

WATER QUALITY

Introduction:

Water is an important resource in need of management. Various sections of the City of Newport's Comprehensive Plan deal with different aspects of water quality.¹ One aspect of that management program is to maintain water quality.

Sensitive Aquifers:

The only area that is not covered in other sections of this plan is that of sensitive aquifers. The State Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has prepared a map that shows sensitive aquifers in the Newport area, two of which are in the Newport urban growth boundary (UGB). Both are in areas on either side of Yaquina Bay. The area north of Yaquina Bay appears to be about the width of the city from the bay to Big Creek. The one in South Beach appears to again be the width of the city from the bay to the south end of South Beach State Park. It is impossible to determine exact boundaries due to the scale of the map.

The city does not draw water from that aquifer for meeting domestic, commercial, or industrial water demands. Although aquifers are important, the one within Newport proper is not as critical as others that do supply water needs. Policies directed toward this aquifer should be more for maintaining a certain level of quantity and quality.

Lincoln County administers subsurface permits for septic tanks in the Newport city limits, while the state is the primary enforcement agency for contaminants that occur because of urban development. The city must rely on those agencies to provide the expertise on the limited issue of the aquifer quality. The city will, however, cooperate with the county and state in their planning and enforcement activities.

¹ The Yaquina Bay Estuary section addresses the management of estuarine resources.

GOALS/POLICIES
WATER QUALITY

Goal: To maintain a level of water quality that is consistent with state and federal regulations.

Policy 1: The Department of Environmental Quality has identified major water table areas with sensitive aquifers within the Newport urban growth boundary. A program to regulate these areas has not yet been developed by the DEQ. Once a program is developed, the city will comply with DEQ to carry out this program.

Policy 2: Any development will be required to leave some amount of permeable surface as required by the Zoning Ordinance.