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**CLARK COUNTY**  
WASHINGTON

# **CRITICAL AREA RECHARGE AREA(CARA) REVIEW APPLICATION PACKET**

**Public Works  
Development Engineering  
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## CRITICAL AQUIFER RECHARGE AREA (CARA) SUMMARY

### Development Engineering

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#### A. What is the purpose of the CARA permit?

The CARA ordinance was established for preventing degradation, and where possible, enhancing the quality of groundwater for drinking water or business purposes. The CARA review is intended to limit potential contaminants within designated critical aquifer recharge areas. Groundwater provides 95% of our drinking water in the county. The CARA ordinance took effect August 1, 1997.

#### B. What is the land use limitation under CARA?

If you plan to conduct certain activities that would have an impact on groundwater in Clark County, Washington, you may need a permit to comply with the Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas ordinance.

The ordinance **does not** apply to:

- \* Existing legal activities established prior to July 31, 1997;
- \* All residential uses other than those having activities covered by Section 40.410.020(A)
- \* Group A public water system source development and associated infrastructure
- \* Public water supply aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) facilities
- \* Public water pipelines
- \* Public water supply storage structures
- \* Other uses not listed in Sections 40.401.020(A), (B) or (C)
- \* Activities already permitted and regulated by the State of Washington and/or the Clark County Health Department to incorporate Best Management Practices (BMP's); and,

The ordinance applies to activities in designated Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas that include most of Clark County west of the Cascade foothills. These areas are divided into two categories on how close they are to public drinking water. Certain activities are prohibited in Category I areas because they are close to public wells. These activities are permitted in Category II but require a CARA permit. These include the following:

1. Landfills
2. Class V injection wells
3. Agricultural drainage wells,
4. Untreated sewage waste disposal wells,
5. Cesspools,
6. Industrial process water and disposal wells
7. Radioactive water disposal;

**D. Where can I obtain information about water supply well in my area?**

The Clark County Health Department will provide list of the physical location of all public water supply wells.

**E. What is the CARA review process?**

To receive a CARA permit, the applicant must demonstrate, through a Level I Site evaluation Report, how they will integrate necessary and appropriate best management practices to prevent degradation to groundwater. The applicant must also meet existing local, state and federal laws and regulations. A Level I Site Evaluation Report shall be completed and submitted to the Development Engineering Program for review and approval [see Clark County Code 40.410.030 (B)].

If an applicant wants to avoid implementation of applicable best management practices, they must submit a Level 2 Site Evaluation Report, develop, and implement a monitoring program that consists of the following:

- \* Demonstrate, through Level 2 Site Evaluation Report, how they will prevent degradation to groundwater. The applicant must also meet existing local, state and federal laws and regulations. A Level 2 site Assessment Report shall be completed and submitted to the department for review and approval (see CCC 40.410.030(C)); and,
- \* Develop and implement a monitoring program with quarterly reporting to the department. The department will evaluate the monitoring program and may require periodic changes based on the monitoring results, new technology, and/or BMP's.

Critical Aquifer Recharge Area permits are reviewed and issued with the primary development permit required by Clark County.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Department of Public Works  
Development Engineering Program  
1300 Franklin Street  
Vancouver, WA 98660  
(360) 397-6118 ext. 4559  
<http://www.clark.wa.gov/publicworks/engineering/index.html>

email: [DevEngineer@clark.wa.gov](mailto:DevEngineer@clark.wa.gov)



# CRITICAL AREA RECHARGE AREA (CARA) SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS

## Development Engineering

NOTE: The following checklist identifies information to be included. **ALL** items checks **MUST** be submitted before the submittal can be accepted. All submittals not determined to be complete will be **RETURNED** to the applicant for corrections. *Following these guidelines will help us serve you better and avoid any unnecessary delay in moving this project to plat recording. Thank you for your cooperation!*

<b>Minimum Submittal Requirements for Critical Area Recharge Area Application:</b>									
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cover Sheet / Letter of Transmittal								
<input type="checkbox"/>	Application Form								
<input type="checkbox"/>	Application Fee								
<input type="checkbox"/>	Submittal requirement checklist								
<input type="checkbox"/>	Level 1 Site Evaluation Report <b>or</b> Level 2 Site Assessment Report. Refer to Clark County Code 40.410.030(B) and (C),								
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cover sheet and table of contents – each submittal packet shall contain a cover sheet that contains the project name and applicant’s name, address, and phone number. A table of contents, tabs, and/or dividers to provide assistance in locating various requirements shall follow the cover sheet. Associated applications –applications associated with the preliminary plat, to the extent applicable (e.g. floodplain, habitat, shoreline, wetlands, variance, etc) must be submitted prior to or concurrent with this applicant (see Pre-Application Conference Report)								
<input type="checkbox"/>	Special Studies (as identified within the Pre-Application Report), if applicable <table style="margin-left: 20px; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">[ ]</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">1 original and 3 copies -- Archeological Predetermination</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">[ ]</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">1 original -- Archeological Study</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">[ ]</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">1 original and 3 copies -- Traffic Study and Road Modification request</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">[ ]</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">1 original and 2 copies -- of all other special studies or permits to include but not limited to: floodplain; geohazard; habitat; shoreline; stormwater, erosion control, and wetland</td> </tr> </table>	[ ]	1 original and 3 copies -- Archeological Predetermination	[ ]	1 original -- Archeological Study	[ ]	1 original and 3 copies -- Traffic Study and Road Modification request	[ ]	1 original and 2 copies -- of all other special studies or permits to include but not limited to: floodplain; geohazard; habitat; shoreline; stormwater, erosion control, and wetland
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[ ]	1 original and 3 copies -- Traffic Study and Road Modification request								
[ ]	1 original and 2 copies -- of all other special studies or permits to include but not limited to: floodplain; geohazard; habitat; shoreline; stormwater, erosion control, and wetland								
<input type="checkbox"/>	2 reduced copies of 11" x 17" of all sheets larger than 11" x 17"								

Not all items required for a complete review are on this list. It is the responsibility of the engineer to provide plans that will satisfy all conditions of land use approval and all code requirements.