open end 60 inches (5 feet) above the highest point of the PSL (lateral) section being tested.
- Fill the standpipe with water and monitor it for at least 5 minutes or until the water level has stabilized. Add water as needed to maintain 5 feet of head at the top of the standpipe. The water level is stable when there is no observed drop in the water level of the standpipe.
- Begin the test. (*Note: No water may be added to the standpipe once the test has started.*) The lateral shall pass the test if there is no observable water loss at the top of the 5 ft. standpipe after 5 minutes.



Hydrostatic (Water) Test Setup

# EAST BAY REGIONAL PRIVATE SEWER LATERAL PROGRAM

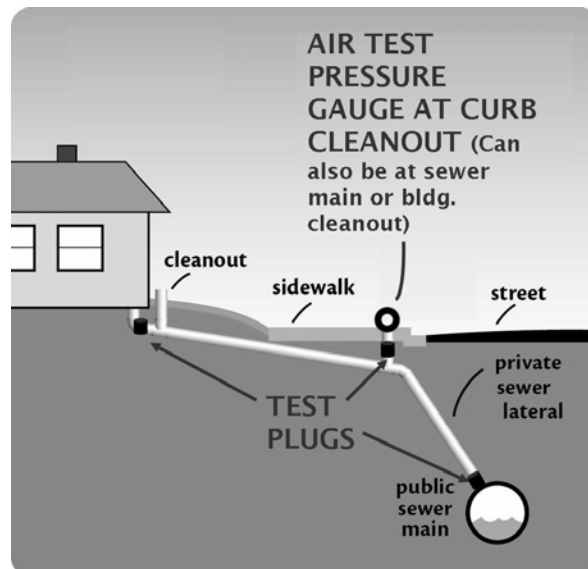
## Low Pressure Air Test

The contractor shall provide all materials and equipment necessary for conducting the test. The test assembly shall include the following equipment:

- Appropriate pipe test plugs and caps to be used during lateral testing.
- A test assembly that allows the application of pressurized air to the pipe being tested, provides connections for the air pressure gauge, and includes a 3/8" female pipe thread connection to allow a second pressure test gauge to be connected in parallel to the pressure test gauge.
- A pressure test gauge that is in good working order and has a range of 0 to 10 pounds per square inch (psi) that can be accurately read to 0.1 psi.
- A reliable source of pressurized air with a pressure regulator as needed to conduct the test.

## Testing Procedure

- Plug the sewer lateral immediately upstream of the connection to the sewer main and immediately upstream of the building cleanout. A wye connection may be installed for the insertion of a testing plug in the lateral just above the joint at the public sewer main. (Check with the City for requirements. After the test is complete, the wye should be capped and buried.) If there is a curb or property line cleanout present, plug the cleanout riser using an airtight cleanout cover or plug located near the top of the cleanout riser.
- Apply pressurized air to the test assembly and raise the internal pressure to approximately 4 psi. (Note: Pressure may be applied from either end of the lateral)
- Maintain the internal air pressure between 3.5 and 4.0 psi for at least two minutes to allow the air pressure and internal temperature to stabilize. [The minimum starting pressure shall be 3.5 psi.]
- Disconnect the pressurized air supply and begin timing the test. No additional air may be added once the test has started.
- The lateral passes the test if the pressure does not drop more than one psi in 5 minutes.



Low Pressure Air Test Setup