

**Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
Organized Sewage Collection System  
General Construction Notes**

**Edwards Aquifer Protection Program Construction Notes – Legal Disclaimer**

*The following/listed “construction notes” are intended to be advisory in nature only and do not constitute an approval or conditional approval by the Executive Director, nor do they constitute a comprehensive listing of rules or conditions to be followed during construction. Further actions may be required to achieve compliance with TCEQ regulations found in Title 30, Texas Administrative Code, Chapters 213 and 217, as well as local ordinances and regulations providing for the protection of water quality. Additionally, nothing contained in the following/listed “construction notes” restricts the powers of the Executive Director, the commission or any other governmental entity to prevent, correct, or curtail activities that result or may result in pollution of the Edwards Aquifer or hydrologically connected surface waters. The holder of any Edwards Aquifer Protection Plan containing “construction notes” is still responsible for compliance with Title 30, Texas Administrative Code, Chapters 213 or any other applicable TCEQ regulation, as well as all conditions of an Edwards Aquifer Protection Plan through all phases of plan implementation. Failure to comply with any condition of the Executive Director’s approval, whether or not in contradiction of any “construction notes,” is a violation of TCEQ regulations and any violation is subject to administrative rules, orders, and penalties as provided under Title 30, Texas Administrative Code § 213.10 (relating to Enforcement). Such violations may also be subject to civil penalties and injunction. The following/listed “construction notes” in no way represent an approved exception by the Executive Director to any part of Title 30 Texas Administrative Code, Chapters 213 and 217, or any other TCEQ applicable regulation.*

1. This Organized Sewage Collection System (SCS) must be constructed in accordance with 30 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §213.5(c), the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality’s (TCEQ) Edwards Aquifer Rules and any local government standard specifications.
2. All contractors conducting regulated activities associated with this proposed regulated project must be provided with copies of the SCS plan and the TCEQ letter indicating the specific conditions of its approval. During the course of these regulated activities, the contractors must be required to keep on-site copies of the plan and the approval letter.
3. A written notice of construction must be submitted to the presiding TCEQ regional office at least 48 hours prior to the start of any regulated activities. This notice must include:
  - the name of the approved project;
  - the activity start date; and
  - the contact information of the prime contractor.
4. Any modification to the activities described in the referenced SCS application following the date of approval may require the submittal of an SCS application to modify this approval, including the payment of appropriate fees and all information necessary for its review and approval.
5. Prior to beginning any construction activity, all temporary erosion and sedimentation (E&S) control measures must be properly installed and maintained in accordance with the manufacturers specifications. These controls must remain in place until the disturbed areas have been permanently stabilized.
6. If any sensitive features are discovered during the wastewater line trenching activities, all regulated activities near the sensitive feature must be suspended immediately. The applicant must immediately notify the appropriate regional office of the TCEQ of the feature discovered. A geologist’s assessment of the location and extent of the feature discovered must be reported to that regional office in writing and the applicant must submit a plan for ensuring the structural integrity of the sewer line or for modifying the proposed collection system alignment around the feature. The regulated activities near the sensitive feature may not proceed until the

executive director has reviewed and approved the methods proposed to protect the sensitive feature and the Edwards Aquifer from any potentially adverse impacts to water quality while maintaining the structural integrity of the line.

7. Sewer lines located within or crossing the 5-year floodplain of a drainage way will be protected from inundation and stream velocities which could cause erosion and scouring of backfill. The trench must be capped with concrete to prevent scouring of backfill, or the sewer lines must be encased in concrete. All concrete shall have a minimum thickness of 6 inches.
8. Blasting procedures for protection of existing sewer lines and other utilities will be in accordance with the National Fire Protection Association criteria. Sand is not allowed as bedding or backfill in trenches that have been blasted. If any existing sewer lines are damaged, the lines must be repaired and retested.
9. All manholes constructed or rehabilitated on this project must have watertight size on size resilient connectors allowing for differential settlement. If manholes are constructed within the 100-year floodplain, the cover must have a gasket and be bolted to the ring. Where gasketed manhole covers are required for more than three manholes in sequence or for more than 1500 feet, alternate means of venting will be provided. Bricks are not an acceptable construction material for any portion of the manhole.

The diameter of the manholes must be a minimum of four feet and the manhole for entry must have a minimum clear opening diameter of 30 inches. These dimensions and other details showing compliance with the commission's rules concerning manholes and sewer line/manhole inverts described in 30 TAC §217.55 are included on Plan Sheet \_\_\_ of \_\_\_.

It is suggested that entrance into manholes in excess of four feet deep be accomplished by means of a portable ladder. The inclusion of steps in a manhole is prohibited.

10. Where water lines and new sewer line are installed with a separation distance closer than nine feet (i.e., water lines crossing wastewater lines, water lines paralleling wastewater lines, or water lines next to manholes) the installation must meet the requirements of 30 TAC §217.53(d) (Pipe Design) and 30 TAC §290.44(e) (Water Distribution).
11. Where sewers lines deviate from straight alignment and uniform grade all curvature of sewer pipe must be achieved by the following procedure which is recommended by the pipe manufacturer: \_\_\_\_\_.

If pipe flexure is proposed, the following method of preventing deflection of the joint must be used: \_\_\_\_\_.

Specific care must be taken to ensure that the joint is placed in the center of the trench and properly bedded in accordance with 30 TAC §217.54.

12. New sewage collection system lines must be constructed with stub outs for the connection of anticipated extensions. The location of such stub outs must be marked on the ground such that their location can be easily determined at the time of connection of the extensions. Such stub outs must be manufactured wyes or tees that are compatible in size and material with both the sewer line and the extension. At the time of original construction, new stub-outs must be constructed sufficiently to extend beyond the end of the street pavement. All stub-outs must be sealed with a manufactured cap to prevent leakage. Extensions that were not anticipated at the time of original construction or that are to be connected to an existing sewer line not furnished with stub outs must be connected using a manufactured saddle and in accordance with accepted plumbing techniques.

If no stub-out is present an alternate method of joining laterals is shown in the detail on Plan Sheet \_\_\_ of \_\_\_. (For potential future laterals).

The private service lateral stub-outs must be installed as shown on the plan and profile sheets on Plan Sheet \_\_\_ of \_\_\_ and marked after backfilling as shown in the detail on Plan Sheet \_\_\_ of \_\_\_.

13. Trenching, bedding and backfill must conform with 30 TAC §217.54. The bedding and backfill for flexible pipe must comply with the standards of ASTM D-2321, Classes IA, IB, II or III. Rigid pipe bedding must comply with the requirements of ASTM C 12 (ANSI A 106.2) classes A, B or C.
14. Sewer lines must be tested from manhole to manhole. When a new sewer line is connected to an existing stub or clean-out, it must be tested from existing manhole to new manhole. If a stub or clean-out is used at the end of the proposed sewer line, no private service attachments may be connected between the last manhole and the cleanout unless it can be certified as conforming with the provisions of 30 TAC §213.5(c)(3)(E).
15. All sewer lines must be tested in accordance with 30 TAC §217.57. The engineer must retain copies of all test results which must be made available to the executive director upon request. The engineer must certify in writing that all wastewater lines have passed all required testing to the appropriate regional office within 30 days of test completion and prior to use of the new collection system. Testing method will be:
  - (a) For a collection system pipe that will transport wastewater by gravity flow, the design must specify an infiltration and exfiltration test or a low-pressure air test. A test must conform to the following requirements:
    - (1) *Low Pressure Air Test.*
      - (A) A low pressure air test must follow the procedures described in American Society For Testing And Materials (ASTM) C-828, ASTM C-924, or ASTM F-1417 or other procedure approved by the executive director, except as to testing times as required in Table C.3 in subparagraph (C) of this paragraph or Equation C.3 in subparagraph (B)(ii) of this paragraph.
      - (B) For sections of collection system pipe less than 36 inch average inside diameter, the following procedure must apply, unless a pipe is to be tested as required by paragraph (2) of this subsection.
        - (i) A pipe must be pressurized to 3.5 pounds per square inch (psi) greater than the pressure exerted by groundwater above the pipe.
        - (ii) Once the pressure is stabilized, the minimum time allowable for the pressure to drop from 3.5 psi gauge to 2.5 psi gauge is computed from the following equation:

Equation C.3

$$T = \frac{0.085 \times D \times K}{Q}$$

Where:

- T = time for pressure to drop 1.0 pound per square inch gauge in seconds  
K = 0.000419 X D X L, but not less than 1.0  
D = average inside pipe diameter in inches

L = length of line of same size being tested, in feet  
 Q = rate of loss, 0.0015 cubic feet per minute per square foot internal surface

(C) Since a K value of less than 1.0 may not be used, the minimum testing time for each pipe diameter is shown in the following Table C.3:

Pipe Diameter (inches)	Minimum Time (seconds)	Maximum Length for Minimum Time (feet)	Time for Longer Length (seconds/foot)
6	340	398	0.855
8	454	298	1.520
10	567	239	2.374
12	680	199	3.419
15	850	159	5.342
18	1020	133	7.693
21	1190	114	10.471
24	1360	100	13.676
27	1530	88	17.309
30	1700	80	21.369
33	1870	72	25.856

- (D) An owner may stop a test if no pressure loss has occurred during the first 25% of the calculated testing time.
- (E) If any pressure loss or leakage has occurred during the first 25% of a testing period, then the test must continue for the entire test duration as outlined above or until failure.
- (F) Wastewater collection system pipes with a 27 inch or larger average inside diameter may be air tested at each joint instead of following the procedure outlined in this section.
- (G) A testing procedure for pipe with an inside diameter greater than 33 inches must be approved by the executive director.

(2) *Infiltration/Exfiltration Test.*

- (A) The total exfiltration, as determined by a hydrostatic head test, must not exceed 50 gallons per inch of diameter per mile of pipe per 24 hours at a minimum test head of 2.0 feet above the crown of a pipe at an upstream manhole.
- (B) An owner shall use an infiltration test in lieu of an exfiltration test when pipes are installed below the groundwater level.
- (C) The total exfiltration, as determined by a hydrostatic head test, must not exceed 50 gallons per inch diameter per mile of pipe per 24 hours at a minimum test head of two feet above the crown of a pipe at an upstream manhole, or at least two feet above existing groundwater level, whichever is greater.
- (D) For construction within a 25-year flood plain, the infiltration or exfiltration must not exceed 10 gallons per inch diameter per mile of pipe per 24 hours at the same minimum test head as in subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.
- (E) If the quantity of infiltration or exfiltration exceeds the maximum quantity specified, an owner shall undertake remedial action in order to reduce

the infiltration or exfiltration to an amount within the limits specified. An owner shall retest a pipe following a remediation action.

- (b) If a gravity collection pipe is composed of flexible pipe, deflection testing is also required. The following procedures must be followed:
  - (1) For a collection pipe with inside diameter less than 27 inches, deflection measurement requires a rigid mandrel.
    - (A) *Mandrel Sizing.*
      - (i) A rigid mandrel must have an outside diameter (OD) not less than 95% of the base inside diameter (ID) or average ID of a pipe, as specified in the appropriate standard by the ASTMs, American Water Works Association, UNI-BELL, or American National Standards Institute, or any related appendix.
      - (ii) If a mandrel sizing diameter is not specified in the appropriate standard, the mandrel must have an OD equal to 95% of the ID of a pipe. In this case, the ID of the pipe, for the purpose of determining the OD of the mandrel, must equal be the average outside diameter minus two minimum wall thicknesses for OD controlled pipe and the average inside diameter for ID controlled pipe.
      - (iii) All dimensions must meet the appropriate standard.
    - (B) *Mandrel Design.*
      - (i) A rigid mandrel must be constructed of a metal or a rigid plastic material that can withstand 200 psi without being deformed.
      - (ii) A mandrel must have nine or more odd number of runners or legs.
      - (iii) A barrel section length must equal at least 75% of the inside diameter of a pipe.
      - (iv) Each size mandrel must use a separate proving ring.
    - (C) *Method Options.*
      - (i) An adjustable or flexible mandrel is prohibited.
      - (ii) A test may not use television inspection as a substitute for a deflection test.
      - (iii) If requested, the executive director may approve the use of a deflectometer or a mandrel with removable legs or runners on a case-by-case basis.
  - (2) For a gravity collection system pipe with an inside diameter 27 inches and greater, other test methods may be used to determine vertical deflection.
  - (3) A deflection test method must be accurate to within plus or minus 0.2% deflection.
  - (4) An owner shall not conduct a deflection test until at least 30 days after the final backfill.
  - (5) Gravity collection system pipe deflection must not exceed five percent (5%).
  - (6) If a pipe section fails a deflection test, an owner shall correct the problem and conduct a second test after the final backfill has been in place at least 30 days.

16. All manholes must be tested to meet or exceed the requirements of 30 TAC §217.58.

- (a) All manholes must pass a leakage test.
- (b) An owner shall test each manhole (after assembly and backfilling) for leakage, separate and independent of the collection system pipes, by hydrostatic exfiltration testing, vacuum testing, or other method approved by the executive director.
  - (1) Hydrostatic Testing.

- (A) The maximum leakage for hydrostatic testing or any alternative test methods is 0.025 gallons per foot diameter per foot of manhole depth per hour.
- (B) To perform a hydrostatic exfiltration test, an owner shall seal all wastewater pipes coming into a manhole with an internal pipe plug, fill the manhole with water, and maintain the test for at least one hour.
- (C) A test for concrete manholes may use a 24-hour wetting period before testing to allow saturation of the concrete.

(2) Vacuum Testing.

- (A) To perform a vacuum test, an owner shall plug all lift holes and exterior joints with a non-shrink grout and plug all pipes entering a manhole.
- (B) No grout must be placed in horizontal joints before testing.
- (C) Stub-outs, manhole boots, and pipe plugs must be secured to prevent movement while a vacuum is drawn.
- (D) An owner shall use a minimum 60 inch/lb torque wrench to tighten the external clamps that secure a test cover to the top of a manhole.
- (E) A test head must be placed at the inside of the top of a cone section, and the seal inflated in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.
- (F) There must be a vacuum of 10 inches of mercury inside a manhole to perform a valid test.
- (G) A test does not begin until after the vacuum pump is off.
- (H) A manhole passes the test if after 2.0 minutes and with all valves closed, the vacuum is at least 9.0 inches of mercury.

17. All private service laterals must be inspected and certified in accordance with 30 TAC §213.5(c)(3)(I). After installation of and, prior to covering and connecting a private service lateral to an existing organized sewage collection system, a Texas Licensed Professional Engineer, Texas Registered Sanitarian, or appropriate city inspector must visually inspect the private service lateral and the connection to the sewage collection system, and certify that it is constructed in conformity with the applicable provisions of this section. The owner of the collection system must maintain such certifications for five years and forward copies to the appropriate regional office upon request. Connections may only be made to an approved sewage collection system.

<p>Austin Regional Office          12100 Park 35 Circle, Building A          Austin, Texas 78753-1808          Phone (512) 339-2929          Fax (512) 339-3795</p>	<p>San Antonio Regional Office          14250 Judson Road          San Antonio, Texas 78233-4480          Phone (210) 490-3096          Fax (210) 545-4329</p>
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**THESE GENERAL CONSTRUCTION NOTES MUST BE INCLUDED ON THE CONSTRUCTION PLANS PROVIDED TO THE CONTRACTOR AND ALL SUBCONTRACTORS.**