Residential Swimming Pool Removal Requirements

When an in-ground residential swimming pool is being considered for removal, there are two basic approaches:

1. The first approach is to remove the swimming pool to prepare the site for some future building construction activity (room addition, detached building, etc). This approach requires that a California licensed geotechnical engineer or civil engineer prepare a site specific report for removal and backfilling of the swimming pool. This report would include how to remove the existing pool shell and the procedures and materials for the backfilling operation.

2. The second approach is to remove the swimming pool to prepare the site for future landscaping improvement projects. This approach does not require the services of a California licensed geotechnical engineer or civil engineer. However, the backfilled site will not be suitable for future building construction activity based on the fact that the previous pool location was not “backfilled” per a geotechnical engineer or civil engineers report (to verify backfill materials, soil type, percentage of compaction, etc.). In order to “build over” this area in the future, the previous backfilled area may need to be removed and an engineered report prepared per the first approached described above.

With either approach, the side walls of the pool must be broken down at least two feet and the pool bottom must be perforated with several 6” diameter or larger holes to allow for drainage into the subsoil. When using the second approach, the debris from the side wall removal may be discarded into the pool bottom.

The permit issued for removal of an in-ground residential swimming pool will clearly state the approach for backfilling of this swimming pool location. This information will be available in order to review future permit requests for construction activity in the previous swimming pool location.

Swimming Pool Removal Submittal Requirements:

1. Provide two site plans “drawn to scale” indicating the location and shape of the existing swimming pool in relationship to all existing buildings and property lines.

2. On the above requested site plan, clearly indicate the “proposed approach” for removal of this residential swimming pool. In addition to removal of the swimming pool, the electrical and gas piping (if applicable) will also need to be safely terminated. Please indicate the locations of all equipment and meters and methods of termination for the electrical and gas piping.

3. Provide two copies of a “site-specific backfill procedure” (if applicable) prepared by a California licensed geotechnical engineer or civil engineer with their original stamp and signature.