



MEMO

To:	Bruce Hunchard, Chairman Zoning Board of Appeals Town of Franklin 355 East Central Street Franklin, MA 02038	From:	Carlton M. Quinn, PE
		A&M Project #:	3317-01
		Date:	September 23, 2025
		Re:	Holding Tank in Water Resource District 444 E. Central St
Copy:	TAG Central, LLC		

As noted during the August 28, 2025 Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) Public Hearing, the proposed project is located within the Water Resource District as defined by the Town of Franklin Bylaws. A member of the public raised a concern regarding the permissibility of sewer holding tanks within this district, citing Zoning Bylaw §185-40.D.1.n, which prohibits:

“Storage of sludge and septage, unless in compliance with 310 CMR 32.30 and 310 CMR 32.31.”

The Town bylaw does not include a definition of "storage." However, under 310 CMR 32, the term "storage" is defined as:

“Containment or stockpiling prior to or during selling or distributing or reuse, or offering for sale, distribution, or use.”

This definition is clearly intended for commercial operations. The proposed residential development does not involve the selling, distribution, reuse, or offering for sale of sludge or septage. Therefore, the bylaw’s definition of “storage” under 310 CMR 32 does not apply to this project.

Furthermore, the proposed residential project would not engage in any land application of sludge or septage, as described in 310 CMR 32.30 and 310 CMR 32.31. These regulations pertain to the use of such materials for agricultural purposes (e.g., soil fertilization), which is not relevant to the current proposal.

Lastly, the applicant notes that the Town has previously approved sewer holding tanks within the Water Resource District, including an existing example at 117 Dean Avenue. The applicant also notes that the sewer holding tank in question is not the only solution available to mitigate the project’s sewer impacts as confirmed by the Town Engineer and Department of Public Works.