



Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas

Department of Public Works
Development Engineering Program
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Critical Area Recharge Areas

Handout #27 Revised 070109

What is the purpose of the CARA permit?

The CARA ordinance was established for preventing degradation, and where possible, enhancing the quality of groundwater for drinking water or business purposes. The CARA review is intended to limit potential contaminants within designated critical aquifer recharge areas. Groundwater provides 95% of our drinking water in the county. The CARA ordinance took effect August 1, 1997.

What is the land use limitation under CARA?

If you plan to conduct certain activities that would have an impact on groundwater in Clark County, Washington, you may need a permit to comply with the Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas ordinance.

The ordinance **does not** apply to:

- * Existing legal activities established prior to August 1, 1997;
- * Activities already permitted and regulated by the State of Washington and/or the Clark County Health Department to incorporate Best Management Practices (BMP's); and,
- * Residential uses, unless residential property is being used for other activities that may affect the drinking water supply.

The ordinance applies to activities in designated Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas that include most of Clark County west of the Cascade foothills. These areas are divided into two categories on how close they are to public drinking water. Certain activities are prohibited in Category I areas because they are close to public wells. These activities are permitted in Category II but require a CARA permit. These include the following:

1. Landfills
2. Class V injection wells
 - Agricultural drainage wells,
 - Untreated sewage waste disposal wells,
 - Cesspools,
 - Industrial process water and disposal wells, and
 - Radioactive water disposal;
3. Radioactive disposal sites; and
4. Surface mining operations.

There are no activities prohibited in Category II areas, but they may be subject to other limitations specified within the Clark County Code (CCC). A map delineating the Category I and II boundaries is on file with the Clark County Assessment and GIS.

In both Category I and II areas, certain activities are required to implement Best Management Practices (BMP's) to minimize effects to the activity on ground water. The Ordinance applies to the following activities in both categories.

- * Above and below ground storage tanks (tanks and pipes used to contain an accumulation of regulation substances (see Section 40.100.070)
- * Facilities that conduct biological research
- * Boat repair shops
- * Chemical research facilities
- * Dry cleaners
- * Gasoline service stations
- * Pipelines
- * Printing and publishing shops (that use printing liquids)
- * Below ground transformers and capacitors
- * Sawmills (producing over 10,000 board feet per day)
- * Solid-waste handling and processing
- * Vehicle repair, recycling, and auto wrecking
- * Funeral services
- * Furniture stripping
- * Motor vehicle service garages (both private and government)
- * Photographic processing
- * Chemical manufactures and reprocessing
- * Creosote and asphalt manufacturer and treatment
- * Electroplating activities
- * Petroleum and petroleum products refining, including reprocessing
- * Wood products preserving
- * Golf courses
- * Regulated waste treatment, storage, disposal facilities that handle hazardous material
- * Medium quantity generators (dangerous, acutely hazardous, and toxic extremely hazardous waste)
- * Large quantity generators (dangerous, acutely hazardous, and toxic extremely hazardous waste)

Is there information available about Best Management Practices to help safeguard groundwater?

Yes, the department shall maintain and update a library of best management practices recommended by the State of Washington and federal agencies.

Where can I obtain information about water supply well in my area?

The Clark County Health Department will provide list of the physical location of all public water supply wells.

What is the CARA review process?

To receive a CARA permit, the applicant must demonstrate, through a Level I Site evaluation Report, how they will integrate necessary and appropriate best management practices to prevent degradation to groundwater. The applicant must also meet existing local, state and federal laws and regulations. A Level I

Site Evaluation Report shall be completed and submitted to the Development Engineering Program for review and approval [see Clark County Code 40.410.030 (B)].

If an applicant wants to avoid implementation of applicable best management practices, they must submit a Level 2 Site Evaluation Report, develop, and implement a monitoring program that consists of the following:

- * Demonstrate, through Level 2 Site Evaluation Report, how they will prevent degradation to groundwater. The applicant must also meet existing local, state and federal laws and regulations. A Level 2 site Assessment Report shall be completed and submitted to the department for review and approval (see CCC 40.410.030(C)); and,
- * Develop and implement a monitoring program with quarterly reporting to the department. The department will evaluate the monitoring program and may require periodic changes based on the monitoring results, new technology, and/or BMP's.

Critical Aquifer Recharge Area permits are reviewed and issued with the primary development permit required by Clark County.

NOTE: This handout is not a substitute for county code. For information that is more detailed please refer to Clark County Code 40.410 Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas (CARA)



DEVELOPMENT ENGINEERING CRITICAL AQUIFER RECHARGE AREA REVIEW SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS

The following checklist identifies information to be included with the application. All submittals that are determined ***not*** "Counter Complete" will be ***returned*** to the applicant for correction and resubmittal. Submittals determined to be "Counter Complete" will be routed to Engineering Services for review.

CRITICAL AQUIFER RECHARGE AREA

- Application Fee
- Application Form
- Level I Site Evaluation Report OR Level 2 Site Assessment Report. Refer to Clark County Code 40.410.030(B) and (C).
- Cover sheet and table of contents – each submittal packet shall contain a cover sheet that contains the project name and applicant's name, address, and phone number. A table of contents, tabs and/or dividers to provide assistance in locating various requirements shall follow the cover sheet. Associated applications – applications associated with the preliminary plat, to the extent applicable (e.g. floodplain, habitat, shoreline, wetlands, variance, etc) must be submitted prior to or concurrent with this applicant (see Pre-Application Conference Report)
- Special Studies (as identified within the Pre-Application Report), if applicable
 - 1 original and 3 copies -- Archeological Predetermination
 - 1 original -- Archeological Study
 - 1 original and 3 copies -- Traffic Study and Road Modification request
 - 1 original and 2 copies -- of all other special studies or permits to include but not limited to: floodplain; geohazard; habitat; shoreline; stormwater, erosion control, and wetland
 - 2 reduced copies of 11" x 17" of all sheets larger than 11" x 17"

CARA REVIEW APPLICATION FORM



PROJECT NAME:	
DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE FOR CRITICAL AQUIFER RECHARGE AREA REVIEW:	
TOTAL ACREAGE:	
APPLICANT NAME:	Address:
E-mail Address:	Phone:
PROPERTY OWNER (list multiple owners on a separate sheet):	
CONTACT PERSON (list if not same as APPLICANT):	
Name:	Address:
E-Mail Address:	Phone:
LOCATION OF PROJECT: Site Address:	Serial Number(s):

AUTHORIZATION

The undersigned hereby certifies that this application has been made with the consent of the lawful property owner(s) and that all information submitted with this application is complete and correct. False statements, errors, and/or omissions may be sufficient cause for denial of the request. This application gives consent to the County to enter the properties listed above.

The granting of this permit does not presume to give authority to violate or cancel the provision of any other state or local law regulating this type of work requiring approval or permit.

I understand that this permit is not valid until all fees are paid.

Authorized Signature

CRITICAL AQUIFER RECHARGE AREA FEE SCHEDULE

The following fees are required for review of a Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas application. These fees are to be paid at the time of application.

Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas	\$1,378
Environmental Checklist Review (SEPA):	if applicable

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