



Republic of the Philippines
Province of Cavite
CITY OF BACOOR
Office of the Sangguniang Panlungsod



DISTRICT I

HON. CATHERINE SARINO-EVARISTO
Acting City Vice Mayor

HON. MIGUEL N. BAUTISTA
City Councilor

HON. ADRIELITO G. GAWARAN
City Councilor

HON. MANOLO S. GALVEZ JR.
City Councilor

HON. RICARDO F. UGALDE
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HON. RANDY C. FRANCISCO
City Councilor-ABC President

HON. PALM ANGELS S. BUNCIO
City Councilor-SK Federation President

Attested by:
ATTY. KHALID A. ATEGA, JR.
Sangguniang Panlungsod Secretary

Certified by:
HON. CATHERINE SARINO-EVARISTO
Acting City Vice Mayor

Approved:
HON. ROWENA BAUTISTA-MENDIOLA
Acting City Mayor

CITY ORDINANCE NO. 514-2026
Series of 2026

AN ORDINANCE EMPOWERING VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS OF THE CITY GOVERNMENT TO INSPECT THE UNDERGROUND GAS STORAGE TANKS OF GASOLINE STATIONS IN THE CITY OF BACOOR, CAVITE TO PREVENT GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATION AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS HEREOF.

Sponsored by:
Hon. Reynaldo M. Fabian

Co-Sponsored by:
Hon. Roberto L. Advincula, Hon. Catherine Sarino-Evaristo, Hon. Adrielito G. Gawaran, Hon. Rogelio M. Nolasco, Hon. Reynaldo D. Palabrica, and Hon. Levy M. Tela.

WHEREAS, Section 11 (3) (vi) of Republic Act No. 10160 (the "Charter of the City of Bacoor, Cavite") empowered the Sangguniang Panlungsod to protect the environment and impose appropriate penalties for acts which endanger the environment, such as smuggling of natural resources products and of endangered species of flora and fauna, slash-and-burn farming and such other activities which result in pollution, acceleration of siltation of rivers and lakes or of ecological imbalance.

WHEREAS, Section 16 of Republic Act No. 7160 (the "Local Government Code of 1991") mandated local government units to exercise the powers expressly granted, those necessarily implied therefrom, as well as powers necessary, appropriate, or incidental for its efficient and effective governance, and those which are essential to the promotion of the general welfare and will enhance the right of the people to a balanced ecology, among others.

WHEREAS, there are 57 gasoline stations operating in the City of Bacoor as of April 2026 and many of them are situated near the aforementioned residential subdivisions.





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WHEREAS, underground storage tanks (USTs) are being used by gasoline stations all over the country to store gasoline and diesel products.

WHEREAS, considering that USTs are made of metal, it is conceivable that the same can become damaged over time due to corrosion, improper installation, or aging. If and when the said tanks get damaged, the aquifer and groundwater from which many Bacoor City residents draw the water that they use for various domestic purposes may conceivably get contaminated with various toxic chemicals that have been conclusively proven to be harmful to human health such as benzene and methyl tertiary-butyl ether (MTBE), a volatile, flammable, and colorless liquid chemical compound used primarily as a fuel additive in gasoline to boost octane ratings and reduce engine knocking.

WHEREAS, Section 27 (b) of Republic Act No. 9275 (the "Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004") prohibits the discharging, injecting or allowing to seep into the soil or sub-soil any substance in any form that would pollute groundwater.

WHEREAS, Section 20 of RA 9275 provides that local government units shall share the responsibility in the management and improvement of water quality within their territorial jurisdictions.

WHEREAS, in order to prevent the contamination of the aquifer and groundwater supplies of the City and to proactively protect public health and welfare, the City Government must formulate a legal framework that will empower its various departments to inspect USTs to ensure that they are not leaking or damaged and were installed in accordance with the various environmental standards herein provided.

NOW THEREFORE, be it enacted by the 6th Sangguniang Panlungsod of the City of Bacoor, Cavite that:

Section 1. Title. This Ordinance shall be known as the "Underground Storage Tanks Inspection Ordinance of the City of Bacoor".



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Section 2. Definition of Terms. As used in this Ordinance, the following terms shall be defined as:

- a) **Aquifer** - an underground layer of water-bearing, permeable rock, gravel, sand, or silt that stores and transmits usable groundwater.
- b) **Automatic shut-off devices** - contraptions installed in the fill pipe of an underground storage tank that automatically stop the flow of petroleum products at approximately 95% of the tank's capacity.
- c) **Benzene** -- a colorless, highly flammable, and volatile liquid aromatic hydrocarbon with a sweet, gasoline-like odor used to produce plastics, resins, nylon, synthetic fibers, detergents, and pesticides which is a known human carcinogen, with exposure linked to leukemia and bone marrow damage.
- d) **Business Permits and Licensing Department (BPLD)** - the department under the Office of the City Mayor tasked to implement the various ordinances, laws, and government regulations related to the operation and establishment of various business enterprises within the City of Bacoor.
- e) **Cathodic protection**-- a technique used to control the corrosion of a metal surface by making it the cathode of an electrochemical cell.
- f) **City Environment Services Department** - the City Government instrumentality primarily tasked to enforce various environmental laws and ordinances within the City of Bacoor, Cavite.
- g) **Contamination** -- the production of substances not found in the natural composition of water that make the water less desirable or unfit desirable or unfit for intended use
- h) **Groundwater** - is water that exists underground in saturated zones beneath the land surface, filling the pores and fractures in rocks, sand, and gravel
- i) **Inspection** - is the formal, authorized examination of premises, records, or goods to ensure compliance with ordinances, laws, regulations, and government standards.



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- j) **Methyl tertiary-butyl ether (MTBE)**- a volatile, flammable, and colorless liquid chemical compound used primarily as a fuel additive (oxygenate) in gasoline to boost octane ratings and reduce engine knocking.
- k) **Office of the Building Official** – City Government instrumentality primarily tasked to enforce various building standards within the City of Bacoor.
- l) **Petroleum Products** – are substances formed from refining crude oil such as include liquified petroleum gas (LPG), gasoline, solvent, kerosene, diesel, and fuel oils.
- m) **Secondary Storage Tank** –secondary containment system installed around new or replaced underground storage tanks to prevent soil and groundwater contamination.
- n) **Underground Storage Tanks**-- are containers, including connected piping, with most of their volume underground, primarily used to store petroleum or hazardous substances.

Section 3. Mandatory Inspection of Underground Storage Tanks. – The City Environment Services Department (CESD) and the Office of the Building Official (OBO) shall inspect all underground storage tanks (USTs) being used by gasoline stations operating within the City of Bacoor. The said inspections shall be done every year as a condition precedent to the issuance or renewal of all permits or licenses relevant to the operation of the said business enterprises. The refusal of the owners/operators of the said gasoline stations to allow the said inspections as well as the failure of the personnel of the CESD and/or the OBO to conduct the said inspections are hereby declared as violations of this Ordinance.

Section 4. Mandatory Installation/Use of Automatic Shut-Off Devices, Cathodic Protection, and Secondary Storage Tanks in Gasoline Stations. To minimize the possibility of groundwater or aquifer contamination with benzene, MBTE, and other toxic substances, the owners/operators of all gasoline stations that are already in operation on the date of effectivity of this Ordinance shall have two (2) years from the said effectivity date within which to install/use automatic shut-off devices, cathodic protection, double-wall systems, and other environmental safety strategies/equipment within their business establishments.



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Section 5. Mandatory Replacement of Underground Storage Tanks and Secondary Storage Tanks. The underground storage tanks being used by gasoline stations within the City of Bacoor shall be replaced every ten (10) years while all secondary storage tanks installed around the said USTs shall be replaced every fifteen (15) years.

Section 6. Non-Issuance of Business Permits. The Business Permit and Licensing Department (BPLD) shall not issue or renew a business permit to any gasoline station within the City of Bacoor that did not comply with the various provisions of this Ordinance.

Section 7. Prohibited Acts and Penalties. The commission of the following prohibited acts shall result in the imposition of the following penalties:

| Prohibited Act/s | Penalties |
|---|---|
| Refusal to allow inspection of underground storage tank/secondary storage tank | <p>First Offense: suspension of business permit for fifteen (15) days and payment of fines amounting to P3,000.00</p> <p>Second Offense: suspension of business permit for thirty (30) days and payment of fines amounting to P4,000.00</p> <p>Third Offense: revocation of business permit and closure of the offending gasoline station for not less than sixty (60) days but not more than one (1) year.</p> |
| Providing false or inaccurate data related to the existence or condition of underground storage tank, cathode protection, automatic shut-off valve or secondary storage tank by | Imposition of appropriate penalties allowed under relevant civil service regulations. |





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| | |
|---|---|
| <p>an employee of the City Government</p> | |
| <p>Non-replacement of underground storage tanks and/or secondary storage tanks</p> | <p>First Offense: suspension of business permit for fifteen (15) days and payment of fines amounting to P3,000.00</p> <p>Second Offense: suspension of business permit for thirty (30) days and payment of fines amounting to P4,000.00</p> <p>Third Offense: revocation of business permit and closure of the offending gasoline station for not less than sixty (60) days but not more than one (1) year.</p> |
| <p>Failure to install automatic shut-off device, cathode protection, or secondary storage tank</p> | <p>First Offense: suspension of business permit for fifteen (15) days and payment of fines amounting to P3,000.00</p> <p>Second Offense: suspension of business permit for thirty (30) days and payment of fines amounting to P4,000.00</p> <p>Third Offense: revocation of business permit and closure of the offending gasoline station for not less than sixty (60) days but not more than one (1) year.</p> |
| <p>Contamination of groundwater/aquifer due to non-compliance with the various provisions of this Ordinance</p> | <p>First Offense: Closure of the gasoline station for as long as the said contamination is not resolved to the satisfaction of the CESD and payment of P5,000.00 fine.</p> <p>Second Offense: Permanent closure of the gasoline station, the</p> |



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| | <p>imprisonment of the owner/manager of the said establishment for a period not less than thirty (30) days but not more than one (1) year and payment of a fine of P5,000.00.</p> <p>Provided that: the imposition of the said penalties shall not preclude the filing of additional legal action against the owner/operator of the said gasoline station for violating various pertinent provisions of RA 9275 and its IRR and other environmental laws.</p> |
|--|--|

Section 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations. The OBO, CESD and BPLD, with the assistance of the Office of City Legal Services, shall submit the implementing rules and regulations of this Ordinance for the review and approval of the City Mayor within sixty (60) days after the effectivity date hereof.

Section 5. Repeal. All ordinances, resolutions, executive orders and other local issuances inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

Section 6. Separability. In case any provision of this Ordinance is declared void by a court of law, the remaining provisions of this legislation not affected by the said judicial declaration shall remain valid and enforceable.

Section 7. Effectivity. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately after it has been published in a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Bacoor, Cavite.

APPROVED on the 18th day of May 2026 in the City of Bacoor, Cavite.



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Acting City Mayor



I hereby certify that the foregoing Ordinance was duly approved by the 6th Sangguniang Panlungsod of the City of Bacoor, Cavite.

Certified by:

[Signature]

HON. CATHERINE SARINO-EVARISTO
Acting City Vice Mayor

Attested by:

[Signature]

ATTY. KHALID A. ATEGA JR.
Sangguniang Panlungsod Secretary

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[Signature]

HON. ROWENA BAUTISTA-MENDIOLA
Acting City Mayor

Date of Approval: 21 MAY 2026

