



SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL  
Snohomish County, Washington  
*Amended*  
ORDINANCE NO. 97-027

AMENDING SNOHOMISH COUNTY CODE  
CHAPTER 17.04,  
RELATING TO GRADING PERMIT EXEMPTIONS

WHEREAS, the county executive and county council have identified regulatory reform of land use regulations as a high priority for county government; and

WHEREAS, with the assistance of the county council, the county executive and prosecuting attorney have established a regulatory reform process to make land use regulations more understandable to the public and more easily implemented by the county; and

WHEREAS, this ordinance is a result of that process;

THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED:

**SECTION 1.** Snohomish County Code Section 17.04.280, last amended by Ordinance No. 95-111 on January 10, 1996, is amended to read:

17.04.280 Section 3306 deleted - New section added.

Section 3306 is deleted in its entirety and a new section 3306 is added, as follows:

No person shall do any grading without first having obtained a grading permit from the director.

I. The following are excluded from this requirement:

(A) The depositing or covering of any garbage, rubbish or other material at any landfill operated by Snohomish county.

(B) Cemetery graves.

(C) Any grading in remote areas by an owner or holder of a possessory interest in the land for the primary purpose of construction or maintenance of access to or on such landowner property.

(D) Any grading within a publicly owned right of way with department of public works' approval.

(E) Any grading for roads within ~~((a-preliminarily-or-finally))~~an approved ~~((residential))~~  
preliminary plat or preliminary short plat which has a construction plan approved by

Snohomish county, or as regulated by the requirements of the decision of the hearing examiner for the ~~((preliminary plat))~~ proposal.

(F) Normal and necessary agricultural practices as defined in Title 32 SCC.

(G) Fill less than 50 cubic yards not located within a critical area or its buffer and which does not obstruct a drainage course.

II. After plan review, ~~((The))~~ the following are exempt from this requirement if, ~~((after plan review, ))~~ in the opinion of the building official, drainage ~~((may be changed))~~ is not altered, diverted or ~~((provide for ))~~ does not create a flow increase at any point of exit from the property ~~((so as))~~ that ~~((not to))~~ adversely affects an adjoining or nearby property or public right of way.

~~((The following are exempt:))~~

~~((H))~~ (A) An excavation or fill for basements and footings of a building, retaining wall, parking lot or other structure authorized by a valid building permit. This shall not exempt any fill made with the material from such excavation nor exempt any excavation having an unsupported height greater than five feet after the completion of such structure.

~~((H))~~ (B) Excavation less than five feet in vertical depth not involving more than 500 cubic yards of earth or other material on a single site, which does not create a cut slope steeper than one and one-half to one.

~~((H))~~ (C) Fill less than three feet in vertical depth not involving more than 500 cubic yards of earth or other material on a single site, not intended to support structures.

**SECTION 2:** Snohomish County Code Section 17.04.290, last amended by Ordinance No. 95-111 on January 10, 1996, is amended to read:

17.04.290 Section 3308 deleted - New section 3308 added.

Section 3308 is deleted in its entirety and a new section 3308 is added, as follows:

For purposes of this chapter, the definitions listed hereunder shall be construed as specified in this section.

(A) "Bench" is a relatively level step excavated or constructed on the face of a graded slope surface for drainage and maintenance purposes.

(B) "Berm" is a mound or raised area used for the purpose of screening a site or operation.

(C) "Civil engineer" means a professional engineer registered in the state of Washington to practice in the field of civil works.

(D) "Compaction" is the densification of a fill by mechanical means.

(E) "Earth material" is any rock, natural soil or any combination thereof.

(F) "Erosion" is the wearing away of the ground surface as the result of the movement of wind, water and/or ice.

(G) "Excavation" is the mechanical removal of earth material.

(H) "Fill" is a deposit of earth material placed by mechanical means.

(I) "Grade" means the elevation of the ground surface.

(1) "Existing grade" is the grade prior to grading.

(2) "Rough grade" is the stage at which the grade approximately conforms to the approved grading permit plan (~~(as required in section 3309)~~).

(3) "Finish grade" is the final grade of the site which conforms to the approved grading permit plan (~~(as required in section 3309)~~).

(J) "Grading" is any excavating or filling or combination thereof.

(K) "Grading permit" means a permit required by ordinance, including temporary permits.

(L) "Reclamation" means the final grading and land restoration of a site.

(M) "Remote area" means a rural area on which a grading site (used primarily as the source of materials for the construction or maintenance of access) is not visible from any state highway, county road or any public street or highway, or, if visible, it is more than one mile away from the point on such road from which it is visible.

(N) "Shorelines" means those lands defined as shorelines in the state shorelines management act of 1971.

(O) "Site" is any lot or parcel of land or contiguous combination thereof where projects covered by this chapter are performed or permitted where a public street or way may intervene.

(P) "Slope" is an inclined ground surface, the inclination of which is expressed as a ratio of ~~((horizontal))~~vertical distance to ~~((vertical))~~horizontal distance.


(Q) "Soil engineer" means a civil engineer experienced and knowledgeable in the practice of soil engineering.

(R) "Terrace" is a relatively level step excavated or constructed on the face of a graded slope surface for drainage and maintenance purposes.

(S) "Tidelands" means that portion of the land which is covered and uncovered by the ebb and flood tide.

PASSED this 17 day of September, 1997

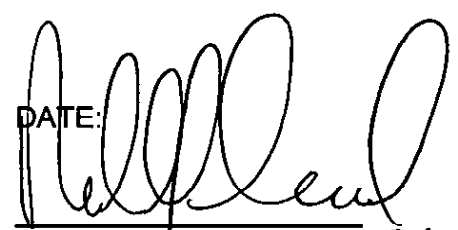
SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL  
Snohomish County, Washington

  
Chairperson

ATTEST:

  
Clerk of the Council

- APPROVED
- VETOED
- EMERGENCY

DATE:   
County Executive 9-18-97

ROBERT J. DREWEL  
County Executive

PUBLISHED \_\_\_\_\_

Approved as to form only:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

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