

Water Watch



New Storm Water Ordinance Focuses on Construction Activity

In September of 2002, the City Council passed amendments and revisions to the City Code. The majority of the changes deal with construction activity.

The purpose of the new "Storm Water Construction Activity Permit (SWCAP) is to prevent the discharge of sediment and other construction-related pollutants from construction sites. Sediment and debris from construction sites are a major source of pollution to waterways and water systems located within the City and surrounding areas. Each year storm water runoff carries tons of sediment from construction sites into local drainage systems, irrigation systems, canals, rivers, and lakes. Sediment from storm water runoff also clogs and obstructs storm drains, culverts, and canals and causes damage to private property, wildlife habitat and water quality.

A City of Orem SWCAP is required before any person or entity may landscape, excavate, grub and clear, grade, or perform any type of construction activity that will disrupt or cause a change in

the natural landscape upon any parcel of property located in the City.

Exemptions are granted for construction activities disturbing less than 500 square feet of land surface area; residential landscaping activities disturbing less than 7,000 square feet of land surface area; residential gardening; and bona fide agricultural and farming operations.

A SWCAP is obtained by submitting a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) along with a building permit, preliminary subdivision plat, site plan or conditional use permit application.

A SWPPP consists of a map and/or a narrative that explains what activities will disturb the soil, when those activities will take place and what actions will be taken to eliminate sediment and chemical discharges from the site.

Sediment and erosion control measures will be inspected to ensure proper installation and

maintenance from the beginning of the project to the end. The SWCAP will remain in force until a certificate of occupancy is issued or until a site is either fully landscaped or re-vegetated.

The revisions also re-emphasize that tracking of mud and dirt from a construction site to a public street is illegal. It also reaffirms that placing dirt over a sidewalk and/or curb for construction site access is not permissible in the city.

If you would like to read the ordinance in full, you can visit the City's website at <http://>



www.orem.org. Once at the website, click on the button for public information and select the City code item. The new storm sewer ordinance is chapter 23.

Summer Conservation Efforts Successful

If you wouldn't drink it, don't dump it!

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We're on the Web!
www.orem.org

Public Comment Period set for Management Plan

To meet the requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, Phase II (an amendment to the Federal Clean Water Act), the City's Storm Sewer Utility has produced a Storm Water Management Plan. It provides a comprehensive strategy that will outline and direct the City of Orem Storm Sewer Utility's priorities and activities for the years 2003-2008.

This document will be available for public review during the from January 2 to February 14. It will be made available on the City's website as well as at the City library at 56 N State St. You can ask for it at the main adult reference desk. Comments can be emailed to srjohnson@orem.org, or mailed or brought into the Public Works Department at the address above.

This past water year has presented many challenges. As water consumers, we were reminded that we still live in a desert, and that we are totally dependant on precipitation to maintain life. We see the signs and effects of "drought" all around us; from the low levels in Deer Creek Reservoir to the economic impacts of higher local farm produce prices.

Here, in Orem, the impact of "not enough water" was a much softer bump than experienced by several of our neighboring communities. We didn't resort to rationing or restricting watering days or times.



We didn't issue tickets for "wasting" or over-using water. Very few lawns turned brown, and as a community life hasn't really deviated much from the previous norm. This success can be credited to 2 important factors:

The overwhelming response of the citizens of the City of Orem to voluntarily make wise conservation efforts. Our water usage this past year dropped 16% from last year's usage totals. This equates to 1,565,600,000 gallons saved. This speaks volumes about community spirit and cooperation!

The foresight and planning of water professionals both past and present, that have secured and developed the water sources that supply our community. Even with the recent growth that we have seen in our city's population, we came through this lean water year with an adequate amount in reserve to provide for the coming winter months.

As we look forward with the hope that we will be blessed with the precipitation that we need for this coming year, prudence necessitates that we maintain continued vigilance in this area.

Some of the steps that are currently being taken to assure our present lifestyle are:

A new well at the Scera Park. This project has begun and the drilling is nearing completion.

An engineering study has been implemented to look at sites for another ten million gallons of culinary water storage.

Paperwork will soon be presented to the State for the drilling of another culinary well in the near future.

We are constantly looking to buy water rights that can be effectively used to accommodate the increasing demand of our rising population.

Being charged with the responsibility of providing an adequate amount of clean drinking water, available at the turn of your tap, can become a challenging and sometimes nerve-wracking endeavor. Your support, both in wise water use and financially, to allow for these mitigating improvements, is greatly appreciated.

