

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
CONSTRUCTION DEWATERING POLICY
Effective July 2009

Basement and underground parking garage excavations may require dewatering during excavation and/or construction. If dewatering is required, the contractor must prepare and submit a dewatering plan to Public Works for review. Public Works must review, approve and permit the dewatering plans prior to excavation.

Public Works only allows drawdown well dewatering of groundwater. Open pit dewatering of groundwater is disallowed. Open pit dewatering is allowed for rainwater that may accumulate at the bottom of an excavation.

Groundwater dewatering is only allowed from April through October due to inadequate capacity in the city's storm drain system. Open pit dewatering of rainwater is allowed throughout the year.

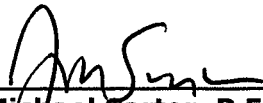
The geotechnical report for the site must list the highest anticipated groundwater level. Public Works recommends a piezometer to be installed in the soil boring. The contractor must determine the depth to groundwater immediately prior to excavation by using the piezometer or by drilling an exploratory hole if the deepest excavation will be within 3 feet of the highest anticipated groundwater level. If groundwater is found to be within 2 feet of the deepest excavation, a drawdown well dewatering system must be installed, or alternatively, the contractor can excavate for the basement without a dewatering system in place and hope not to hit groundwater. However, if groundwater is hit, the contractor must immediately stop all work. Prior to resuming excavation, the contractor must submit a dewatering plan, be issued a permit, install the dewatering system, have it inspected, commence dewatering, and drawdown the groundwater below the deepest excavation.

Public Works may require water to be tested for contaminants prior to initial discharge and at intervals during dewatering. If testing is required, the contractor must retain an independent testing firm to test the discharge water for the contaminants Public Works specifies and submit the results to Public Works.

Public Works reviews and approves dewatering plans as part of a *Street Work Permit*. The applicant can include a dewatering plan in the building permit plan set in order to obtain approval of the plan during the building permit review, but the contractor will still be required to obtain a *Street Work Permit* prior to dewatering. Public Works has a standard dewatering plan sheet that can be used for this purpose and dewatering guidelines are available on Public Works' website. If the applicant decides to not include a dewatering plan in the building permit plan set, he must include the above dewatering requirements in a note on the site plan.

For projects that include excavation for a basement or a below-grade parking garage, an application for a grading & excavation permit must be submitted to Public Works when applying for a building permit. The application and guidelines are available at the Development Center and on Public Works' website. **Public Works will review, approve and issue the grading & excavation permit concurrently with the building permit. However, Public Works will not issue the excavation permit (and the Building Division will not issue the building permit) after August 31 if groundwater dewatering will be required as there**

will be insufficient time for the contractor to excavate and construct the basement prior to the October 31 deadline for groundwater dewatering.



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City Engineer/Director of Public Works