

Attachment A
Article VII: Grease/Sand/Lint Interceptors

Article VII: Grease/Sand/Lint Interceptors (6.02.070)

- 7.01 Objective** - Improper maintenance of grease, sand and lint interceptors can violate the District's wastewater influent standards and cause significant harm to the District's wastewater collection and treatment systems. The purpose of this Section is to minimize District costs incurred for the maintenance of sewer lines, lift stations, and treatment plants by reducing the amounts of fats, oils, grease (FOG), sand and lint being discharged to the sewer system.
- 7.02 Scope** - Includes any public or private establishment discharging wastewater containing fats, oil, grease, sand or lint where pretreatment is deemed necessary by the District. This Section ensures that all interceptors are properly maintained to protect District facilities and uphold water quality objectives.
- 7.03 Authority** - The District's Ordinances, Rules, and Regulations as amended from time to time.
- 7.04 Qualified Facilities** - When, in the judgment of the District, waste pretreatment is required, a property is deemed a Qualified Facility. The property owner/User shall install and maintain an approved grease, sand/oil, or lint interceptor in accordance with the 2022 California Plumbing Code (CPC) and all subsequent editions as applicable, at the property owner's/user's expense, subject to the District and local land use agency (City of Desert Hot Springs, City of Palm Springs or Riverside County) requirements.

Waste lines from sinks, drains, and other fixtures or equipment in facilities such as restaurants, cafés, lunch counters, cafeterias, bars, clubs, hotels, hospitals, sanitariums, factory and school kitchens, or any other establishment where grease may enter the sewer system in quantities that could cause blockages or interfere with treatment shall be connected to a grease interceptor.

Waste lines from car washes shall be connected to a sand/oil interceptor to protect the collection system.

Waste lines from laundry facilities shall be connected to a lint interceptor to prevent lint buildup and blockages.

7.05 Interceptor Requirement

A. General Requirements

An interceptor shall be required when the wastewater discharged from a building, facility, or operation is anticipated to contain, fats, oils, grease (FOG), sand, lint, or other harmful constituents in quantities or concentrations that may:

1. Exceed the District's wastewater influent standards (see Article V),
2. Causing or contributing to blockages, backups, or other deleterious effects on the District's wastewater collection and treatment systems, or
3. Require additional maintenance or treatment beyond normal operating levels.

The requirement for an interceptor applies to both new and existing facilities. The determination will be made by the District, local land use agency (City of Desert Hot Springs, City of Palm Springs or Riverside County) or both. MSWD will consider minimum requirements contained in the 2022 edition of the CPC, and all subsequent editions as applicable when approving interceptors.

B. Exceptions - Interceptors are not required for buildings used solely for residential purposes, except where shared or common food preparation or laundry activities occur that, in the judgment of the District and/or local land use agency, create a discharge that rises to the level of requiring pretreatment.

C. Responsibilities

1. Both the property owner and facility user are jointly responsible for the installation, operation, and maintenance of the interceptor.
2. The District may require a property owner, jointly with the user, to install a new interceptor, resize an existing interceptor, or modify a sampling station at any time it is determined necessary to maintain compliance with District standards.
3. If a facility is found, after connection to the District's collection system, to be discharging wastewater that requires pretreatment, the District may order the installation or modification of an interceptor within a specified compliance timeframe.

D. Permit Requirement

1. Upon notification that a facility requires an interceptor, the property owner jointly with the user must immediately apply for a Sewer Interceptor Waste Discharge Permit as a condition of continued or future service.
2. No facility may connect or remain connected to the District's system without meeting the interceptor requirements of this Section.

E. Enforcement - Failure to install, modify, or maintain an interceptor as required by this Section shall constitute a violation of the District's Ordinance. Such violations are subject to the enforcement provisions of Section 7.20, which may include Notices of Violation, Cease and Desist Orders, administrative fines, civil or criminal penalties, and/or termination of water and sewer service.

7.06 Application for Sewer Interceptor Waste Discharge Permit

A. General Requirement

All facilities are required to obtain a Sewer Interceptor Waste Discharge Permit (Interceptor Permit). This requirement applies whether an interceptor is required at the

time of development, during remodeling, or upon later determination by the District that pretreatment is necessary.

The determination of whether a facility must install and maintain an interceptor will be made on a case-by-case basis by the District during plan review, upon application for water and sewer service, or at any time following connection to the system when the District identifies that pretreatment is necessary. MSWD will consider minimum requirements contained in the 2022 edition of the CPC, and all subsequent editions as applicable when approving interceptors.

B. Evaluation Criteria

1. Type of facility (e.g., restaurant, bakery, car wash, laundromat).
2. Volume and intensity of business operations (e.g., number of meals served, seating capacity, hours of operation, or number of laundry units).
3. Peak wastewater flows discharged to the collection system.
4. Size and configuration of facilities, including plumbing fixtures and equipment.
5. Types of food, products, or materials handled and the likelihood of producing fats, oils, grease, lint, sand, or other pollutants.
6. Existence of devices, procedures, or practices to minimize the pollutants before entering the collection system.
7. Overall potential for discharges containing fats, oils, grease, sand, or lint.

C. Application Requirements:

1. New Construction/Remodels

- a. The property owner, jointly with the user, shall submit an application, design details, and operating procedures for any required interceptor prior to the issuance of construction permits by the applicable land use agency.
- b. Plan check and application fees must be paid in full prior to District approval.
- c. No facility may connect to the District's system until the application is approved, and the permit is issued.

2. Existing Facilities

- a. If the District or applicable land use agency determines that a facility discharges pollutants requiring pretreatment, the property owner jointly with the user shall submit an application within ten (10) calendar days of notice.
- b. Installation or modification of the interceptor must be completed within one hundred eighty (180) calendar days of notice, unless an extension is granted. Requests for extension must be submitted at least ten (10) calendar days before the expiration of the compliance deadline.

3. Waivered Facilities

- a. Facilities qualifying for a waiver pursuant to section 7.17 must still submit an application and will be issued a permit reflecting their waived status.
- b. Waivered facilities are subject to annual inspection by the District but are not required to submit annual maintenance reports.

D. Application Contents - Each Sewer Interceptor Waste Discharge Permit application shall include, at a minimum, the following information:

1. Property owner's information including address, phone number, and email address.
2. Facility and facility user's information including facility user's name, facility name, facility location, mailing address, phone number, and email address.
3. Facility operations description (hours of operation, seating capacity, nature of services).
4. Description of plumbing fixtures and wastewater sources connected to the interceptor.
5. Interceptor design, sizing calculations, and location.
6. Proposed maintenance and inspection procedures.
7. Name and contact information of proposed maintenance contractor (pumping/hauling company).
8. Acknowledgment of joint property owner/user responsibility.

E. Enforcement - Failure to submit a complete application within the required timeframe, or failure to install or modify an interceptor when required, constitutes a violation of this Section. Violations are subject to the enforcement provisions of Section 7.20, including Notices of Violation, Cease and Desist Orders, administrative fines of at least \$1,000/day, and termination of water and/or sewer service.

7.07 Interceptor Permit

A. Upon approval of an application under Section 7.06, the District shall issue a Sewer Interceptor Waste Discharge Permit (Interceptor Permit). This permit authorizes the discharge of wastewater containing fats, oils, grease (FOG), sand, lint, or other covered constituents through an approved interceptor system.

B. Permit Term and Validity

1. Interceptor Permits shall be issued for a period not to exceed five (5) years.
2. Permits are non-transferable. A change in property ownership, facility user, or business operation shall require submission of a new application within ten (10) calendar days of the effective change.
3. Permits shall remain valid only so long as the facility remains in compliance with this Article and all related District rules, regulations, and ordinances.

C. Permit Conditions

1. The permit holder must comply with all District requirements regarding interceptor installation, maintenance, inspection, reporting, and sampling.
2. The permit holder must allow District representatives access to the facility during normal calendar hours for inspection, sampling, and review of records.
3. Interceptor Permits, hard copy or electronic copy, must be kept onsite and readily available for review by District personnel at all times.
4. Failure to meet permit conditions will result in enforcement actions as described in Section 7.20 of this Ordinance.

D. Waivered Facilities

1. Facilities determined by the District to qualify for a waiver shall still be issued an Interceptor Permit clearly noting their waived status.
2. Waivered facilities are subject to annual inspections by the District to confirm continued eligibility for waiver.
3. Waivered facilities are not required to submit Annual Maintenance Reports (see Section 7.11), but must comply with inspection findings and corrective actions, if any.
4. If conditions change such that the facility no longer qualifies for waiver, the permit will be revoked, and a new application will be required.

E. Permit Renewal

1. Approximately three (3) months prior to permit expiration, the District shall provide notice of the need to renew.
2. A renewal application must be submitted at least ten (10) calendar days before expiration.
3. Failure to renew prior to expiration will render the permit null and void, subjecting the facility to enforcement actions, including issuance of a Cease-and-Desist.

F. Joint Responsibility

1. Both the property owner and the facility user are jointly responsible for compliance with permit requirements.
2. If a facility user fails to pay any fines, fees, or penalties associated with the permit, the property owner shall be held financially responsible.

G. Enforcement - Failure to obtain, maintain, renew, or comply with the conditions of an Interceptor Permit constitutes a violation of this Section and may result in enforcement under Section 7.20. Such enforcement actions may include the issuance of a Notice of Violation, a Cease-and-Desist Order carrying fines of at least \$1,000 per day, revocation of the Interceptor Permit, termination of water and/or sewer service, and the imposition of civil or criminal penalties.

7.08 Interceptor Permit Renewal - All Interceptor Permits are issued for a maximum term of five (5) years and must be renewed prior to expiration to maintain compliance with District requirements. Renewal of an Interceptor Permit shall require the submittal of a new Application for a Sewer Interceptor Waste Discharge Permit, including updated facility information, operational details, and documentation of maintenance activities performed during the current permit period.

The renewal application shall be submitted to the District at least ten (10) calendar days prior to the expiration date of the existing Interceptor Permit. Failure to submit a timely renewal application may result in the permit becoming null and void, leaving the facility without authorization to discharge and subjecting the property owner jointly with the user to enforcement under Section 7.20.

The District will review the renewal application in the same manner as an initial application, including evaluation of facility operations, maintenance history, inspection records, and compliance with all permit conditions. The District may require modifications

to the existing interceptor, updates to maintenance schedules, or other corrective measures as a condition of renewal.

Approximately three (3) months prior to expiration, the District will provide written notice to the permit holder reminding them of the renewal requirement and deadline. However, the responsibility to submit a complete renewal application on time lies solely with the property owner jointly with the facility user.

Facilities that qualify for a waiver will also be required to renew their Interceptor Permit on the same five-year cycle. Waivered permits will continue to note the facility's waiver status and remain subject to annual inspection requirements.

7.09 Conditional Use - By applying for an Interceptor Permit, the property owner, jointly with the facility user, agrees to comply with all District ordinances, rules, regulations, and policies governing the use and conditions of the Permit Compliance with the District's Sewer Service Rules and Regulations Ordinance, as well as all related provisions as may be amended from time to time, is a condition of continued authorization to discharge. Any violation of these requirements may result in the immediate revocation of the Interceptor Permit at the discretion of the District, and may further subject the facility to enforcement actions, including the issuance of a Notice of Violation or a Cease-and-Desist Order.

7.10 Prohibited Materials - The introduction of chemicals or other materials designed to emulsify, suspend, or dissolve oils and grease into the sewer system is strictly prohibited. The use of microbiological agents intended to metabolize fats, oils, and grease is expressly prohibited unless the applicant conducts a complete onsite study using scientifically recognized methods to substantiate the product's claims. The study must receive prior written approval from the District's Wastewater and Engineering Departments. All costs associated with conducting the study, including the District's evaluation and review, shall be the sole responsibility of the property owner and/or facility user. No elements of the study may be implemented without the District's final approval.

The following additional prohibitions apply:

- a. Food Grinders - New food establishments shall not install food grinders on any plumbing system that drains to the grease interceptor. Existing food establishments with food grinders connected to a grease interceptor must remove them within one hundred and eighty (180) calendar days of notice from the District, unless a Conditional Waiver allowing additional time is granted.
- b. Waste cooking oil - shall not be discharged into any drainage pipes. Proper disposal methods must be used.
- c. High-Temperature Discharges - Dishwashers or any other onsite processes that discharge wastewater to a grease interceptor at a temperature of 150 degrees Fahrenheit (65 degrees C) or higher is prohibited.
- d. Sanitary Facilities – Wastewater flows from toilets, urinals, washbasins or other sanitary facilities are prohibited from being connected and discharging through a grease interceptor.
- e. Interceptor Residuals – Fats, oils, grease, and sand removed from an interceptor shall not be reintroduced into the sewer collection system under any circumstances.

7.11 Maintenance Requirements - All facilities equipped with an interceptor shall continuously maintain the system and ensure it is always kept in proper working condition. The responsibility of all costs for inspections, pumping, sampling, laboratory analysis, repairs, and any other required maintenance shall be the responsibility of the property owner jointly with the facility user. Interceptors shall be cleaned, inspected, and sampled as frequently as necessary to ensure that the liquid-holding capacity is not reduced by more than twenty-five percent (25%) and that effluent limits for fats, oils, grease, sand, and lint do not exceed one hundred milligrams per liter (100mg/L).

The District shall determine the initial minimum pumping, sampling, and inspection frequency for each Qualified Facility. A minimum of one (1) physical inspection shall occur within the first twelve (12) months following the initial permit date and annually thereafter. The District may adjust the inspection or pumping frequency at its discretion based on compliance history, operational changes, or subsequent evaluations. Facilities assigned an increased inspection schedule will have their required frequency expressly stated in the Permit.

7.12 Choosing a Maintenance Provider - All interceptor pumping, inspections, sample collection, and repairs shall be performed by a qualified professional grease, septic or interceptor maintenance company (contractor) licensed to perform such work. Property owners and users are responsible for selecting a maintenance provider; the District does not endorse or recommend any specific contractor. Maintenance companies may be located through local directories or online under categories such as "Septic" or "Septic Tank Cleaning Services." All liquids, solids, and residual materials removed from interceptors must be disposed of in accordance with all applicable local, county, state, and federal regulations. All associated costs remain the sole responsibility of the property owner jointly with the user.

7.13 Inspections - All interceptor inspections and sample draws shall be coordinated with the District to allow for the District representative to be present. The Interceptor Permit holder must contact the District's Wastewater Department to schedule these events. Inspections will only be conducted during the District's regular business hours, 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Routine overtime inspections are not permitted. Requests for inspections on weekends and holidays must be made with at least three (3) business days' advance notice and may only proceed with written approval from authorized District staff. The full cost of any approved overtime inspection shall be borne by the Permit holder.

During each inspection, the facility's maintenance contractor shall determine the available liquid capacity of the interceptor. If required by Interceptor Permit or the District's representative, the contractor shall also collect an effluent sample during peak flow conditions for analysis. All sampling and analysis must be completed in accordance with the latest edition of Standard Methods for Examination of Water and Wastewater, and in compliance with EPA Standards, 40 CFR Part 136. A documented chain of custody is required; all analyses must be performed by a properly licensed laboratory. The laboratory must send results directly to the District upon completion.

If an inspection reveals that liquid capacity has been reduced by more than 25% or that effluent samples exceed 100 mg/L of emulsified oil or grease, immediate pumping is required. Documentation of the pumping and maintenance activities must be submitted to the District. No visible floating oil or grease may be present in the interceptor effluent; if observed, pumping is mandatory.

7.14 Best Management Practices (BMPs) - In addition to the maintenance requirements in the Section, the District strongly encourages all facilities to implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) to minimize discharges and reduce the need for interceptor maintenance. District staff are available to assist Interceptor Permit holders in communicating BMPs to facility employees through prearranged presentations, signage, placards and handouts. Facilities shall ensure that employees are trained in BMPs upon hire and that training is refreshed at least annually. Signed records of training attendance and acknowledgment must be maintained and made available to the District upon request.

Examples of recommended BMPs include - dry-wiping pots, pans, dishware, and work areas before washing; disposing of food waste and solids in sealed plastic bags before placing them in trash bins; using absorbent products to clean fryer areas; disposing of cooking grease into appropriate receptacles without spillage; properly handling wastewater generated from exhaust filter cleaning; and posting BMP signage prominently in food preparation and dishwashing areas.

7.15 Reporting Requirements - All Interceptor Permit holders are required to submit a Sewer Interceptor Waste Discharge Annual Interceptor Maintenance Report (Annual Report) to the District no later than January 15th of each calendar year. The report shall include a completed District reporting form along with documentation of all maintenance performed during the preceding year, including pumping, physical inspections, repairs, effluent sample analyses, and any District inspections required under the Interceptor Permit. New facilities that receive an Interceptor Permit after January 1 are also subject to the reporting requirement. Because of the shortened initial reporting period for such facilities, those with fewer than twelve (12) months of operation by January 1 and only one required annual inspection or pumping event, it is important for permit holders to clearly note on the reporting form that their initial reporting period covered less than twelve (12) months and that no maintenance was required or performed, consistent with the conditions of their Interceptor Permit.

Waivered facilities are not required to submit annual maintenance reports but remain subject to annual District inspections.

Both new and existing Interceptor Permit holders must perform all required maintenance as specified in their permit and must submit the annual report with accurate documentation of compliance activities. Failure to do so will constitute noncompliance subject to the enforcement provisions of Section 7.20.

7.16 Notifications:

A. General Provisions

1. **Methods of Service** - Notices shall be transmitted by one or more of the following methods, as specified for each notice type below: email, first-class mail, certified mail (return receipt requested), and/or hand delivery to the facility premises.
2. **Recipients** - Unless otherwise stated, notices shall be directed to the facility user. Where indicated below, copies shall also be sent to the property owner. Email delivery to the property owner shall be used where an email address is available.
3. **Compliance Timeframes** - Compliance deadlines specified below are measured from the date of notice and are stated in either **calendar days** or **working days** as indicated.
4. **Effect of Non-Receipt** - Properly addressed and dispatched notices are deemed given on the date of mailing, emailing, or hand delivery, as applicable.
5. **Enforcement** - Failure to achieve compliance within the timeframe for any notice may result in issuance of the next sequential notice and/or enforcement pursuant to Section 7.20.

B. Initial Application for Permit

1. Initial Notice - Mailed and hand delivered to the facility user. Compliance period: 10 calendar days.
2. Past Due Notice - Mailed and hand delivered to the facility user. Compliance period: 15 calendar days.
3. Notice of Violation / Delinquency Notice - Mailed by certified mail and hand delivered to the facility; copy sent to the property owner by certified mail. Compliance period: 10 working days.
4. Cease-and-Desist Order - Mailed by certified mail and hand delivered to the facility; copy sent to the property owner by certified mail. Compliance period: 7 calendar days.

C. Application for Permit Renewal (Five-Year Renewal)

1. Initial Notice. Emailed and mailed to the facility user 70 days prior to the permit renewal fee due date. Compliance period: 35 calendar days.
2. Past Due Notice. Emailed and mailed to the facility user 45 days prior to the permit renewal fee due date. Compliance period: 15 calendar days.
3. Notice of Violation / Delinquency Notice. Emailed, mailed by certified mail, and hand delivered to the facility user 20 days prior to the permit renewal fee due date; copy to the property owner by email (if available) and certified mail. Compliance period: 10 working days.
4. Cease-and-Desist Order. Emailed, mailed by certified mail, and hand delivered to the facility user 7 days prior to the permit renewal fee due date; copy to the property owner by email (if available) and certified mail. Compliance period: 7 calendar days.

D. Annual Renewal Fee

1. Initial Notice. Emailed and mailed to the facility user 70 days prior to the renewal fee due date. Compliance period: 35 calendar days.
2. Past Due Notice. Emailed and mailed to the facility user 45 days prior to the renewal fee due date. Compliance period: 15 calendar days.

3. Notice of Violation / Delinquency Notice. Emailed, mailed by certified mail, and hand delivered to the facility user 20 days prior to the renewal fee due date; copy to the property owner by email (if available) and certified mail. Compliance period: 10 working days.
4. Cease-and-Desist Order. Emailed, mailed by certified mail, and hand delivered to the facility user 7 days prior to the renewal fee due date; copy to the property owner by email (if available) and certified mail. Compliance period: 7 calendar days.

E. Annual Maintenance Reporting

1. Initial Notice. Emailed and mailed to the facility user on December 15. Compliance period: 30 calendar days.
2. Past Due Notice. Emailed and mailed to the facility user on January 16. Compliance period: 30 calendar days.
3. Notice of Violation / Delinquency Notice. Emailed, mailed by certified mail, and hand delivered to the facility; copy to the property owner by email (if available) and certified mail on February 17. Compliance period: 10 working days.
4. Cease-and-Desist Order. Emailed, mailed by certified mail, and hand delivered to the facility user; copy to the property owner by email (if available) and certified mail on February 28. Compliance period: 7 calendar days.

7.17 Waiver - Facilities that can demonstrate, to the District's satisfaction, that the quality or quantity of their wastewater is such that an interceptor is not required may apply for a waiver. A waiver request must include a completed District Waiver Application Form and all supporting documentation. Limited food preparation establishments are one example of facilities eligible for waiver consideration. Such establishments engage only in reheating, hot-holding, or assembly of ready-to-eat foods and do not significantly alter food form or generate measurable FOG discharges. Approved waived facilities shall still be issued an Interceptor Permit noting their waived status and will be inspected annually by the District to confirm continued eligibility.

7.18 Conditional Waiver/Permanent Variance/Grease Disposal Mitigation Fee - The District may grant a Conditional Waiver to extend compliance deadlines in cases where facilities demonstrate good cause. A written request addressed to the General Manager, with supporting evidence, must be submitted for consideration. Conditional Waivers are normally limited to sixty (60) calendar days. Permanent variances may be approved by the General Manager and the Board when alternative pretreatment technology, equally effective in controlling discharges, is demonstrated and traditional interceptor technology is not feasible.

If a Conditional Waiver or Permanent Variance request is denied, the applicant may pursue the District's formal appeal process. In some cases, where no acceptable alternative technology is available, the District may impose a Grease Disposal Mitigation Fee to offset the increased costs of system maintenance caused by the facility's discharges.

7.19 Charges/Fees - The District, by Ordinance and/or Resolution and under the authority of the District Rules, Regulations and Ordinances as may be amended from time to time, shall establish fees and charges necessary for implementation of this Section. Payment

of all applicable fees is required prior to issuance, renewal, or modification of an Interceptor Permit.

7.20 Enforcement - Noncompliance (6.02.110) - Failure to provide proof of interceptor maintenance, failure to maintain qualified interceptors, or any other violation of the requirements of this Section that results in a noncompliance determination by the District shall constitute a violation subject to enforcement. In such cases, a Notice of Violation shall be issued to the property owner jointly with the facility user.

A. Notice of Violation - A notice of violation shall describe the nature of the violation, the corrective actions required, and the deadline for compliance, which shall not exceed ten (10) calendar days. A Conditional Waiver may be requested by the permit holder to extend the compliance deadline, subject to District approval.

B. Issuance of Cease-and-Desist Orders - Failure to comply with a Notice of Violation within the time specified may result in the issuance of a Cease-and-Desist Order. Such an order will direct the property owner jointly with user to achieve compliance within a schedule established by the District or to cease operations immediately. Each violation subject to a Cease-and-Desist Order shall carry a fine of at least one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per violation per day. Violations resulting in issuance of a Cease-and-Desist Order will be remanded to the District's Board for further action, which may include imposition of civil liabilities of at least \$1,000 per violation per day and additional civil or criminal penalties as authorized by Article XI and the District's Rules, Regulations and Ordinances, as may be amended from time to time.

C. Termination of Service - As provided for in Article XI: Enforcement, failure to comply with a Cease-and-Desist Order may result in a hearing before the District. Following the hearing, staff may recommend revocation of the facility's Interceptor Permit and/or termination of wastewater and/or water service to the facility.

D. Administrative Fines - Any delinquent fees, charges or fines may accrue interest at a monthly rate established by District policy. Unpaid amounts, including late fees and penalties, may be recorded as a lien against the property until fully satisfied.

E. Judicial Enforcement - The District reserves the right to pursue any and all available legal remedies, including criminal and civil actions, against any party who intentionally or negligently violates the provisions of a Interceptor Permit or requirements of this Section, or who otherwise violates the District's Sewer Service Rules, Regulations and Ordinances.