

# Brad Johnson

**Please indicate main role.**

Local Planner

**Do you work in Eastern or Western Washington?**

Western Washington

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

Urban

**Are you interested in the guidance from a:**

City/Town Perspective (city/town name)

City of Burlington

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

Very Unfamiliar

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

No

**Does your county or city map Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas?**

No

**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](#).**

The current guidance tends to default to recommending local governments consult with a professional hydrogeologist. While that's undoubtedly the best solution, the GMA does not require local governments to undertake independent research, and many cannot afford professional assistance. It would be helpful if the guidance specifically identified common land uses that have the potential to contaminate groundwater and prescribed recommended regulations. Also, with respect to identifying areas that may be susceptible to contamination it would be helpful if the guidebook provided some

easily identifiable conditions such as shallow groundwater, permeable soils etc. that could be used to rate an area as susceptible to contamination.

With respect to more general groundwater issues, it would be helpful if the guidance stressed a stronger connection between long term land use planning/zoning and groundwater availability/protection. Currently much of the available guidance stresses monitoring as a strategy for addressing these concerns. Monitoring is a great backup plan, but when it comes to land use, once you've identified a problem it's too late to change it. Land use decisions have very long term effects which cannot be easily undone. Groundwater resources should be considered at the front end and serve as basis for fundamental planning decisions.