

CRITICAL AREAS ORDINANCE UPDATE- Best Available Science Review**Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas**

- There has been no new guidance from the Department of Ecology on critical aquifer recharge areas since 2005.
- In 2014, the U.S. Geological Survey published the Scientific Investigations Report (2014-5106), **Hydrogeologic framework, groundwater movement, and water budget of the Kitsap Peninsula, west-central Washington**. This report presents information used to characterize the groundwater-flow system on the Kitsap Peninsula, and includes descriptions of the geology and hydrogeologic framework, groundwater recharge and discharge, groundwater levels and flow directions, seasonal groundwater level fluctuations, interactions between aquifers and the surface-water system, and a water budget. This study represents the latest in water quantity assessments for Kitsap County. Water quantity is now a factor to consider when classifying Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas (see below). While not providing any recommendations, it will be the basis for the analysis and recommendations that will be used by the water purveyors in the near future.
Recommendation: *Reviewed and considered, but did not provide guidance necessary to warrant any changes at this time.*

Legislative Changes

- In 2010, WAC 365-190-100 was added to address and amend prior regulations on critical aquifer recharge areas. This section adds water quantity as a factor to consider when classifying and protecting this critical area and acknowledges the link between aquifer recharge and fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas.
Recommendation: *These changes will be addressed through reference to Title 12 (Stormwater) and the Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas section of the CAO, as well as clarifying when a hydrogeological report would be needed to address water quality and quantity.*