



COUNTY *of* CALAVERAS

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

BUILDING
ONSITE SEWAGE

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November 15, 2000

POLICY

The following is adopted as policy for the construction of structural and non structural straw bale structures within Calaveras County

1. All straw bale construction will be engineered to the standards of the most current adopted version of the California Building Codes.
2. The construction of straw bale structures will follow the State adopted standards for straw bale construction.
3. Moisture content testing will be performed by the Engineer of record or certified testing facility to ensure the maximum moisture content of 20% prior to the covering of straw bales. This moisture content testing will include at least 2 bales per wall on each of the four orientations of the structure, and testing results submitted to the County Building Dept. for approval to cover the straw bales.
4. The Engineer of record is required to inspect the structural entities of the straw bale structure and submit a letter of approval prior to the County inspecting the same.
5. A minimum of straw bale inspections by the County will include the following in addition to other minimum inspections per the California Building Code,
 - . First course of bales impaled on the rebar stabs.
 - . At each four course lift of bales.
 - . At the completion of construction of the wall top box beam prior to framing the roof.

Ray Waller
Building Official