

**RUTH LAKE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT**  
**Policy Handbook**

**POLICY TITLE: Construction and Maintenance of Pit Privies**  
**POLICY NUMBER: 6225**

**6225** Trinity County will continue to allow the construction and maintenance of pit type privies on boat only access recreational sub-leases under the alternative disposal section of the North Coast Region Water Quality Control Board policy entitled “On the control of water quality with respect to on-site wastewater treatment and disposal practices.” The RLCSD has agreed to actively manage the construction and maintenance of these systems.

**6225.10** Pit privies shall be allowed on boat access only leases. A lease with road access shall have a Trinity County approved and inspected septic system. No exceptions can be granted.

**6225.11** Pit privies can only support minimal development, i.e.: congregate residence and small storage. Pit privies must meet County and State requirements to obtain a permit for an on-site disposal system, per Trinity County Environmental Health (TC Health) and the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (NCRWQCB).

**6255.12** An approved waste treatment system must be installed and approved before the sub-lease site is occupied.

**6225.13** Approval must be granted by RLCSD and HBMWD.

**6225.131** Application shall be submitted in writing to RLCSD.

**6225.132** Application shall include a plot plan showing location of proposed privy, lot lines, water courses, and high-water lake level. It shall also include a plan showing construction details and materials.

**6225.133** Trinity County retains final authority relating to wastewater treatment and disposal on the district’s lands.

**6225.134** The district shall inform the County of all pit privies approved within the buffer strip and shall work closely with the County to maintain the integrity and intent of these systems.

**6225.14 Erosion control:** When a project requires the removal of dirt, or excavating, area to be excavated must be clearly marked on ground. Excavated materials shall be utilized on site at the greatest extent possible. Disturbed ground must be contained treated to ensure no erosion into the lake and/or creeks. (See “Ruth Lake Buffer Strip Road and Lease Site Standards and Policy #6000; Recreational Lease Site Standards, section 6000.60; Erosion Control.)

**6225.20 Location:**

**6225.21** Pit Privy must be at least 100 feet from the high-water lake level of 2675’ (Spillway level +21 ft.) Horizontal setback (from the 2675 ft level) must be 20 ft.

**6225.22** Pit Privies must have at least a 50-foot set back from any perennial or seasonal stream or spring.

**6225.23** Pit Privy must be at least 10 feet from lease lot lines.

**6225.30 Construction:** Shall be as set forth below. Minor deviations must be noted in the application. Significant changes in design or materials must be approved by the Trinity County Health Department.

**6225.31 Pit:**

**6225.311** Pit shall be at least 4'6" in depth, and 3'6" in width and breadth (approx. 55 cubic feet).

**6225.312** Pit shall be lined with 1 x 6 redwood or pressure treated lumber. Boards should have a ½" horizontal gap between them.

**6225.313** Pit shall have an open bottom.

**6225.32 Sill:**

**6225.321** Sill shall be concrete or concrete block.

**6225.322** Sill shall rest on the ground surrounding the hole walls, not upon the walls themselves.

**6225.33 Floor:** May be concrete slab or tongue & groove redwood, or pressure treated material.

**6225.34 Enclosure:**

**6225.341** Shall be constructed to be insect and animal tight.

**6225.342** Shall have a self closing door which provides an insect tight seal.

**6225.343** Tongue & groove siding is preferred. Plywood siding is acceptable if properly installed, preserved and maintained. Particle board is not acceptable.

**6225.344** All openings except the door must be screened to prevent the entry of insects.

**6225.40 Maintenance:**

**6225.41** Pit Privy shall be maintained to be insect and animal tight.

**6225.42** Pit Privy shall be maintained to be odor free.

**6225.50 Inspections:**

**6225.51** RLCSD shall inspect site prior to approval to ensure adequate setbacks.

**6225.52** RLCSD shall inspect during and after construction for proper materials.

**6225.53** RLCSD shall inspect annually to ensure proper maintenance and for signs of failure or overloading.

**6225.60** This Policy 6225, in its entirety shall apply only to those boat leases with pit privies existing prior to September 30, 2020. Specifically, those indicated in 6225.61.

**6225.61** Boat leases with existing pit privies prior to September 30, 2020: 81, 82, 83, 85, 86, 86a, 86b, 86c, 86d, 86e, 87, 88, 88a, 88b, 88c, 88g, 88j, 88k, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93a, 94, 94a, 94b, 94c, 95a, 96, 96a, 97, 97h, 98a, 98b.

Approved by the RLCSD Board of Directors: May 9, 1996

Revised and approved by the RLCSD Board: May 10, 2007

Updated 6225.60 & 6225.61 and approved by the RLCSD Board: February 13, 2024