Good Morning,

Please post on the web and share with the Planning Commission.

Evan Maxim
Senior Planner
City of Sammamish
425.295.0523

Hi Evan -

Just some brief feedback on the recent Planning Commission meeting, where AMEC presented best available science for the ECA.

I think it would have made for a richer public comment if the consultants had presented first, followed by public comment. That would have allowed for residents to hear the results of their study and then ask more informed questions, as well as allow attendees to leave after that presentation if that was their interest in the evening.

I appreciated Kamuron Gurol's comments after public comment, as it helped provide some context on what had been presented as fact versus viewpoint. His short statement helped me to understand that there was more for me to read and understand on the issues at hand.

Thanks for an informative session on an important topic.

Stewart Blyth
2225 E Beaver Lake Dr SE
Sammamish, WA 98075
April 10, 2012

Evan Maxim &
Planning Commission Members
City of Sammamish
801 228th Ave SE
Sammamish, WA 98075

RE: Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas
Sammamish Environmentally Critical Area Regulations Update

Dear Evan and Commissioners:

At the April 5, 2012 Planning Commission meeting, the Commissioners requested additional information be provided to indicate the science supporting the request from the Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District to prohibit injection of stormwater in the CARA Classes 1 and 2. In addition, there was a comment on whether the delineation of the CARA Classes 1 and 2 should be kept as prescriptive, or allowed to be advisory.

The CARA Classes 1 and 2 are based on wellhead protection delineations developed in conjunction with the Wellhead Protection Program, which is required of all Group A public water systems. The Wellhead Protection Area is defined as the surface and subsurface area surrounding a well supplying a public water supply through which potential contaminants are likely to pass and reach the wells. These are further delineated based on the time of travel for groundwater to move from its point of infiltration to its point of discharge at the well.

The District has spent many years studying the aquifer systems that provide supply to the District wells. The current Wellhead Protection Areas for the Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District are based on analytical methods, which were then reviewed with a sophisticated three-dimensional finite element groundwater model. The model calibration considered transient conditions and incorporated vertical groundwater flow, monthly pumping and groundwater recharge variations.

State code also regulates the use of injection wells, in particular Chapter 173-218 WAC – Underground Injection Control Program, and Chapter 173-200 WAC – Water Quality Standards for Groundwaters of the State of Washington. These regulations include policies to ensure the
purity of the state’s groundwaters through an anti-degradation policy and to preserve and protect groundwaters by preventing the injection of fluids that will endanger groundwater.

The most straightforward means to ensure that the groundwater utilized by the District to provide water supply to its customers maintains its high quality, is to limit the potential for degradation of the water quality by prohibiting the injection of stormwater in the wellhead protection areas, CARA Classes 1 and 2. With this particular subject, it is wise to err on the side of caution, as restoring an underground aquifer is not an easy task. In addition, the boundaries should be kept prescriptive, matching the wellhead protection areas developed over several years of study. The Plateau area aquifer systems are complex, and not a subject that can be interpreted without significant study.

Sincerely,

Jay Regenstreif, P.E.
Planning Engineer