



Snohomish County
Planning and Development Services
September 2015

Summary of Amendments to Chapter 30.62C SCC - Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas

Growth Management Planning Goals in RCW 36.70A.020(10) require counties subject to the GMA to protect the environment, and include a provision to address the quality and availability of ground and surface waters.

The requirements for a hydrologic report are listed under SCC 30.62C.140. When a hydrologic report is required for a project permit in a critical aquifer recharge area, the proposal adds a requirement under SCC 30.62C.140(3)(f)(iii) for an analysis or discussion of the effects on recharge potential on the site including the permeability and transmissivity of the site geology and soils. This requirement is based on BAS and quantifies recharge potential for quality and quantity as required by GMA.

The proposal adds a section in the Hydrogeologic Report solely for a development activity that is proposing groundwater withdrawal to address groundwater quantity. Applicants would need to provide a letter from an approved water purveyor showing connection to the water supply, or indicate the source of the water supply within the report.

The amendments added the contaminate nitrite to 30.62C.140 new subsection (o) which already obligates the evaluation of nitrate pollution. The US EPA considers both nitrate and nitrite pollution as potential contaminate sources which can lead to the infant/toddler condition of methemoglobinemia, or blue baby syndrome, with contaminated drinking water cited as the most likely exposure pathway. Maximum contaminate levels (MCL) are set at 1mg/L for nitrites and 10mg/L for nitrates by the EPA.