

WATER QUALITY

INTRODUCTION

Water quality is affected in numerous ways by human occupation and development. Typically the increase in non-porous surfaces as a result of development increases runoff, causing higher peak stormwater discharge at a higher velocity which overloads the existing drainage system and causes scouring and erosion of streambanks. Erosion increases suspended solids, which along with heavy metals and household wastes in the water, increase nitrogen and phosphorous enrichment and depress levels of dissolved oxygen. During construction, sediment-laden runoff and other pollutants may enter bodies of water and other shoreline areas. Human occupation and development also introduce more pollutants, such as heavy metals and household wastes, into streams, groundwater, and other waterbodies. The degradation of water quality adversely impacts fish and wildlife habitat, reduces the functioning of streams and wetlands, contributes to flooding and water damage to property, and can be a hazard to public health through surface water and groundwater impacts.

POLICIES

1. Shoreline uses and activities should be encouraged to employ appropriate practices and methods for minimizing water quality impacts.
2. Shoreline uses and activities should be located, designed, scheduled, constructed and maintained to prevent adverse impacts to water quality and fish and wildlife resources including spawning, nesting, rearing, feeding areas and migratory routes.
3. Reasonable setbacks, buffers, and/or storage basins should be required to minimize negative impacts on water quality.
4. Measures for the control of water quantity and the treatment of runoff for the purpose of protecting and/or enhancing water quality should be conducted on-site to prevent impacts to waters off site.
5. Dredging and filling activities should be conducted to minimize negative impacts on water quality and should be consistent with applicable local, state and federal regulations.
6. Vegetated buffers, setbacks, and improved farming techniques should be required to minimize groundwater and surface water quality impacts from agricultural activities including but not limited to: animal feeding operations, feed lot operations, retention and storage ponds, manure storage, and use of fertilizers and pesticides.

REGULATIONS

1. All shoreline uses and development shall provide for control, treatment, storage and release of surface water runoff to protect the quality of the receiving waters.
2. All shoreline developments shall provide for control, treatment, storage and release of surface water runoff to minimize impacts of increased runoff.
3. Water quality and water quantity control measures consistent with the regulations of Title 24 SCC and applicable local, state and federal laws shall be the minimum standards for all industrial, commercial, residential, recreational, and agricultural uses. Setbacks greater than minimum and/or additional mitigation shall be required if environmental review shows that there are likely to be significant adverse impacts related to ground

and/or surface water contamination, fish and wildlife habitat, recreational uses, public access or aesthetics.