

SMALL PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS

Definitions & Classifications

A public water system is a system that supplies water for human consumption through pipes or other constructed conveyance that has 15 or more service connections or regularly serves 25 individuals daily at least 60 days out of the year. Human consumption consists of drinking, bathing, showering, hand washing, oral hygiene, cooking, dishwashing, and other similar uses. The individuals do not have to be the same individuals.

All of the water systems listed below require an annual operating permit issued by ACEHD. Community and Non-Community Water Systems also require a State of California Domestic Water Supply Permit.

- Community Water System (CWS) – A community water system is defined as a public water system which serves at least 15 year round service connections or regularly serves at least 25 year long residents. Examples – Subdivisions, mobile home parks, apartment buildings. *Requires a CA Domestic Water Supply Permit.*
- Non-transient Non-community Water System (NTNC) – A non-transient non-community water system is a public water system that regularly serves at least 25 of the same persons 6 months or more per year. Examples – Schools, office buildings, other places employment. *Requires a CA Domestic Water Supply Permit.*
- Transient Non-community Water System (TNC) – A transient non-community water system is a public water system which serves at least 25 persons for 60 days or more per year. Examples – Campgrounds, winery tasting rooms, summer home tracts. *Requires a CA Domestic Water Supply Permit.*
- State Small Water System – A State Small Water System is a system which provides piped water to the public for human consumption that serves 5 to 14 service connections and does not serve more than an average 25 people for more than 60 days of the year. These water systems are regulated the same as Transient Non-Community Water Systems.
- Cal Code Water System – This is a food facility permitted by ACEHD that serves less than 25 people for 60 days or more per year and/or conducts very little to no food preparation. These water systems must meet the same water quality requirements as Transient Non-Community Water Systems.