

City of Olympia

Please indicate main role.

Hydrogeologist

Do you work in Eastern or Western Washington?

Western Washington

Is your work primarily in an urban or a rural area?

Both

Are you interested in the guidance from a:

City/Town Perspective (city/town name)

Olympia

How familiar are you with the groundwater protection requirements of the Growth Management Act?

Somewhat Familiar

Does your county or city employ a hydrogeologist or other groundwater professional?

Yes

Does your county or city map Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas?

Yes

Please share any concerns or opinions about the Guidance revision - What would you like to see changed or added? To provide more detailed answers, please use this excel [spreadsheet](#).

Some protection strategies I'd like to see explored in the new guidance:

- Ensuring building codes have requirements that protect groundwater, such as septic system design, operation and maintenance; storm water controls.
- Establishing zoning overlays or special districts that add regulations to controls already in place to help address grandfathered, potentially contaminating sources in critical areas.

- Restricting or banning the sale and use of leachable products (such as certain fertilizers and pesticides) within a jurisdiction's critical areas.

Some ideas to share around establishing a fund ahead of a contaminating event to ensure rapid (funded) response:

- Require a bond to be posted by businesses/facilities that handle hazardous materials to cover the cost of spill response or remediation, prior to operation in a wellhead protection area.
- Charge additional fees from businesses/facilities with hazardous materials or landscaped areas (fertilizer use) in wellhead protection areas to offset the potential cost of aquifer cleanup.

I'd like to see guidance on determining how to:

- Measure the cost of service (to ratepayers) for protecting groundwater.
- Compare the costs of mitigating risk with the costs of the contaminating risk itself (should it happen).
- Quantify the costs of and evaluate the benefits of monitoring risk.
- Quantify the costs of and evaluate the benefits of shared risk (insurance).
- Quantify the costs of monitoring wells versus replacing a source.
- Quantify the cost of rehabilitating existing water sources.
- Develop a financial strategy for land acquisition.
- Manage and sustain prioritized land (such as through ownership, conservation easements, purchasing timber or development rights).
- Identify the long-term groundwater protection needs of a community or region (where communities share the water resource).

Thank you for this opportunity to weigh in on updating the guidance! I've used the guidance quite a bit and find it helpful. Olympia is fortunate to have many protective tools in place already, but there are always more to consider.