



**THURSTON COUNTY**  
WASHINGTON  
SINCE 1852

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## **PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

### **MEMORANDUM**

Patrick M. Libbey, Director  
Diana T. Yu, MD, MSPH  
Health Officer

April 10, 2002

**TO:** On-Site Sewage System Designers and Other Interested Parties

**FROM:** John Ward/Steve Davies, Thurston County Environmental Health

**SUBJECT:** Urban Growth Area Requirements for Land Development Projects

Designers, engineers, and other on-site sewage system professionals should be aware of the following Urban Growth Area (UGA) planning documents that may apply to subdivisions and other land development projects within the established UGA limits of the cities of Olympia, Lacey, and Tumwater:

1. Thurston County Sewerage General Plan (SGP): Briefly, the SGP states that new subdivisions within the UGA are required to develop either on sanitary sewer or on a community on-site sewage system (COSS). If for some reason sanitary sewers are not available to the property and a COSS is proposed, the COSS must be designed for future sewer conversion and must be owned and operated by the city whose UGA the system is in. For land development projects in the UGA other than residential subdivisions, any on-site sewage system with design flows of 600 gallons per day or more is considered a COSS and also must be designed for sewer conversion and owned and operated by the city. The design for a COSS in the UGA would be reviewed jointly by the city and Thurston County Environmental Health. It is generally a good idea for sewage system consultants to contact the appropriate city early in the planning process to determine the requirements for ownership and operation and the city design standards for a COSS.
2. Thurston County Coordinated Water System Plan (CWSP): This document specifies the process for connecting to existing public water systems and the development of new public water systems within the UGA. A summary of this document is contained in the designer packet.

Copies of the Sewerage General Plan and the Coordinated Water System Plan may be purchased at the Thurston County Permit Assistance Center. Specific questions regarding on-site sewage systems in the UGA can be directed to either Gary Duvall at (360) 754-2962 or John Ward at (360) 786-5743. UGA water system questions can be directed to Phil Brinker at (360) 786-5462.

