Frequently Asked Questions
Proposed change to land use enforcement code

Updated: March 17, 2015

Q Why propose a change?
Existing enforcement codes have been in place for many years and are somewhat confusing. Consolidating will make codes easier to interpret and enforce. Adding an administrative enforcement option will help us align with most Western Washington counties including the neighboring counties of Pierce, Lewis, Mason and Grays Harbor who already use them. Existing civil enforcement options in Thurston County’s Solid Waste division have proven to be effective. The proposal is also intended to:

- Make it easier for people to find and understand the pertinent codes.
- Reduce the cost of enforcement to property owners and the time it takes to achieve compliance.

Q What is being proposed?
Thurston County will consider a proposal to change Thurston County’s land use enforcement code.

Q What will this proposal do?

- Consolidate and simplify the directions for code enforcement.
- Create an additional administrative method for code enforcement.
- Create a more fair and equitable application for enforcement by adding language to the code which makes the violator of the code liable, and not just the land owner.

Q What is NOT proposed?

- There will be no new criminal enforcement provisions.
- There is no change regarding inspection.
- Thurston County staff still do not have the ability to enter your home without your permission, a warrant or a court order. These options are in the code now and they will remain unchanged.

Q Was public comment allowed?
Yes. Public hearings were held on October 16, 2013, February 18, 2014 and March 3, 2015. After the March 3 hearing, the Board extended the public comment period through March 13 at 5 p.m. That period is now closed. The public can now attend and observe a Board Briefing on March 18 at 10:30 a.m. Unlike a Public Hearing, a Board Briefing typically does not include taking public testimony.

Q What could be affected?
The most common enforcement issues related to land use violations include responding to neighbor concerns about:

- Junk vehicles
- Building without a permit
- Diverting a stream or filling in a wetland

Contact Information
Find more details about this proposal under section A-2 of the docket page on our website or contact Katie Pruitt.

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- Sign up for our web mail service.

The most common enforcement issues are junk car removal, building without a permit and filling in protected wetlands.

Protect Our Health ➔ Protect Wildlife’s Health ➔ Keep It Local FAQ-PG1