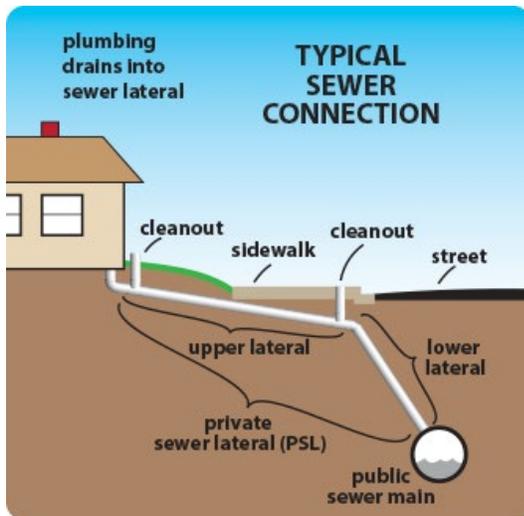


# Guidelines for Sewer Lateral Compliance for Construction or Remodeling Projects

## EAST BAY REGIONAL PRIVATE SEWER LATERAL PROGRAM

The Regional Private Sewer Lateral (PSL) Program protects San Francisco Bay from sewage overflows and is a joint effort of federal, state, and local agencies. Repairing old, cracked sewer pipes ensures that during storms, rainwater does not enter sanitary sewer lines. Too much rainwater can overwhelm the sanitary sewer system, allowing partially treated sewage to flow into the Bay.



**The Regional PSL Ordinance requires property owners to have a valid, unexpired EBMUD Compliance Certificate before finalizing a permit for construction or remodeling work valued at more than \$100,000.** This requirement is in effect in the following locations: Alameda, Albany, Emeryville, Oakland, Piedmont, Kensington, El Cerrito, Richmond Annex.

Property owners must arrange for PSL pressure verification testing to be witnessed by an EBMUD inspector to ensure the PSLs serving their property are leak free. EBMUD issues a Compliance Certificate once all PSLs associated with the property have

passed the testing. The permitting authority confirms the parcel has a valid, unexpired EBMUD Compliance Certificate before finalizing the permit.

## How to Obtain a Compliance Certificate

### **Step 1: Determine if the existing PSL is compliant**

Determine if the existing PSL meets the requirements of the Regional PSL Ordinance. A plumbing contractor could check for leaks and other defects and advise you if work is needed for your PSL to pass the PSL verification test. If no work is required, go to Step 4 (except for properties in Emeryville where Step 2 is required). Note: Property owners are only responsible for their upper lateral in Albany and Alameda.

### **Step 2: Obtain any required municipal permits**

Cities and counties require that appropriate building and/or sewer permits be obtained before starting any PSL work. For local ordinance and permit requirements, contact the agency where work is being performed. For properties in the City of Emeryville, a permit is required even when no work will be performed (i.e., in a test as-is scenario).

### **Step 3: Repair or replace the PSL (if work is needed)**

The contractor will repair or replace the PSL in accordance with the Regional PSL Ordinance and local agency requirements. If no work is needed, go to Step 4.

#### Step 4: Schedule a PSL verification test

Visit <https://www.eastbaypsl.com/>, choose a preferred date and time window for an EBMUD inspector to witness the verification test that the contractor will set up and perform, and pay the required Compliance Certificate fee online.

#### Step 5. Pass the inspection and download/print certificate

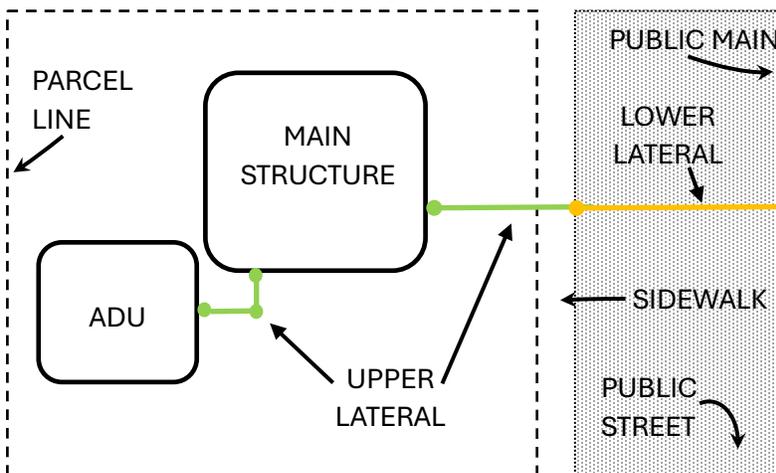
Contractors must be ready to conduct the verification test and demonstrate no illicit connections at the beginning of the inspection appointment window. Once the EBMUD inspector verifies that the PSL has passed the verification test, the Compliance Certificate will be available online at <https://www.eastbaypsl.com> for printing and downloading.

#### Step 6. Present certificate to the permitting authority

Provide a copy of the Compliance Certificate before the permit is finalized/closed out.

### **PSL Compliance for Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs)**

If your property does not have a valid, unexpired Compliance Certificate, then all PSLs on the parcel must be tested. This includes all portions of the upper lateral (the portion from the curb to the structure, and any additional portion extending from the main structure to the ADU) and the lower lateral (portion from the curb to the public sewer main) if outside of Albany and Alameda.



If your property does have a valid, unexpired Compliance Certificate, the permitting authority may require you to test any new PSLs or sections of PSLs installed. For example, if a new section of upper lateral was installed from the main structure to the new ADU, this section may need to have pressure testing witnessed by an EBMUD inspector. After the

new PSL section(s) pass pressure testing, your exiting Compliance Certificate will be annotated to note the new PSL section(s) passed the test. However, the duration of your existing Compliance Certificate will not be extended.

### **Resources**

If you would like to obtain a courtesy list of contractors, review EBMUD verification testing requirements, confirm current fees, or understand more about the Regional PSL Program, please visit <https://www.eastbaypsl.com>.

The Stege Sanitary District also maintains a registered list of plumbing contractors:

<https://www.stegesand.org/registered-plumbing-contractors-list>