



A Tradition of Stewardship  
A Commitment to Service

**Planning, Building & Environmental Services**

1195 Third Street, Suite 210  
Napa, CA 94559  
www.countyofnapa.org

**David Morrison**  
Director

## MEMORANDUM

To: All interested parties (applicants, engineers, property owners)	From: Division of Environmental Health
Date: Revisions - March 1, 2013, March 7, 2011, November 2009, January 2004	Re: Procedure to verify septic system and cave clearance

The clearance distance between caves and septic systems were established to ensure that appropriate health and safety considerations have been made with respect to the location of cave structures and septic systems. Napa County Code, Section 13.28.040 establishes minimum clearance distances between septic systems and cave structures and this memo describes the process for demonstrating the proposed cave meets the appropriate clearance. In developing the clearance distances and this procedure, the potential impact of cave drains on existing septic systems was considered as well as the potential impact of the septic system on a cave.

The following procedure will be used to verify distances between the cave and septic system(s) meet the minimum clearance distances specified in County Code, Section 13.28.040:

Prior to this Division recommending approval of Use Permit applications and building permit applications not requiring a Use Permit, an accurate legible plan with elevations showing all existing septic systems within 400 feet of the cave must be submitted for review and approval. Full scaled drawings of the cave structure must be submitted showing cave tunnel elevations. Additionally, if a cave is proposed up gradient of an existing or proposed septic system the plan must include details on cave drainage to evaluate the potential impact on existing or proposed septic systems located down gradient of the cave structures.