CITY ORDINANCE NO. CO 5-2019  
Series of 2019

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A PROPER SEWAGE TREATMENT AND SEPTAGE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IN THE CITY OF BACOOR AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF.


WHEREAS, residential, commercial, trade and industrial establishments continue to use septic tanks, and many had not been property-designed, improved or updated through the years, even for decades which continue to make discharges into the sewers that further degrade many waterways and the rivers;

WHEREAS, the Writ of Mandamus issued by the Supreme Court in 2008 in the landmark case of Concerned Manila Bay Residents vs. MMDA et al directed various LGUs bordering Manila Bay (which includes the City of Bacoor) and various national agencies to clean up, rehabilitate, and preserve Manila Bay, and restore and maintain its waters to SB level (Class SB Sea Waters as per Water Classification Tables under DENR Administrative Order No. 08 Series of 2016);

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Sangguniang Panlungogsod in regular session duly assembled that:

SECTION 1. TITLE. This Ordinance shall be called the “Bacoor Septage Treatment and Sewage Management System Ordinance of 2019”.

SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY. It shall be the policy of the City of Bacoor to share in the responsibility on the management and improvement of water quality within its territorial jurisdiction. To meet these objectives, the City of Bacoor shall implement measures to prevent and control
water pollution to promote health and ensure a balanced ecology.

SECTION 3. SCOPE AND APPLICATION. The following structures within the City of Bacoor are covered by this Ordinance:

a. All residential structures including, but not limited to, an apartment, house and/or land on which another's dwelling is located and used for residential purpose and shall include not only building parts or units thereof used solely as dwelling places, boarding houses, dormitories, rooms and bed spaces offered for rent by their owners, and also those used for home industries, retail stores or other business purposes if the owner thereof and his or her family actually live therein and use it principally for dwelling purposes;

b. Commercial establishments, including, but not limited to, restaurants, convenience stores, hardware, malls, groceries, markets, carwash, condominiums, motels, hotels, hostels, resorts, recreational establishments, auto-repair shops (taylor), poultry farms and livestock rearing establishments, etc.;

c. Industrial establishments, including, but not limited to, factories, manufacturing plants, etc.;

d. Governmental structures, including, but not limited to, barangay halls, government offices, etc.; and

e. Institutional structures, including, but not limited to, schools, colleges and universities, hospitals, churches, etc.

SECTION 4. DEFINITION OF TERMS. For the purpose of this Ordinance, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

a. Combined Drainage System – this is the conveyance of wastewater from the drainage
through the interceptor lines going to the Sewage Treatment Plants

b. **DENR** – the Department of Environment and Natural Resources

c. **Desludging** – a process of cleaning or removing the accumulated domestic sepsage from septic tanks

d. **DILG** – the Department of the Interior and Local Government

e. **DOH** – the Department of Health

f. **Drainage** – artificial pipes or conduits provided by the LGU for carrying flood water (no sewage nor wastewater shall pass through drainage systems)

g. **Effluent** – a general term denoting any wastewater, partially or completely treated or in its natural state, flowing out of a drainage canal, septic tank, building, manufacturing plant, industrial plant, treatment plant, etc.

h. **Food Establishment** – any structure used to engaged in food business

i. **EMB** – the Environmental Management Bureau of the DENR

j. **Pre-treatment Facility** – means any apparatus or equipment used to modify the characteristics of effluent prior to a wastewater disposal system, and includes grease traps, oil separators, dilution pits and similar devices

k. **Septage** – a combination of scum, sludge, and liquid from household septic tanks, thickened and partially treated sewage that is removed from a septic tank

l. **Septage Treatment Plant** – a series of structure purely for the process of treating septage in order to comply with DENR effluent standards
m. **Septage Management** — also known as “desludging” this involves the depository of the households sewage to a properly designed septic tank and collected by a desludging truck going to a Septage Treatment Plant (STP)

n. **Septic Tank** — a water-tight receptacle that receives the discharge of a sanitary plumbing system, or part thereof, and is designed and constructed to accomplish the sedimentation and digestion of the organic matter in the sewage within the period of detention or retention, and to allow the liquid to discharge to a leaking field, sewer lines, a combined sewerage network, or directly to a secondary wastewater treatment facility, in accordance with the standards set forth by the Revised National Plumbing Code of the Philippines

o. **Sewage** — any wastewater containing human, animal, or vegetable waste matter in suspension or solution, including human excreta and urine, and may possibly contain liquids consisting of chemicals in solution

p. **Sewer or sewer lines** — artificial pipes or conduits provided by the water utilities for carrying sewage and wastewater

q. **Sewerage Disposal System** — is the proper disposal of effluent using either a Sewerage System, Combined Drainage System, or Septage Management whichever is required or accepted by existing environmental laws and policies

r. **Sewerage System** — this involves the collection of sewage from households which will be conveyed through the sewer pipelines going to s Sewage Treatment Plant or STP

s. **Sludge** — a solid particle of domestic sewage which settles at the bottom of the sedimentation tank, and is digested by anaerobic bacteria purely from domestic sources
t. Wastewater Treatment Plant – a series of structure that process the treatment of sewage, mostly from domestic origin, but may include pre-treated liquid wastes from industries and similar establishments, and may also accept the treatment of septage, provided there are facilities for accepting and pre-treating it.

u. Water Utilities – this include water concessionaries, local water utilities, and other accredited water and wastewater services providers.

SECTION 5. AUTHORITY. This Ordinance is the enabling act for the implementation of the provisions and specifications of the following laws:

a. The National Building Code of the Philippines
b. The Sanitation Code of the Philippines
c. The Plumbing Code of the Philippines
d. The Clean Water Act of 2004
e. Presidential Decree No. 1586

SECTION 6. PRINCIPLES OF SEWERAGE AND SEPTAGE MANAGEMENT. All establishments, facilities, buildings, or structures covered by pertinent national and local laws, rules and regulations are required to submit or present the latest Discharge Permit (DP) issued by the DENR. Aligned with the P.D. No. 1586, the Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) or Certificate of Non-Coverage (CNC) shall also be required prior the issuance of local permits.

The City of Bacoor shall abide by the following sewerage and septage management principles:

a. Untreated excreta from residential areas without septic tanks and untreated wastewater from commercial, industrial, institutional and public establishments shall not be allowed to be discharged to open drainage canals or piped drainage systems;

b. All buildings and structures, whether residential, commercial, industrial, governmental, institutional,
shall be required to have proper sewage treatment or septage management system.

i. All residential structures shall have three chamber water-tight septic tank with no opening/s at the bottom slab so as not to allow the leaking of liquid or solid wastes to the surrounding soil or bodies of water;

ii. All commercial and industrial establishments, and hospitals shall have three chamber water-tight septic tank with no opening/s at the bottom slab so as not to allow the leaking of liquid or solid wastes to the surrounding soil or bodies of water or wastewater treatment facility based on the determination of the DENR and/or DOH;

iii. Commercial, industrial, governmental, and institutional structures that are required to have wastewater treatment facilities shall have an operational wastewater treatment facility either on-site or by service off-site.

c. All subdivisions for development during the effectivity of this Ordinance shall be required to install appropriate Wastewater Treatment Facility. Prior to the submission of the subdivision plan to the City Council, the proposed Sewage Disposal System must be submitted to the City Building Official for approval. The plot shall contain all pertinent information relative to the installation of Sewage Disposal System. Proper disposal of sewage in subdivisions shall conform to the provision of this Ordinance.

d. No wastewater shall be discharged to waterways without any proper treatment;

e. For sewered areas, or areas with sewer pipelines, no wastewater other than those from residential structures shall be allowed to discharge on the sewers or sewer pipelines unless such wastewater
was serviced by a pre-treatment facility to at least be of domestic wastewater quality;

f. All food establishments (e.g. restaurants, food chains, etc.) discharge organic and inorganic wastes shall be required to have an oil and grease trap installed in their respective kitchen areas; and

g. All septic tanks must be accessible at all times. Further, no structures shall be built on top of any septic tank.

SECTION 7. PROPER SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS. All residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, and governmental buildings in the City of Bacoor, both old and new, are required to have proper sewage disposal system based on Section 6 hereof.

a. For existing structures:

i. Owners of existing septic tanks that are not accessible for desludging are required to repair or upgrade their tanks so it can be desludged. If repairs are not possible, such owners are required to build a new septic tank that will comply with the provisions set herein.

ii. Communal or shared septic tanks can be used alternatively whenever feasible, particularly for existing clustered structures that are highly dense and characterized by lack of or inadequate land space. The design and the manifest of ownership and joint maintenance shall go through and approval process as determined by the City Government.

iii. Owners of commercial, industrial and institutional buildings of facilities shall have an operational wastewater treatment facility, either on-site or by service off-site. The said facility shall
conform to the standards of DENR-EMB and DOH.

iv. The cost of repair and upgrading shall be borne by the owners.

v. No business owner shall be issued a renewed business permit unless he/she has obtained the necessary clearances and permits such as discharge permits and environmental sanitation clearances as may be prescribed by existing laws or as may be required by the DENR and/or DOH and its instrumentalities.

b. New structures:

i. No building plan for residential dwelling units or commercial, industrial, institutional, or recreational structures shall be approved unless the design of the sanitary plumbing and septic tank or wastewater treatment facility conforms to the specifications in accordance with the standards set forth by the National Building Code, Revised National Plumbing Code of the Philippines, Code on Sanitation of the Philippines, and other pertinent regulations; and

ii. No business owner shall be issued a new business permit unless he/she has obtained the necessary clearances and permits such as discharge permits and environmental sanitation clearances as may be prescribed by existing laws or as may be required by the DENR and/or DOH and its instrumentalities.

iii. It shall be the duty of the owner, administrator or contractor to inform the City Engineer’s Office that the newly constructed septic tank, sewage treatment facility or alternative...
treatment system, with prior plan approval, is ready for inspection. The new system shall not be covered or used until inspected and approved by the City Engineer’s Office. The covering shall be done only in the presence of a Building Inspector. The proof of certificate of inspection shall be part of the requirements in the issuance of the Occupancy Permit.

SECTION 8. DESIGN OF SEPTIC TANKS. All septic tanks shall be designed to exclude storm water or flow from downspouts, and such other requirements and specifications as provided by national standards. The Building Official, pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 1096 otherwise known as “Adopting a National Building Code of the Philippines (NBCP) thereby Revising Republic Act Numbered Sixty-Five Hundred Forty-One (R.A. No. 6541)”, is mandated to ensure that appropriate standard designs of septic tanks shall be enforced in the plan approvals and inspections procedures.

SECTION 9. MANDATORY DESLUDGING OF SEPTIC TANKS

a. All owners and users of septic tanks are required to desludge it on an average of once every three (3) to five (5) years or when the sludge volume is around one third (1/3) of the total volume of the septic tanks, whichever comes earlier.

b. The opening of septic tanks, desludging purposes, shall only be done with the authority of the owner or user. Desludging of septic tank is at the sole expense of its owner or user.

c. Actual desludging must be done only by the water utility or a private desludging company duly accredited by the DOH and/or DENR-EMB.

d. Violation of this provision shall subject the owner and/or user of the septic tank to the penalties as stipulated in Section 15 of this Ordinance.

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SECTION 10. REGULATION ON DESLUDGERS

a. Only DENR and/or DOH accredited private entities complete with permits shall be allowed to provide septage collection and transport services. Collected septage shall only be disposed and treated in a DENR and/or DOH accredited disposal/treatment facility with pertinent permits.

b. Liquid and/or solid materials removed from septic tanks shall be transported only by a DOH/DENR accredited septage hauler/pumper to the approved septage treatment facility pursuant to the regulations prescribed by the DOH. Unless, otherwise provided by law, no septage hauler/pumper shall be allowed to collect transport and upload or dispose of septage in other places, including bodies of water, agricultural fields and the drainage system within the City of Bacoor.

c. All entities engaged in desludging activities are required to secure Permit to Transport from the DENR, Environmental Sanitation Clearance from the DOH, Sanitary Permit from the City Health Office, and other pertinent permits as may be deemed necessary as part of the requirements for issuance of annual business permit from the City.

SECTION 11. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS. Offices authorized by the City Mayor shall have the following responsibilities in implementing this Ordinance:

a. Inspection – The City Building Official and City Engineer’s Office designate field inspectors that will check on the general design, construction and maintenance requirement of septic tanks and/or wastewater treatment facility in subdivisions, commercial, institutions, recreational, and other business establishments. For existing commercial establishments, factories and dwelling units, together with the City Health Office, inspection of facilities to ensure compliance with the law as to wastewater treatment facilities and/or septic tanks.
b. **Maintenance of Database** – Coordination of City Health Office, City Planning and Development Coordinator Office, City Building Official, and Management Information System Office, in the formation and maintenance of a robust database of the list of all homeowners with septic tanks and with the City Business Processing and Licensing Office for the database of all business establishments with adequate wastewater treatment facilities;

c. **Transporting of Septage** – Coordination with the City Health Office for the implementation of an accreditation system (in consonance with the rules and regulations set forth by DENR-EMB and DOH) and follow existing operational guidelines set forth by the DENR/DOH (for handling, transportation, treatment, and disposal of septage), for private desludging service providers who intend to operate in the City of Bacoor;

d. **Issuance of Sanitary Permits** – Coordinate with the City Health Office on the issuance of sanitary permits for all septage treatment and collection facilities, and development of a protocol for periodic inspection of such facilities, including but not limited to equipment, training programs, and safety;

e. **Opening of Septic Tanks** – Coordination with Barangay Officials in opening septic tanks during inspection of authorized inspectors of the city;

f. **Enforcement on Sewer Connection** – Coordination with the City Building Official to assist the water utilities and other appropriate authorities in the enforcement of sewer connection, and penalties for non-or disconnection and illegal sewer tapping;

g. **Water Quality Management Area (WQMA)** – Coordination with the City Environment and Natural Resources Office in implementing the
WQMA action plans and programs in the City; and

h. Information, Education, Communication – Coordinate with the City Information Office or equivalent for the conduct of massive IEC activities in collaboration with appropriate public or private agencies on proper wastewater management to increase level of awareness and commitment of the public to proper sewage treatment or septage management.

SECTION 12. USER FEES AND OTHER FUNDING OPTIONS

a. Fees for desludging and septage treatment for all residential, commercial, industrial, governmental, and institutional structures serviced by water utilities shall be incorporated in the water billing statements.

b. The City of Bacoor may appropriate or raise funds to subsidize necessary expenses for the establishment and/or operation and maintenance of sewerage treatment or septage facility through appropriate local property taxes and enforcement of a service fee system.

c. Further, the City of Bacoor may pursue funding assistance from both local and foreign sources, either public or private, through mutual agreements subject to existing accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

SECTION 13. SEWER LINE CONNECTION/SEWERAGE PROJECTS

a. The City of Bacoor shall provide assistance in securing necessary permits, right of way, IEC, land acquisition to the water utilities in laying down sewer lines within the City.

b. Only domestic wastewater sources shall connect to existing sewer lines.
c. Commercial buildings and structures are required to pre-treat all wastewater from their structures to 
“domestic wastewater quality” in accordance with the requirements set forth in the Philippine 
Clean Water Act of 2004 (RA 9275), before the same is discharged.

d. Said connection to existing sewer lines shall be subject to sewerage service charges/fees (if any) 
in accordance with existing laws, rules, or regulations as identified by the water utilities.

SECTION 14. PROHIBITED ACTS

The following acts are prohibited:

a. Refusal to desludge as required by this Ordinance;

b. Refusal of new and existing residential, commercial, industrial, governmental, and 
institutional facilities to connect to available sewer lines;

c. Dumping of septage and untreated wastewater to drainages, canals, rivers, and other natural and 
artificial waterways and other open areas;

d. Desludging and transporting of septage without the necessary permits and accreditation from the 
authorized permitting agencies; and

e. Hiring/availing the services of illegal/non-accredited desludger, transporter by any person 
or establishment to desludge septic tanks or dispose of their wastewater.

SECTION 15. MONITORING AND EVALUATION. The City 
Building Official, in coordination with the City Health Officer, the City Environment and Natural Resources 
Officer, City Business Processing and Licensing Officer or their equivalent, shall be required to evaluate the 
compliance of the facilities one (1) year after the effectivity of this Ordinance. All these facilities must conform to the 
standards of DENR-EMB and/or DOH.
The same Officers are to come-up with an annual list of violators to be posted in three (3) conspicuous places and in the local government website, if any. The same list shall be submitted to the City Treasurer and BPLO for the imposition of appropriate penalties, copy furnished the City Local Government Operations Office (CLGOO).

SECTION 16. PENALTIES. The City Government shall issue a notice of non-conformity to property owners, administrators or occupants who do not have a septic tank, whose septic tank is not designed properly, or is inaccessible for desludging unless they have an alternative system approved by the City Government.

Any owner or user of residential, commercial, industrial, governmental, and institutional structures that fail to comply with the provisions of this Ordinance shall incur the following fines and penalties for every violation:

a. For Residential Homeowners

i. First Offense – Fine of One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php 1,500.00) and the Issuance of a Notice of Violation

ii. Second Offense – Fine of Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php 2,500.00) and Mandatory Environment Related Community Service

iii. Third Offense – Fine of Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000.00) and Non-Issuance of Barangay Clearance

iv. Succeeding Offenses – Fine of Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000.00), Environment Related Community Service, and continued refusal to issue Barangay Clearance until the owner and/or user complies with the provisions of this Ordinance
b. For Business Owners

i. First Offense – Fine of Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php 2,500.00) and the Issuance of a Notice of Violation

ii. Second Offense – Fine of Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000.00) and the Issuance of a Cease and Desist Order

Violators shall be assessed annually to monitor their compliance; likewise, continued violation shall merit the imposition of increasing penalties for each assessed violation.

SECTION 17. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. In the event that any part or provision of this Ordinance is held unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 18. REPEALING CLAUSE. All other ordinances, or provisions thereof, inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION 19. IMPLEMENTING RULES. The City Mayor is hereby empowered to direct formulation of the implementing rules and guidelines of this Ordinance. Provided that the said rules and guidelines should not be contrary to the provisions hereof.

SECTION 20. EFFECTIVITY. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon posting in at least three (3) conspicuous places within the City of Bacoor.

ENACTED by the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Bacoor in its Regular Session this 11th day of March 2019.

I hereby certify to the truth and correctness of the foregoing Ordinance.

Certified Correct:

HON. CATHERINE SARINO-EVARISTO
City Vice Mayor / Presiding Officer

Approved by:

HON. VAM MERGADO - REVILLA
City Mayor
Attested by:

ATTY. KHALID A. ATEGA, JR.
Sangguniang Panlungsod Secretary

Approved by:

HON. LANI MERCADO-REVILLA
City Mayor

Date of Approval: 15 APR 2019

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