Watershed Protection Ordinance (WPO)
Summary of Code Improvements

Key Acronyms:
- BSZ: Barton Springs Zone
- CEF: Critical Environmental Feature
- CWQZ: Critical Water Quality Zone
- DA: Drainage Area
- DCM: Drainage Criteria Manual
- ECM: Environmental Criteria Manual
- EHZ: Erosion Hazard Zone
- IA: Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan
- IC: Impervious Cover
- WPD: Watershed Protection Department
- WQTZ: Water Quality Transition Zone

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Additional erosion impacts [§25-7-61 (A)(5)(d)]

- Development must not result in additional erosion impacts to other properties
  - Demonstrate water quality controls meeting 2-year streambank erosion detention (per ECM 1.6.8); or provide erosion protection for the downstream waterway.

Administrative variances [§25-8-42]

- Consolidated (moved) from other sections (i.e., no change from original code):
  - §25-8-42 (B)(3) = former §25-8-262 (C) (Critical Water Quality Zone Street Crossings)
  - §25-8-42 (B)(4) = former §25-8-281(D) (Critical Environmental Features)
  - §25-8-42 (B)(8) = former §25-8-343 (B) (Spoil Disposal)

- New provisions:
  - Variance from CWQZ development requirements allowed if:
    - Development protects public health and safety or provides a significant, demonstrable environmental benefit as determined with a functional assessment of floodplain health [§25-8-42 (B)(1)(a)]
    - Necessary to allow an athletic field in existence on October 28, 2013 to be maintained, improved, or replaced [§25-8-42 (B)(1)(b)]
Necessary to allow an **athletic field** in an urban or suburban watersheds to be located in an area not otherwise allowed [§25-8-42 (B)(1)(c)]

Necessary to allow a **hard-surfaced trail** to be located in an area not otherwise allowed [§25-8-42 (B)(1)(d)]

- Variance from **CWQZ Development** requirements in urban watersheds allowed if:
  - Development is located at least 25 feet from the centerline of the waterway
  - Development is located outside the **EHZ** unless **protective works** provided
  - Development does not increase noncompliance with **creek buffers** or **CEF** setbacks
  - Project restores vegetation and soils if development is removed from the CWQZ [§25-8-42 (B)(2)]

- Variance from cut and fill requirements allowed for appurtenances for conveyance such as swales, drainage ditches, and diversion berms [§25-8-42 (B)(6)]
- Variance from **interbasin diversion** requirements [§25-8-42 (B)(9)]

**Boundary street deduction** [§25-8-65]
- Requirements for boundary street deduction eliminated in all watersheds

**Buffer averaging** [§25-8-92 (B)(4); ECM 1.5.1]
- Allowed in Suburban watersheds to reduce the width of **creek buffers** by up to one-half if the overall amount of area protected remains the same

**Creek buffers**
- **Headwaters (minor)** creek buffers extended to 64 acres of drainage citywide [§25-8-91]
- **Waterway classifications**: Drainage area (DA) thresholds for creek buffers are the same across the city (except urban, which retains existing system) [§25-8-91]
  - 64 acres for **minor** (“headwaters”) waterways
  - 320 acres for **intermediate** waterways
  - 640 acres for **major** waterways
- **Roadside ditches** that do not possess natural and traditional character and cannot be reasonably restored to a natural condition do not have a CWQZ. WPD staff will verify in field. [§25-8-92 (A)(2) & (B)(5)]
- **CWQZ buffer widths** in suburban watersheds [§25-8-92 (B)]
  - 100 ft. for **minor** (“headwaters”) waterways
  - 200 ft. for **intermediate** waterways
  - 300 ft. for **major** waterways
- **Water Quality Transition Zone** (WQTZ) buffers have been eliminated in suburban watersheds [§25-8-93]
- **Buffer averaging** is allowed in suburban watersheds to reduce the width of creek buffers by up to one-half if the overall amount of area protected remains the same [§25-8-92 (B)(4); ECM 1.5.1]
Critical Environmental Features (CEFs)

- Definition expanded to include faults, fractures & seeps [§25-8-1(6)]
- Perimeter fencing is required for point recharge features [§25-8-281(C)(4)]
- The buffer zone must be maintained in accordance with the ECM to preserve the water quality function [§25-8-281(C)(4)]

Critical Water Quality Zone development [§25-8-261]

- Development is prohibited in a CWQZ in all watersheds except as provided in §25-8-261
- Development allowed in the CWQZ shall be revegetated and restored within the limits of construction, per the ECM
- Open space in a CWQZ [§25-8-261(B)]
  - Is allowed if a program of fertilizer, pesticide, and herbicide use is approved by WPD
  - Open space includes public or private parks, multi-use trails, golf cart paths, the portions of a golf course left in a natural state, and an area intended for outdoor activities which does not significantly alter the existing natural vegetation, drainage patterns, or increase erosion
  - Open space does not include parking lots
  - In the BSZ, water supply rural, or water supply suburban, open space is limited to:
    - Sustainable urban agriculture or a community garden
    - Multi-use trails, including hard-surfaced trails
    - Picnic facilities
    - Outdoor facilities, excluding stables, corrals for animals and athletic fields
    - A master-planned park approved by the Council may include recreational development other than that described
- Multi-use trails in the CWQZ [§25-8-261(B)(3),§25-8-262(C)]
  - In all watersheds, multi-use trails may cross a CWQZ of any waterway
  - Multi-use trails include hard-surfaced trails
  - Parallel to and within the CWQZ, hard-surfaced trails are allowed if:
    - Designed in accordance with the ECM
    - Located outside the EHZ, unless protective works are provided
    - Maximum of 12 feet wide unless wider trail designated in the Urban Trails Master Plan
    - In an urban watershed, located not less than 25 feet from the centerline of a waterway
    - In a watershed other than urban, located not less than:
      - 50 feet from the centerline of a minor waterway
      - 100 feet from the centerline of an intermediate waterway
      - 150 feet from the centerline of a major waterway
  - Administrative variance for a hard-surfaced trail to be located in an area not otherwise allowed [§25-8-42(B)(1)(d)]
- Urban agriculture / community gardens are allowed if: [§25-8-261(B)(4)]
  - Designed in accordance with the ECM
  - In an urban watershed, located not less than 25 feet from the centerline of a waterway
o In a watershed other than urban, located not less than:
   ▪ 50 feet from the centerline of a minor waterway
   ▪ 100 feet from the centerline of an intermediate waterway
   ▪ 150 feet from the centerline of a major waterway

o Limited to garden plots and paths, with no storage facilities or other structures over 500 square feet

- **Athletic fields** in the CWQZ [§25-8-261(B)(5)]
  o Athletic fields are allowed if:
    ▪ Located in an urban or suburban watershed
    ▪ In an urban watershed, located not less than 25 feet from the centerline of a waterway
    ▪ In a suburban watershed, located not less than:
      ▪ 50 feet from the centerline of a minor waterway
      ▪ 100 feet from the centerline of an intermediate waterway
      ▪ 150 feet from the centerline of a major waterway
    ▪ The owner of the athletic field submits to WPD a maintenance plan to keep the athletic field well vegetated and minimize compaction, per the ECM
  o New athletic fields are prohibited in a CWQZ in the BSZ, water supply rural, or water supply suburban watersheds
  o Administrative variance for athletic fields in urban and suburban watersheds to be located in an area not otherwise allowed [§25-8-42]
  o Administrative variance for athletic fields in existence on October 28, 2013 to be maintained, improved, or replaced [§25-8-42]
  o Administrative variance application must demonstrate that the proposed work on or placement of the athletic field will have no adverse environmental impacts [§25-8-42]

- In the BSZ, boat docks, piers, wharfs, and marinas are no longer permitted in the CWQZ
- **Utility lines**, including storm drains, are prohibited in the CWQZ, except: [ §25-8-261 (D),(E)]
  o A necessary utility crossing may cross into or through a CWQZ if:
    ▪ The utility line follows the most direct path into or across the CWQZ to minimize disturbance
    ▪ The depth of the utility line and location of associated access shafts are not located within an **EHZ**, unless **protective works** are provided as prescribed in the DCM
    ▪ In the BSZ, approved by the director of WPD
  o A utility line is allowed parallel to and within the CWQZ if:
    ▪ Located in an urban or suburban watershed
    ▪ In an urban watershed, located not less than 50 feet from the centerline of a waterway
    ▪ In a suburban watershed, located not less than:
      ▪ 50 feet from the centerline of a minor waterway
      ▪ 100 feet from the centerline of an intermediate waterway
      ▪ 150 feet from the centerline of a major waterway
    ▪ Designed in accordance with the ECM
    ▪ Located outside the **EHZ**, unless **protective works** are provided per the DCM
Project includes either:
- Riparian restoration of an area within the CWQZ equal in size to the area of disturbance per the ECM
- Or payment into the Riparian Zone Mitigation Fund

- **Detention basins and wet ponds** are allowed in a CWQZ if:
  - The requirements of Section 25-8-364 (Floodplain Modification), Chapter 25-7 (Drainage), and the other provisions of 25-8, Subchapter A are met
    - §25-8-261 (F), ECM 1.7.0

- **Floodplain modification** is prohibited in a CWQZ unless: [§25-8-261(G), ECM 1.7.0]
  - Necessary to protect public health and safety
  - Provides a significant, demonstrable environmental benefit as determined by a functional assessment of floodplain health
  - Or necessary for development permitted in the CWQZ

- **Green WQ controls** in a CWQZ: [§25-8-261(H)]
  - Green WQ controls include:
    - Vegetative filter strips
    - Rain gardens
    - Biofiltration ponds
    - Areas used for irrigation or infiltration of stormwater
  - Allowed in a CWQZ if:
    - Located in an urban and suburban watershed
    - In an urban watershed, located not less than 50 feet from the centerline of a waterway
    - In a suburban watershed, located not less than:
      - 50 feet from the centerline of a minor waterway,
      - 100 feet from the centerline of an intermediate waterway,
      - 150 feet from the centerline of a major waterway;
    - Located outside the 100-year floodplain
    - Located outside the EHZ, unless protective works are provided per the DCM

- **Small single-family lots** (< 5,750 square feet) are prohibited in a CWQZ [§25-8-261(I)]

- **Roadway / street crossings**
  - In all watersheds, multi-use trails may cross a CWQZ of any waterway
  - In IA centers & corridors a street or driveway crossing is allowed in a CWQZ if:
    - Not in the Barton Springs Zone
    - Necessary to facilitate development or redevelopment of a center or corridor designated on the IA Growth Concept Map
    - Maintains the quality and quantity of recharge if located in a sensitive environmental area in the Edwards Aquifer recharge zone, Edwards Aquifer contributing zone, or the South Edwards Aquifer recharge zone
    - §25-8-262(D)]

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Environmental assessment [§25-8-121]

- Renamed to Environmental Resource Inventory
- Hydrogeologic Report must identify all recorded and unrecorded water wells, both on the site and within 150 feet of the boundary of the site [§25-8-122]

Erosion Hazard Zone (EHZ) [§25-7-2, §25-7-32, §25-7-61, DCM Appendix F]

- Definition [§25-7-2]: An area where future stream channel erosion is predicted to result in damage to or loss of property, buildings, infrastructure, utilities or other valued resources
- Proposed improvements must be located outside the EHZ, unless protective works are provided [§25-7-61(A)(5)(e)]
- EHZ analysis [§25-7-32]
  - May be required if development is proposed:
    - Within 100-feet of a creek centerline of 64-acre drainage or greater
    - Or where significant erosion is present
  - Applies to all site plans, subdivision plans and building permits
  - Must be done in accordance with DCM Appendix F

Floodplain modification [§25-8-364, §25-8-261(G), ECM 1.7.0]

- Prohibited in CWQZ unless:
  - Necessary to protect public health and safety
  - Provides a significant, demonstrable environmental benefit as determined by a functional assessment of floodplain health
  - Or necessary for development permitted in the CWQZ
- Prohibited outside CWQZ unless:
  - Necessary to protect public health and safety
  - Provides a significant, demonstrable environmental benefit as determined by a functional assessment of floodplain health
  - Necessary for development permitted in the CWQZ
  - Or functional assessment of floodplain health determines the area to be in poor or fair condition [§25-8-364(C)(3), ECM 1.7.0]
- Floodplain modification must:
  - Be designed to accommodate existing and fully-vegetated conditions
  - Encourage sound engineering and ecological practices, prevent and reduce degradation of water quality, and encourage the stability and integrity of floodplains and waterways
  - Restore floodplain health onsite, or provide mitigation if restoration is infeasible, to support natural functions and processes
- Mitigation options:
  - Pay into Riparian Zone Mitigation Fund
  - Transfer land to City or place restrictions on land
  - Or some combination of these two options
Functional assessment of functional health provides a simple, accurate, and locally-derived tool to assess specific functional characteristics of three discrete units: the floodplain outside of the CWQZ, the CWQZ, and the active channel [ECM Appendix X]

Gross site area is the basis for impervious cover calculations in suburban watersheds instead of net site area [§25-8-392(A)]

**Impervious cover** [§25-8-63, §25-1-23]
- Impervious cover defined as the total area of any surface that prevents the infiltration of water into the ground, such as roads, parking areas, concrete, and buildings
- Impervious cover shall be defined the same for both zoning and watershed purposes [§25-1-23]
- Excluded from IC calculations: [§25-8-63(C)]
  - Sidewalks in a public easement
  - Publicly accessible, hard-surfaced multiuse trails
  - Porous pavement for pedestrian walkways and multi-use trails, outside the recharge zone
  - Fire lanes built with interlocking pavers per ECM with crash barriers
  - Subsurface portion of a parking garage, under limited conditions
- **Subsurface WQ and detention** basins covered with impervious surfaces are not excluded
- **Commercial IC** [§25-8-65]
  - Commercial developments required to demonstrate compliance with IC limits once fully constructed
  - Developments of less than 8,000 sq. ft. new IC, including roadways (small roadway projects), are exempt from IC limits
    - Roadway improvements are limited to:
      - Road intersection upgrades
      - Bike lanes
      - Transit stops
      - Low water crossing upgrades
- **Boundary street deduction** eliminated in all watersheds
- **Gross site area** is the basis for impervious cover calculations in suburban watersheds instead of net site area [§25-8-392(A)]

**Interbasin diversion** of stormwater from one watershed to another is prohibited unless: [§25-8-365]
- Diversion is less than 20% of the site area or less than 1 acre, whichever is smaller
- Diversion will maintain existing drainage patterns to the extent feasible
- There are no adverse environmental or drainage impacts
- Administrative variance from requirements allowed, but applicant must demonstrate there are no adverse environmental or drainage impacts [§25-8-42]
Limited adjustment [§25-8-24(B)]

- Extended citywide
- Allows Council to adjust law for a specific property if ordinance requirement violates Texas or U.S. Constitution or statutes
- Adjustment shall be minimum extent required to comply with the conflicting law and shall be structured to provide maximum WQ protection

Net site area [§25-8-62(C)] does not apply to urban or suburban watersheds

Open space includes: [§25-8-1(12)]

- Public or private park
- Multi-use trail
- Golf cart path
- Portions of a golf course left in a natural state
- Area intended for outdoor activities which does not significantly alter the existing natural vegetation, drainage patterns, or increase erosion
- Parking lots are not included
- See Critical Water Quality Zone development for open space uses in a CWQZ

Overland Flow [§25-8-185]

- Where possible, maintain and restore overland sheet flow

Planned unit developments (PUDs)

- Tier Two PUD zoning elements have been improved and expanded for “superior” environmental protection [§25-2, Subch. B., Art.2., Div.5., §2.4] including:
  - Complies with current code instead of asserting entitlement to follow older code provisions by application of law or agreement
  - Uses green water quality controls as described in the ECM to treat at least 50 percent of the water quality volume required by code
  - Provides water quality treatment for currently untreated, developed off-site areas of at least 10 acres in size
  - Provides minimum 50-foot setback for at least 50 percent of all unclassified waterways with a drainage area of 32 acres
  - Provides volumetric flood detention as described in the DCM
  - Provides drainage upgrades to off-site drainage infrastructure that does not meet current criteria in the DCM or ECM, such as storm drains and culverts that provide a public benefit
  - Proposes no modifications to the existing 100-year floodplain
  - Uses natural channel design techniques as described in the DCM
  - Restores riparian vegetation in existing, degraded CWQZ areas
  - Removes existing impervious cover from the CWQZ
Preserves all heritage trees; preserves 75% of the caliper inches associated with native protected size trees; and preserves 75% of all of the native caliper inches
- Tree plantings use Central Texas seed stock native and with adequate soil volume
- Provides at least a 50 percent increase in the minimum waterway and/or CEF setbacks required by code
- Provides porous pavement for at least 20 percent or more of all paved areas for non-pedestrian use in non-aquifer recharge areas
- Provides porous pavement for at least 50 percent or more of all paved areas limited to pedestrian use
- Provides rainwater harvesting for landscape irrigation to serve not less than 50% of the landscaped areas
- Directs stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces to a landscaped area at least equal to the total required landscape area
- Employs other creative or innovative measures to provide environmental protection
- Provides community or public amenities, which may include spaces for community meetings, community gardens or urban farms, day care facilities, non-profit organizations, or other uses that fulfill an identified community need
- Provides publicly accessible multi-use trail and greenway along creek or waterway

**Protective Works [DCM Appendix F]**
- Engineered streambank stabilization or structural design for development proposed in the EHZ

**Redevelopment Exception**
- Redevelopment in urban and suburban watersheds [§25-8-25]
  - Allowed if no unpermitted development occurred on the site after January 1, 1992
  - Must not increase non-compliance with required creek buffers or CEF setbacks
  - Prohibited in EHZ, unless protective works provided, per DCM
  - Must comply with construction phase environmental requirements in effect at the time of construction

- Redevelopment in Barton Springs Zone watersheds [§25-8-26]
  - Allowed if no unpermitted development occurred on the site after January 1, 1992
  - Prohibited in EHZ, unless protective works provided, per DCM

- Redevelopment in water supply rural and water supply suburban watersheds [§25-8-27]
  - Allowed if no unpermitted development occurred on the site after January 1, 1992
  - May maintain but not increase existing amount of impervious cover
  - Must not increase non-compliance with required creek buffers or CEF setbacks
  - Prohibited in EHZ, unless protective works provided, per DCM
  - WQ controls
    - Must provide sedimentation/filtration ponds for the redeveloped area or an equivalent area on the site.
Mitigation required

- IC requirement: The combined gross site area IC of the mitigation land and the portion of the redevelopment treated by sedimentation/filtration ponds may not exceed 20% if in a water supply rural watershed or 40% if in a water supply suburban watershed

- Mitigation options:
  - Pay into Water Supply Mitigation Fund
  - Transfer land to City or place restrictions on land
  - Or some combination of these two options

Council approval needed if the redevelopment:

- Includes more than 25 additional dwelling units
- Is located outside the zoning jurisdiction
- Is proposed for an existing industrial use
- Is inconsistent with a neighborhood plan
- Or will generate more than 2,000 vehicle trips a day above the level estimated for the most recent authorized use of the property

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**Roadway / street crossings**

- In all watersheds, **multi-use trails** may cross a CWQZ of any waterway
- In **IA centers & corridors** a street or driveway crossing is allowed in a CWQZ if: [§25-8-262(D)]
  - Not in the Barton Springs Zone
  - Necessary to facilitate development or redevelopment of a center or corridor designated on the IA Growth Concept Map
  - Maintains the quality and quantity of recharge if located in a sensitive environmental area in the Edwards Aquifer recharge zone, Edwards Aquifer contributing zone, or the South Edwards Aquifer recharge zone

**Small roadway projects** [§25-8-65, §25-8-211(E), §25-8-516]

- Roadway improvements of less than **8,000 sq. ft.** are allowed without on-site WQ controls or IC limits in all watersheds, including the Barton Springs Zone
- Roadway improvements are limited to:
  - Road intersection upgrades
  - Bike lanes
  - Transit stops
  - Low water crossing upgrades

**Stacking WQ and detention**

- Water quality controls no longer required by code to isolate the water draining to the control from the contributing area [§25-8-213(B)]
- Note: The ECM and DCM have not yet been updated to reflect this possibility; projects proposing stacking must be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to ensure proper protection of the drainage structure and downstream waters
Subsurface WQ and detention \([\$25-8-231(F), \$25-7-153(F)]\)
- Must have a **maintenance plan** and **inspections** by registered engineer, with **annual reporting**
- **Count as IC** if covered with impervious surface \([\$25-8-63(C)(3)&(4)]\)

**Title 30**
- Title 25 applies to all development within the City Limits and to site plan development in the ETJ
- Title 30 applies to **subdivisions** in the portion of Austin's ETJ within Travis County
- Title 30 has been passed by the Austin City Council, but is **not effective** until also passed by the Travis County Commissioners Court

**Trails \([\$25-8-261(B)(3)]\)**
- In all watersheds, multi-use trails may cross a CWQZ of any waterway
- Multi-use trails include hard-surfaced trails
- Parallel to and within the CWQZ, hard-surfaced trails allowed if:
  - Designed in accordance with the ECM
  - Located outside the **EHZ**, unless **protective works** are provided
  - Maximum of 12 feet wide unless wider trail designated in the Urban Trails Master Plan
  - In an urban watershed, located not less than 25 feet from the centerline of a waterway
  - In a watershed other than urban, located not less than:
    - 50 feet from the centerline of a minor waterway
    - 100 feet from the centerline of an intermediate waterway
    - 150 feet from the centerline of a major waterway
- **Administrative variance** for a hard-surfaced trail to be located in an area not otherwise allowed \([\$25-8-42(B)(1)(d)]\)

**Transfers of Development Intensity \([\$25-8-393, 424, 454]\)**
- In suburban watersheds, impervious cover can be transferred from land in a critical water quality zone, 100-year floodplain, or environmentally sensitive area that is dedicated to or restricted to the benefit of the City or another approved entity
- In water supply suburban and water supply rural watersheds, impervious cover can be transferred from land in a critical water quality zone or water quality transition zone that is dedicated to or restricted to the benefit of the City or another approved entity
- Transfers can be made between two subdivided tracts, between two site plans, or within a single site plan

**Urban agriculture / community gardens** are allowed if: \([\$25-8-261(B)(4)]\)
- Designed in accordance with the ECM
- In an urban watershed, located not less than 25 feet from the centerline of a waterway
Key Acronyms:
DA: Drainage Area
IA: Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan
IC: Impervious Cover
BSZ: Barton Springs Zone
DCM: Drainage Criteria Manual
WPD: Watershed Protection Dept.
CEF: Critical Environmental Feature
ECM: Environmental Criteria Manual
WQTZ: Water Quality Transition Zone
CWQZ: Critical Water Quality Zone
EHZ: Erosion Hazard Zone

• In a watershed other than urban, located not less than:
  o 50 feet from the centerline of a minor waterway
  o 100 feet from the centerline of an intermediate waterway
  o 150 feet from the centerline of a major waterway
• Limited to garden plots and paths, with no storage facilities or other structures over 500 square feet

Utility lines, including a storm drain, are prohibited in the CWQZ, except: §25-8-261 (D) & (E)
• A necessary utility crossing may cross into or through a CWQZ if:
  o The utility line follows the most direct path into or across the CWQZ to minimize disturbance
  o The depth of the utility line and location of associated access shafts are not located within an EHZ, unless protective works are provided as prescribed in the DCM
  o In the BSZ, approved by the director of WPD
• A utility line is allowed parallel to and within the CWQZ if:
  o Located in an urban or suburban watershed
  o In an urban watershed, located not less than 50 feet from the centerline of a waterway
  o In a suburban watershed, located not less than:
    ▪ 50 feet from the centerline of a minor waterway
    ▪ 100 feet from the centerline of an intermediate waterway
    ▪ 150 feet from the centerline of a major waterway
  o Designed in accordance with the ECM
  o Located outside the EHZ, unless protective works are provided per the DCM
  o Project includes either:
    ▪ Riparian restoration of an area within the CWQZ equal in size to the area of disturbance per the ECM
    ▪ Or payment into the Riparian Zone Mitigation Fund

Water quality controls
• WQ control requirement threshold
  o Controls required for new development or redevelopment exceeding 8,000 sq. ft. of IC (rather than 20 percent of net site area) in all watersheds, except the Barton Springs Zone [§25-8-211]
  o Roadway improvements less than 8,000 sq. ft. are allowed without on-site WQ controls in all watersheds, including the Barton Springs Zone [§25-8-211, §25-8-516]
    ▪ Roadway improvements are limited to:
      – Road intersection upgrades
      – Bike lanes
      – Transit stops
      – Low water crossing upgrades
• WQ controls not required on a single-family or duplex lot, but apply to the residential subdivision as a whole [§25-8-211(D)]
• All WQ controls must be accessible for maintenance and inspection [§25-8-213(A)(3)]
• **Stacking WQ and detention**
  o Water quality controls no longer required by code to isolate the water draining to the control from the contributing area [§25-8-213(B)]
  o Note: The ECM and DCM have not yet been updated to reflect this possibility; projects proposing stacking must be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to ensure proper protection of the drainage structure and downstream waters
• **Subsurface WQ controls** must have a maintenance plan and inspections by registered engineer, with annual reporting [§25-8-231(F)]
• In a water supply rural watershed, the location of a WQ control may not be in the 40 percent buffer zone, unless the control disturbs less than 50% of the buffer, and is located to maximize overland flow and recharge in the undisturbed remainder of the buffer zone [§25-8-213(C)(3)]
• WQ controls are allowed within the WQTZ for water supply suburban and water supply rural [§25-8-422, §25-8-452]

**Water Quality Transition Zone**

• Water Quality Transition Zone (WQTZ) buffers have been eliminated in suburban watersheds [§25-8-93]
• **WQ controls** allowed within the WQTZ for water supply suburban and water supply rural [§25-8-422, §25-8-452]
• Allowed development in the WQTZ aligned for water supply suburban, water supply rural, and Barton Springs Zone

**Waterway classifications:** Drainage area (DA) thresholds for creek buffers are the same across the city (except urban, which retains existing system) [§25-8-91]

• 64 acres for minor (“headwaters”) waterways
• 320 acres for intermediate waterways
• 640 acres for major waterways