



DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION

To: Engineering Firms

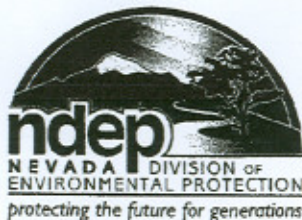
From: Douglas L. Coulter, P.E. 
Senior Registered Engineer
Environmental Health Services

Subject: Grading Permits for Subdivisions

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like your help implementing a change in how grading permits for subdivisions are processed. Attached is a letter from Jennifer Carr, P.E., C.E.M. Chief, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water Nevada Division of Environmental Protection. The District Health Department has allowed grading of subdivisions on community sewer and water prior to final map approval. This practice has caused water system design problems for the water purveyors, and as Jennifer Carr points out, it is a violation of the subdivision and public water system construction regulations. Therefore, the District Health Department can no longer approve grading permits or allow grading on subdivisions until the water system and sewer system improvement plans have been approved, and the final subdivision map has been signed by the District Health Department. If the engineering firms have been working closely with the water purveyors during the tentative subdivision map process this change should have little impact on the timing of construction.

If you have questions or would like addition information please contact Doug Coulter 775-328-2429 dcoulter@washoecounty.us



STATE OF NEVADA
Department of Conservation & Natural Resources
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Jim Gibbons, Governor
Allen Biaggi, Director

Leo M. ... Administrator

January 17, 2008

Mr. Bob Sack, Director
Environmental Health Services Division
Washoe County District Health Department
1001 East Ninth Street
Reno, Nevada 89512



Dear Mr. Sack:

This letter is a follow up to our discussions of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) requirements pertaining to the construction of a water system, in particular, distribution systems associated with subdivisions. Both NAC chapters 445A and 278 are applicable to this topic.

NAC 445A – Public Water Systems

NAC 445A.6666 states that, before the health authority can approve a tentative or final map for a proposed subdivision; it must receive acknowledgement and commitment for water service from the public water system that will serve the subdivision. Upon making such a commitment of service, the water system is confirming their intent to accept the distribution system into the public water system and as such this becomes a water project as defined by NAC 445A.66585.

NAC 445A.6669 states that before commencing a water project an application for the project must be submitted to the health authority for review and approval **prior to commencing** the project. The application for the water project may be submitted directly by the public water system or by the developer of the subdivision provided the developer is submitting the water project under the direct supervision of the public water system.

NAC 278 – Subdivision of Land

Pursuant to statutory requirements, Washoe County District Board of Health (WCDBH) is responsible for approval of tentative and final maps for a number of issues including, water supply facilities. NAC 278.340 unequivocally states that construction is prohibited until the final map is approved.

In summary, distribution systems associated with subdivisions served by public water systems are considered water projects and as such must be reviewed and approved by the health authority prior to commencing construction activities that would directly affect the distribution system under 445A. Grading of a subdivision directly influences the design and configuration of the distribution system and therefore should not commence until the water project is approved. Additionally, NAC 278 requires approval of the final map by the WCDBH prior to commencement of construction which would also include grading activities.

Sincerely

Jennifer L. Carr, P.E., C.E.M.
Chief, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water

