



## South Tacoma Groundwater Protection District Code Update

City of Tacoma | Planning and Development Services

**City Council**  
**Ordinance No. 29051**  
**August 26, 2025**



1

## OVERVIEW



**Purpose of the meeting:** First reading of ordinance to consider amendments to the South Tacoma Groundwater Protection District (STGPD) code.

**Overview:**

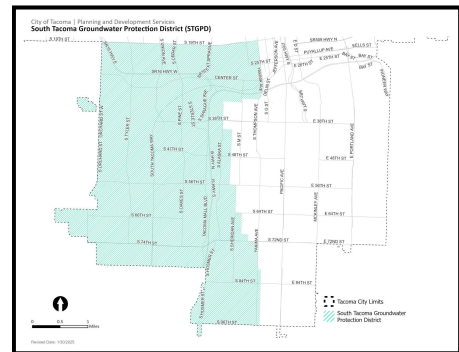
- Background
- What's Changing in the Code
- Next Steps

2

2

## STGPD Background

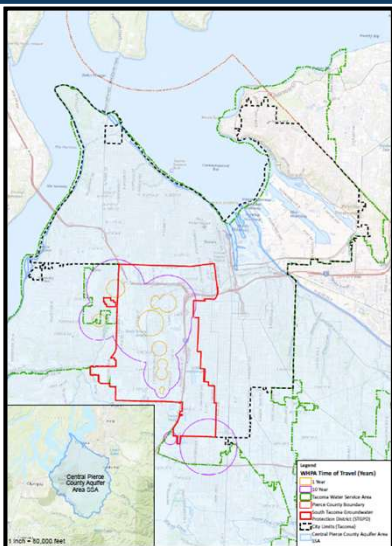
- Created in 1988, prior to the State's establishment of the Growth Management Act (GMA) and its guidance on Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas (CARAs)
- **Purpose:** Protect the South Tacoma aquifer from contamination
- **Key Regulations in STGPD:**
  - Applies primarily to commercial and industrial uses
  - Prohibits incompatible land uses
  - Establishes standards for:
    - Hazardous substance storage
    - Stormwater infiltration
    - Spill prevention
    - Inspections, testing and enforcement
- **Lead agencies:**
  - Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department (TPCHD)
  - Tacoma Water
  - Environmental Services
  - Planning and Development Services (PDS)



3

3

## What's Changing in the Code



1. Improve Integration with Critical Areas Ordinance (Tacoma Municipal Code 13.11)
2. Map Refinements
3. Enforcement & Monitoring
4. General Program Awareness
5. Definition of "Periodic Update"
6. Stormwater Infiltration & Impervious Surface Standards

4

4

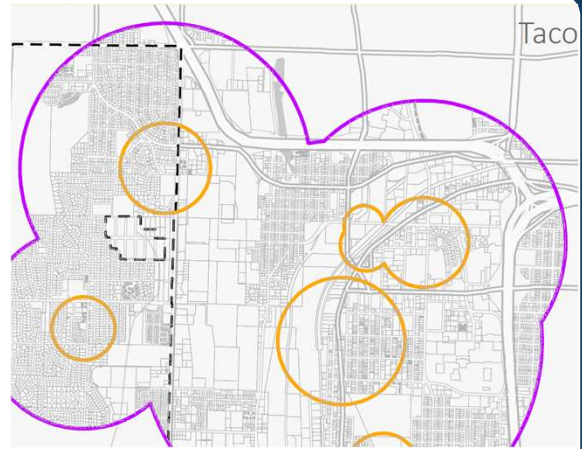
## What's Changing in the Code

### 7. High Impact Use Standards

- Includes uses temporarily prohibited by the moratorium: underground storage tanks and metal recycling/auto wrecking facilities

### 8. Landscaping & Tree Canopy Standards

- Industrial Zones in STGPD, South Tacoma Manufacturing and Industrial Center (STMIC), Tacoma Mall Regional Growth Center (RGC)



5

5

## NEXT STEPS

2025 Dates	Actions
September 9	City Council - Ordinance (Final Reading)
September 20	Current Moratorium Expires

6

6



## **South Tacoma Groundwater Protection District Code Update**

City of Tacoma | Planning and Development Services

**City Council**  
**Ordinance No. 29051**  
**August 26, 2025**

