



# **Fats, Oils and Grease Control Ordinance**

**Ordinance No. 38**

**May 2004**

## Table of Contents

### **Section 1—General Provisions**

1.01	Scope and Purpose.....	1
1.02	Definitions .....	1

### **Section 2—Administration**

2.01	General Requirements .....	2
2.02	Use and Maintenance .....	3
2.03	Inspection and Sampling.....	4
2.04	Existing Facilities.....	4

### **Section 3—Regulations**

3.01	Prohibitions .....	4
------	--------------------	---

### **Section 4—Enforcement**

4.01	Violations, Enforcement, and Penalties.....	5
------	---	---

### **Section 5—Exceptions**

5.01	Variance Requests.....	6
------	------------------------	---

### **Section 6—Severability**

6.01	Severability.....	7
------	-------------------	---

### **Section 7—Effective Date**

7.01	Effective Date.....	7
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## Section 1

### GENERAL PROVISIONS

#### 1.01 Scope and Purpose

The purpose of this Ordinance is to aid in controlling the introduction and accumulation of fats, oils, and grease into the Union Sanitary District sewer collection and treatment system, thereby reducing the potential for sanitary sewer overflows. The guidelines and requirements of this Ordinance seek to ensure that industrial and commercial establishments do not exceed established discharge limits for animal- and vegetable-based fats, oils and grease or mineral/petroleum-based oils and grease. Users regulated under this Ordinance are also subject to Union Sanitary District Pretreatment Ordinance No. 36 and Technically Based Local Limits.

#### 1.02 Definitions

1. District: Union Sanitary District, Alameda County, California.
2. District Engineer: The General Manager of the District, or his/her designees, including, but not limited to, duly authorized District personnel.
3. User: Any person, business, industry, firm, company, association, society, corporation, or group, including those located outside the jurisdictional limits of Union Sanitary District that discharges wastewater into the sanitary sewer collection system owned, operated and maintained by Union Sanitary District. Users include persons who contribute such wastewater from mobile sources, such as those who discharge hauled wastewater.
4. Fats, Oils, and Grease: Organic polar compounds derived from animal and/or plant sources that contain multiple carbon chain triglyceride molecules. These substances are detectable and measurable using analytical test procedures established in 40 CFR 136, as may be amended from time to time. All such compounds are sometimes referred to herein as "grease." Throughout this Ordinance document, references to oils and grease are to include mineral/petroleum-based oils and grease.
5. Grease Interceptor, Grease Trap or Grease Removal Device (GRD): Any device, unit, or installation for separating and retaining waterborne fats, oils and greases or grease complexes as well as settleable solids prior to the discharge of wastewaters to the sanitary sewer collection and treatment system. All such installations, whether sub-surface or above ground, regardless of size, including sand and oil/water separators as well as two-compartment sumps, are referred to herein as "Grease Interceptors," "Interceptors," or "Grease Removal Devices."

6. Food Service Establishments: Those establishments primarily engaged in activities of food preparation, food service, or the making available for consumption foodstuffs and that use one or more of the following preparation methods: cooking by frying (all methods), baking (all methods), grilling, sautéing, rotisserie cooking, broiling (all methods), boiling, blanching, roasting, toasting, or poaching. Also included are infrared heating, searing, barbecuing, and any other food preparation activity that produces a heated food product, whether served on or in washable and reusable plates or containers or those of a disposable type.

For the purpose of this document, Food Service Establishments include those establishments or facilities where foodstuffs are served or prepared for consumption or sale. This includes but is not limited to cold dairy and frozen foodstuffs preparation and serving establishments that prepare or serve drinkable or edible products.

## **Section 2**

### **ADMINISTRATION**

#### **2.01 General Requirements**

Grease interceptors are required and installed at the User's expense when such User operates a Food Service Establishment. Grease interceptors and or similar units will also be required and installed at the User's expense at commercial car washes, in commercial trash enclosures, or at other commercial and industrial establishments when they are deemed necessary by the District Engineer for the proper handling of liquid wastes.

The type, design, location and size of a grease interceptor installed by any User shall be determined and approved by the District Engineer. The District Engineer shall also determine which drainage fixtures are to be connected to the interceptor.

No User discharging wastewater to the District's sewer system through a grease removal unit or grease interceptor shall allow wastewater oil and grease concentrations to exceed 300 milligrams per liter of animal- and vegetable-based oils and grease or 100 milligrams per liter of mineral/petroleum-based oils and grease.

All grease interceptors shall be readily and easily accessible for maintenance and cleaning purposes in addition to ensuring accessibility for inspection by District personnel. All such grease interceptors shall be serviced and have accumulated waste content removed as required and stipulated in this Ordinance document.

All Users are required to maintain and update interceptor maintenance records, including waste hauling manifests. These shall be retained by the User for a period of not less than three (3) years and made available for review or duplication upon request by the District.

## **2.02 Use and Maintenance**

Users who are required to install and maintain a grease interceptor, grease trap or any other unit designed to separate and capture settleables or fats, oils or grease of any kind, shall understand, adhere to, and accept the following:

1. By way of any grease interceptor, or similar device, provide sufficient retention time of wastewaters so as to facilitate the separation of oils and grease to the extent that oil and grease concentrations in wastewaters discharged to the sewerage system owned, operated and maintained by Union Sanitary District, do not exceed established discharge limits set by Union Sanitary District as defined in Section 2.01 of this Ordinance document. Such limits, as set by Union Sanitary District, may be more stringent than Federal or State limits.
2. At the User's expense, routine maintenance shall be performed on all facility grease interceptors. All accumulated grease and solids materials shall be removed by a certified waste hauler licensed by the State of California. Such removal of accumulated waste shall be performed on an as-needed basis, but not less than once every ninety (90) calendar days, unless otherwise permitted to do so through a granted variance request issued by the District. "As needed" shall mean as necessary to ensure continued compliance with Union Sanitary District's discharge limits for oil and grease. If it is determined by the District that mainline flow restriction, e.g., a grease blockage or an obstruction, has resulted from the inadequate cleaning or maintenance of a User's grease interceptor, or if in the opinion of the District a need for increased interceptor maintenance frequency exists, the District, at its discretion, may require of a User a minimum routine cleaning frequency of less than ninety (90) days.
3. The District Engineer reserves the right to make determinations of grease interceptor size, adequacy, location and need, based on review of relevant information, including, but not limited to grease interceptor performance, waste stream characteristics, facility location, maintenance needs, and or inspection needs. The aforementioned determinations may or may not conform to Union Sanitary District's general design specifications, construction standards or sizing criteria for grease interceptors or similar devices.

4. The District reserves the right to require repairs to, or replacement of, interceptors and other required grease removal units at the User's expense.

### **2.03 Inspection and Sampling**

District personnel may inspect the facilities of any User required to have a grease interceptor or similar device, to determine whether the requirements set fourth in this Ordinance document are being met. Owners, managers, employees, or any other occupants or operators of facilities where wastewater is generated and discharged to the District's sewerage system through an Interceptor, shall allow District personnel ready access to all areas of the premises, at all reasonable times or during normal hours of operation for the purpose of inspection, sampling, maintenance records review, or the performance of any other job-related duty. The District shall have the right to set up on any User's property devices necessary for conducting wastewater sampling inspection, compliance monitoring and/or metering operations.

### **2.04 Existing Facilities**

If in the opinion of the District Engineer an existing User requires the installation of a grease interceptor or a grease removal device (GRD) for the proper handling of grease-laden wastewaters, the District will provide the User written notification of the requirement which will include a compliance timeline. Failure on the part of a User to install a required interceptor or GRD within the specified time will result in the initiation of enforcement action against the User and may result in the issuance of fines or the termination of service to the sewer system owned by Union Sanitary District.

**NOTE:** Users required to install outside underground Interceptors will need to obtain a permit from Union Sanitary District. Users required to install indoor grease traps or GRDs may need to obtain approval from the City having jurisdiction over the area in which the User operates. Users are responsible for obtaining all necessary permits before installing a required interceptor or GRD.

## **Section 3**

### **REGULATIONS**

#### **3.01 Prohibitions**

1. The dumping or pouring of oil or grease by any User, into any sewer drain connected or otherwise not connected to a grease interceptor or grease removal device is strictly prohibited at any time. This includes but is not limited to oil and grease used in or generated by residential cooking activities. Any User found disposing of oil or grease in this manner may

be held liable for costs associated with any related remedial activities deemed necessary by the District.

2. Non-grease-laden sources of wastewater are NOT allowed to be connected to sewer lines intended for grease interceptor service. This includes but is not limited to plumbing for hand wash sinks, toilets, and urinals. The connection of rainwater and condensate conveyance pipes or gutters to interceptors is also prohibited.
3. No dishwashers or garbage/food grinders are to be connected to drainage pipes conveying wastewater to an interceptor or any other grease removal device unless such connections are required by the District. In the event a User is required by the District to make such a connection, the District will issue the User written notification of the requirement which the User shall retain as evidence of District approval.
4. No User shall alter, modify, or change from original design specifications a required interceptor or any other GRD, unless the manufacturer of the interceptor recommends in writing alterations to improve product efficiency. Plans showing any manufacturer proposed alterations and current design specifications shall be submitted to the District for review. All such recommendations for modifications are subject to approval by Union Sanitary District. Any approved alterations/modifications will be performed at the User's expense. The District is not to be held liable for a non-compliant condition resulting from modifications made to an interceptor.
5. No User shall introduce any additives, including but not limited to enzymes or surfactants acting as grease emulsifiers or degradation agents, into any grease interceptor or GRD, unless prior written approval is obtained from Union Sanitary District. Any User, if having been granted approval by the District to use any of the methods described above for the abatement of grease, shall continue to maintain the interceptor in such a manner that conformance to the grease wastewater discharge limit, (defined in Section 2.01) as measured from the interceptor outlet or sample box, is consistently achieved.

#### **Section 4**

### **ENFORCEMENT**

#### **4.01 Violations, Enforcement, and Penalties**

1. In the event that a User's grease interceptor or other grease removal device fails a visual or effluent sample analysis inspection, the User shall be given written notice of the non-compliant condition and take immediate

steps to bring the facility Interceptor into compliance. The User is responsible for all associated costs.

2. Failure on the part of any User to maintain continued compliance with any of the requirements set forth in this Ordinance may result in the initiation of enforcement action. Such enforcement action may include, but is not limited to, the issuance of a Warning Letter, Notice of Violation (NOV), Administrative Fine or Abatement Order, as outlined in Sections 6 and 7 of District Ordinance 36. User will also be responsible for cost of enforcement action clarified under Ordinance 36. Failure to respond to corrective measures outlined in any enforcement notice may result in the User's termination of service to the sewer system owned, operated and maintained by Union Sanitary District.
3. If it is determined by the District that a User, due to a past or present non-compliant condition, necessitates maintenance or repairs to the Union Sanitary District sewer system outside of normal scheduled maintenance or repair activities, the User may be liable for all associated maintenance and/or repair costs, including but not limited to vehicle, equipment, and labor costs. A User may also be responsible for all clean-up costs associated with any sewer overflows and spills resulting from the inadequate cleaning, maintenance, or performance of the User's interceptor.

## **Section 5**

### **EXCEPTIONS**

#### **5.01 Variance Requests**

1. If because of documented space constraints a User requests an alternative to a District required out-of-building underground grease interceptor, the request for an alternate device and location shall be submitted in writing to the District Engineer. Such variance requests must include detailed plans showing the location of the sanitary sewer main and service lateral in relation to available exterior space outside the building as well as existing plumbing plans at or in a site that uses common plumbing for all services at the site.
2. Variance requests to extend the interceptor minimum cleaning frequency from ninety (90) calendar days to a period of greater duration must be submitted to the District in writing. The User shall clearly state in the variance request the reasons for exemption as well as the User's proposed cleaning schedule. All variance requests must be dated and signed by the User or his/her designee.



The District reserves the right to grant or deny variance requests or revoke any granted variances at its discretion or at any time the requirements set forth in this Ordinance document are not being met by a User.

**Section 6**

**SEVERABILITY**

**6.01 Severability**

If any term of this Ordinance is held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be void or unenforceable, the remainder of this Ordinance remains in full force and effect, as if the unenforceable provision had never been included. If any possible construction of this Ordinance shall be contrary to any law or found unenforceable, then ipso facto such provisions shall automatically be reformed to conform with any law or legal decision.

**Section 7**

**EFFECTIVE DATE**

**7.01 Effective Date**

This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force on August 23, 2004, and shall be entered in the Minutes of the District.

On motion duly made and seconded, this Ordinance was adopted by the following vote on May 24, 2004.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

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Pat Kite  
Chairperson, Board of Directors  
UNION SANITARY DISTRICT

ATTEST:

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Anjali Lathi  
Secretary, Board of Directors  
UNION SANITARY DISTRICT