

RELATION OF WATERSHED DISTRICT TO MUNICIPALITIES

The District recognizes that the primary control and determination of appropriate land uses is the responsibility of the municipalities. Accordingly, the District will coordinate permit application reviews involving land development only after it is first demonstrated that the application has been submitted to the city where the land is located. It is the intention of the managers to ensure that development of land within the District proceeds in conformity with these Rules, in addition to conforming with the development guides and plans adopted by municipalities.

The District shall exercise control over development by its permit program described in these rules to ensure the maintenance of stormwater management features, protection of public waters, wetlands and groundwater, and protection of existing natural topography and vegetative features in order to preserve them for present and future beneficial uses.

The District will review and permit projects sponsored or undertaken by municipalities and other governmental units, and will require permits of the contractor in accordance with these Rules for governmental projects which have an impact on water resources of the District. These projects include but are not limited to, land development, road, trail and utility construction.

The District desires to serve as technical advisors to the municipal officials in the preparation of local surface water management plans and the review of individual development proposals prior to investment of significant public or private funds. To promote a coordinated review process between the District and the municipalities, the District encourages the municipalities to involve the District early in the planning process. The District's comments do not eliminate the need for permit review and approval if otherwise required under these rules. The District intends to coordinate with each municipality to ensure that property owners and other permit applicants are aware of the permit requirements of both bodies. By coordinating, the District and municipalities also can avoid duplication, conflicting requirements and unnecessary costs for permit applicants and taxpayers.

The District urges municipalities to develop, as rapidly as possible, local surface water management plans, providing a coordinated system of managing surface water and meeting water quality goals on a regional or subwatershed basis consistent with their local water management plan and the District's Rules. Municipalities are required promptly to adopt local water management plans consistent with the District's watershed plan. A municipality that desires to assume sole permitting responsibility for water resource protection in areas including erosion and sediment control, stormwater management, floodplain management and/or vegetated waterbody buffers must develop ordinances at least as protective as District rules for District review and approval.