

FOODSCAPE & PERMACULTURE DESIGN LEGALITIES

Free printable worksheets to help you organize your legal research. Great for personal professional use.

LEGALITIES		WEBSITES YOU NEED TO KNOW		LEGAL RESTRICTIONS ON USE																																																									
OWNER INFORMATION NAME: _____ PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____ PROPERTY ADDRESS: _____ LEGAL ADDRESS: (e.g. K-38-4-81, RIO ESTATES LOT 4): _____ PROPERTY SIZE: _____		PRO RESEARCH TIP To find your regional websites go to: [County/City/State] then list the department. e.g. California FEMA flood map. COMMUNITY & NEIGHBORHOOD REGULATORY SECTORS - Homeowners Association (HOA) - Landscaping/building regulations, animal restrictions - Neighborhood Community Codes & Restrictions (CC&R's) - Landscape/building regulations, special design, historic district regulations CITY & COUNTY GOVERNMENT WEBSITES - County Recorder or Assessor's Office - Property boundaries, parcel maps, ownership details, tax info - County Recorder/Clerk's Office - Deeds, easements, water rights records - City Planning & Zoning Department - Zoning codes, permitted land uses, setbacks, outbuilding/animal restrictions - City Ordinances Database - A website hosting the legal municipality codes regarding zoning, land use, and restrictions		LEGAL RESTRICTIONS ON USE These are city codes & ordinances, community regulations, and neighborhood rules such as HOA's & CC&R's that regulate property use, maintenance, & construction. Research your city's codes & ordinances website, HOA documents, & any other relevant community regulations to discover any restrictions or requirements relevant to the design goals. <table border="1"><tr><td>OUTBUILDING RESTRICTIONS</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>FENCING REGULATIONS</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>WATER REGULATIONS</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>AESTHETIC REQUIREMENTS</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>MAINTENANCE & RENOVATION RULES</td><td></td></tr></table>		OUTBUILDING RESTRICTIONS		FENCING REGULATIONS		WATER REGULATIONS		AESTHETIC REQUIREMENTS		MAINTENANCE & RENOVATION RULES																																															
OUTBUILDING RESTRICTIONS																																																													
FENCING REGULATIONS																																																													
WATER REGULATIONS																																																													
AESTHETIC REQUIREMENTS																																																													
MAINTENANCE & RENOVATION RULES																																																													
ZONING CLASSIFICATION ☐ RESIDENTIAL ☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ MIXED USE		PERMITS <table border="1"><thead><tr><th>PERMIT TYPE</th><th>FEE: \$</th><th>WEBSITE</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>WELL PERMIT Required if digging a well</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PERMIT Required for construction projects that disturb 1 acre or more. It controls the discharge of stormwater runoff to prevent erosion and damage</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>GRADING PERMIT This is often required for land development that significantly changes the property's topography</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>PLUMBING PERMIT Required for projects involving the installation, modification, or repair of a building's water supply or drainage system.</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>RAINWATER HARVESTING This is specific to systems that collect, store, and distribute rainwater. It addresses system design, installation, and public health standards.</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>BUILDING PERMIT Required for any new construction</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>ZONING AND LAND USE PERMIT Occasionally required to ensure proposed water systems comply with the designated zoning regulation for the property</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>WATER USE Sometimes required when accessing a new or alternative water source, such as a well or rainwater harvesting system.</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>OTHER:</td><td></td><td></td></tr></tbody></table> Be sure to reach out to your city or local professionals if you have. Avoiding the permit vetting process can be costly, time consuming.		PERMIT TYPE	FEE: \$	WEBSITE	WELL PERMIT Required if digging a well			STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PERMIT Required for construction projects that disturb 1 acre or more. It controls the discharge of stormwater runoff to prevent erosion and damage			GRADING PERMIT This is often required for land development that significantly changes the property's topography			PLUMBING PERMIT Required for projects involving the installation, modification, or repair of a building's water supply or drainage system.			RAINWATER HARVESTING This is specific to systems that collect, store, and distribute rainwater. It addresses system design, installation, and public health standards.			BUILDING PERMIT Required for any new construction			ZONING AND LAND USE PERMIT Occasionally required to ensure proposed water systems comply with the designated zoning regulation for the property			WATER USE Sometimes required when accessing a new or alternative water source, such as a well or rainwater harvesting system.			OTHER:			WATER LEGALITIES GREATER WATERSHED: (This is the major river drainage that leads to the ocean. There are 22 in the United States.) LOCAL WATERSHED: (This is the water body that drains into the major river system. They are extremely localized by geology your state or regional watershed maps.) WATER DISTRICT: (This is the provider of your water. Check your water bill or use an online search tool to find it.) WEBSITE: _____ PHONE: _____ WATER RIGHTS SPECIFICATION <table border="1"><thead><tr><th>TYPE</th><th>AMOUNT + ANY</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>WATER RIGHTS (ACRE FEET)</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>WATER SHARE (IRRIGATION RIGHTS)</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>MUNICIPAL (CITY PROVIDED)</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>GROUNDWATER/WELL</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>LITORRAL</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>APPROPRIATIVE</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>HYBRID/OTHER</td><td></td></tr></tbody></table> WATER SHARE / IRRIGATION SPECIFICATIONS <table border="1"><tr><td colspan="2">IRRIGATION WATER/CANAL COMPANY: (Who manages the system)</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">WEBSITE: _____</td></tr><tr><td>SEASON START DATE:</td><td>SEASON END DATE:</td></tr><tr><td>IRRIGATION DAY:</td><td>IRRIGATION TIME:</td></tr><tr><td>INTAKE LOCATION:</td><td>EXIT LOCATION:</td></tr></table>		TYPE	AMOUNT + ANY	WATER RIGHTS (ACRE FEET)		WATER SHARE (IRRIGATION RIGHTS)		MUNICIPAL (CITY PROVIDED)		GROUNDWATER/WELL		LITORRAL		APPROPRIATIVE		HYBRID/OTHER		IRRIGATION WATER/CANAL COMPANY: (Who manages the system)		WEBSITE: _____		SEASON START DATE:	SEASON END DATE:	IRRIGATION DAY:	IRRIGATION TIME:	INTAKE LOCATION:	EXIT LOCATION:
PERMIT TYPE	FEE: \$	WEBSITE																																																											
WELL PERMIT Required if digging a well																																																													
STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PERMIT Required for construction projects that disturb 1 acre or more. It controls the discharge of stormwater runoff to prevent erosion and damage																																																													
GRADING PERMIT This is often required for land development that significantly changes the property's topography																																																													
PLUMBING PERMIT Required for projects involving the installation, modification, or repair of a building's water supply or drainage system.																																																													
RAINWATER HARVESTING This is specific to systems that collect, store, and distribute rainwater. It addresses system design, installation, and public health standards.																																																													
BUILDING PERMIT Required for any new construction																																																													
ZONING AND LAND USE PERMIT Occasionally required to ensure proposed water systems comply with the designated zoning regulation for the property																																																													
WATER USE Sometimes required when accessing a new or alternative water source, such as a well or rainwater harvesting system.																																																													
OTHER:																																																													
TYPE	AMOUNT + ANY																																																												
WATER RIGHTS (ACRE FEET)																																																													
WATER SHARE (IRRIGATION RIGHTS)																																																													
MUNICIPAL (CITY PROVIDED)																																																													
GROUNDWATER/WELL																																																													
LITORRAL																																																													
APPROPRIATIVE																																																													
HYBRID/OTHER																																																													
IRRIGATION WATER/CANAL COMPANY: (Who manages the system)																																																													
WEBSITE: _____																																																													
SEASON START DATE:	SEASON END DATE:																																																												
IRRIGATION DAY:	IRRIGATION TIME:																																																												
INTAKE LOCATION:	EXIT LOCATION:																																																												
HOW TO READ A WATER QUALITY REPORT Physico-chemical indicators are the most commonly used to describe the physical and chemical composition of water. They are easy to measure, healthy, and balanced for people, plants, and animals. Each of the main indicators mean: <table border="1"><thead><tr><th>INDICATOR</th><th>WHAT IT MEANS</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Dissolved Oxygen (DO):</td><td>This shows the amount of oxygen in the water. Low levels can indicate pollution or a lack of oxygen in the water.</td></tr><tr><td>PH</td><td>Measures the water's acidity or basicity. A pH of 7 is neutral. Below 7 is acidic, above 7 is basic.</td></tr><tr><td>TEMPERATURE</td><td>Water oxygen levels fluctuate with temperature. Warmer water holds less oxygen.</td></tr><tr><td>SALINITY</td><td>Salinity affects the water's taste and can be harmful to some plants and animals.</td></tr><tr><td>NUTRIENTS (NITROGEN & PHOSPHOROUS)</td><td>These are essential for plant growth but can cause algal blooms if overabundant.</td></tr><tr><td>TOXICANTS (INSECTICIDES, HERBICIDES, METALS)</td><td>These are harmful to plants and animals.</td></tr></tbody></table>		INDICATOR	WHAT IT MEANS	Dissolved Oxygen (DO):	This shows the amount of oxygen in the water. Low levels can indicate pollution or a lack of oxygen in the water.	PH	Measures the water's acidity or basicity. A pH of 7 is neutral. Below 7 is acidic, above 7 is basic.	TEMPERATURE	Water oxygen levels fluctuate with temperature. Warmer water holds less oxygen.	SALINITY	Salinity affects the water's taste and can be harmful to some plants and animals.	NUTRIENTS (NITROGEN & PHOSPHOROUS)	These are essential for plant growth but can cause algal blooms if overabundant.	TOXICANTS (INSECTICIDES, HERBICIDES, METALS)	These are harmful to plants and animals.	WATER QUALITY REPORT  Water quality reports are an important reference for everyone, especially for well water users. If you get your water from a municipal source (city, county, or water district), you can obtain a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), which provides details on water quality, contaminants, and treatment processes. WAYS TO GET YOUR WATER QUALITY REPORT: - Check Your Water Bill or Provider's Website: Most water utilities publish the annual CCR report online (usually by July 1st). The website may have a "Water Quality" or "Consumer Confidence Report" section. - Use the EPA's Online Tool: Visit EPA's Water System Search and enter your city, county, or water district name to access reports. - Call Your Local Water Provider: The contact information is on your water bill or the provider's website. Ask for the latest water quality report or request a mailed copy. - Check with Your County Health Department: Some counties monitor local wells and municipal water and may have additional testing results. <i>For Well Water Users: Private wells are not regulated, so you'll need to test your own water. Contact your county health department or a certified lab for testing services.</i>																																													
INDICATOR	WHAT IT MEANS																																																												
Dissolved Oxygen (DO):	This shows the amount of oxygen in the water. Low levels can indicate pollution or a lack of oxygen in the water.																																																												
PH	Measures the water's acidity or basicity. A pH of 7 is neutral. Below 7 is acidic, above 7 is basic.																																																												
TEMPERATURE	Water oxygen levels fluctuate with temperature. Warmer water holds less oxygen.																																																												
SALINITY	Salinity affects the water's taste and can be harmful to some plants and animals.																																																												
NUTRIENTS (NITROGEN & PHOSPHOROUS)	These are essential for plant growth but can cause algal blooms if overabundant.																																																												
TOXICANTS (INSECTICIDES, HERBICIDES, METALS)	These are harmful to plants and animals.																																																												

For non commercial use only. Cannot be sold or redistributed for profit.

www.feffylane.com
@suburbiauntamed

©2026, Stephanie Lindhardt, All Rights Reserved

LEGALITIES

OWNER INFORMATION

NAME:

PHONE:

EMAIL:

PROPERTY ADDRESS:

LEGAL ADDRESS (e.g. K-39-4-51, KIO ESTATES LOT 4):

PROPERTY SIZE:

ZONING CLASSIFICATION

☐ RESIDENTIAL

☐ COMMERCIAL

☐ MIXED-USE

☐ AGRICULTURAL

☐ INDUSTRIAL

☐ OTHER:

☐ RURAL

☐ HISTORIC

UTILITY COMPANIES

ELECTRICITY:

WEBSITE:

PHONE:

GAS

WEBSITE:

PHONE:

PROPANE:

WEBSITE:

PHONE:

TRASH COLLECTION:

WEBSITE:

PHONE:

WATER:

WEBSITE:

PHONE:

SOLAR PANELS:

WEBSITE:

PHONE:

LEGAL RESTRICTIONS ON USE

These are city codes & ordinances, community regulations, and neighborhood rules such as HOA's & CC&R's that regulate property use, maintenance, & construction. Research your city's codes & ordinances website, HOA documents, & any other relevant community regulations to discover any restrictions or requirements relevant to the design goals.

OUTBUILDING RESTRICTIONS	
FENCING REGULATIONS	
WATER REGULATIONS	
AESTHETIC REQUIREMENTS	
MAINTENANCE & RENOVATION RULES	

ANIMAL RESTRICTIONS PER CITY & NEIGHBORHOOD CODES

SPECIES	QUANTITY ALLOWED	NOTES/EXCEPTIONS

LOCAL COTTAGE FOOD LAWS RELEVANT TO GOALS

--

PERMITS	
PERMIT TYPE	INFORMATION
WELL PERMIT Required if digging a well	FEE:\$ _____ WEBSITE: _____
STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PERMIT Required for construction projects that disturb 1 acre or more. It controls the discharge of stormwater runoff to prevent erosion and damage	FEE:\$ _____ WEBSITE: _____
GRADING PERMIT This is often required for land development that significantly changes the property's topography	FEE:\$ _____ WEBSITE: _____
PLUMBING PERMIT Required for projects involving the installation, modification, or repair of a buildings' water supply or drainage system.	FEE:\$ _____ WEBSITE: _____
RAINWATER HARVESTING This is specific to systems that collect, store, and distribute rainwater. It addresses system design, installation, and public health standards.	FEE:\$ _____ WEBSITE: _____
BUILDING PERMIT Required for any new construction	FEE:\$ _____ WEBSITE: _____
ZONING AND LAND USE PERMIT Occasionally required to ensure proposed water systems comply with the designated zoning regulation for the property	FEE:\$ _____ WEBSITE: _____
WATER USE Sometimes required when accessing a new or alternative water source, such as a well or rainwater harvesting system.	FEE:\$ _____ WEBSITE: _____
OTHER:	FEE:\$ _____ WEBSITE: _____

Be sure to reach out to your city or local professionals if you have any questions about permits. Avoiding the permit vetting process can be costly, time consuming, & can even shut a project down.

WATER LEGALITIES

GREATER WATERSHED:

(This is the major river drainage that leads to the ocean. There are 22 in the United States, 25 in Canada, & 12 in Mexico.)

LOCAL WATERSHED:

(This is the minor tributary that drains into the major river system. They are extremely localized. You can find your local watershed by googling your state or regional watershed maps.)

WATER DISTRICT:

(This is the provider of your water. Check your water bill or use an online search tool to find the company name)

WEBSITE: _____ PHONE: _____

WATER RIGHTS SPECIFICATIONS

TYPE	AMOUNT + ANY SPECIFICATIONS
WATER RIGHTS (ACRE FEET)	
WATER SHARE (IRRIGATION RIGHTS)	
MUNICIPAL (CITY PROVIDED)	
GROUNDWATER/WELL	
LITTORRAL	
APPROPRIATIVE	
HYBRID/OTHER	

WATER SHARE / IRRIGATION SPECIFICATIONS (IF APPLICABLE)

IRRIGATION WATER/CANAL COMPANY: (Who manages the system?)

_____ WEBSITE: _____

SEASON START DATE:

SEASON END DATE:

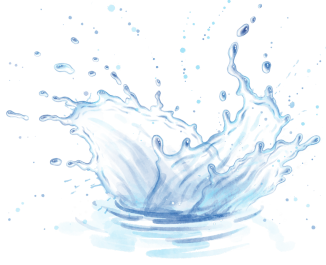
IRRIGATION DAY:

IRRIGATION HOURS:

INTAKE LOCATION:

EXIT LOCATION:

WATER QUALITY REPORT



Water quality reports are an important reference for everyone, especially for well water users. If you get your water from a municipal source (city, county, or water district), you can obtain a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), which provides details on water quality, contaminants, and treatment processes.

WAYS TO GET YOUR WATER QUALITY REPORT:

- **Check Your Water Bill or Provider's Website:** Most water utilities publish the annual CCR report online (usually by July 1st). The website may have a "Water Quality" or "Consumer Confidence Report" section.
- **Use the EPA's Online Tool:** Visit EPA's Water System Search and enter your city, county, or water district name to access reports.
- **Call Your Local Water Provider:** The contact information is on your water bill or the provider's website. Ask for the latest water quality report or request a mailed copy.
- **Check with Your County Health Department:** Some counties monitor local wells and municipal water and may have additional testing results.
- ***For Well Water Users: Private wells are not regulated, so you'll need to test your own water. Contact your county health department or a certified lab for testing services.***

HOW TO READ A WATER QUALITY REPORT

Physico-chemical indicators are the most common ways to measure water quality. They describe the physical and chemical conditions of water and help us know if it is safe, healthy, and balanced for people, plants, animals, and the environment. Here's what each of the main indicators mean:

INDICATOR	WHAT IT MEANS	WHAT TO LOOK FOR
Dissolved Oxygen (DO):	This shows how much oxygen is available in the water for fish and other aquatic life.	Higher levels are better. Low oxygen means the water may be polluted or stagnant.
PH	measures how acidic or basic the water is. A pH of 7 is neutral; lower numbers are acidic, higher numbers are basic.	Most freshwater life thrives between pH 6.5–8.5. Outside this range, water can stress or harm aquatic species.
TEMPERATURE	Water temperature affects oxygen levels and the health of aquatic life. Warmer water holds less oxygen and may stress fish.	Sudden temperature changes or unusually high/low readings can be a red flag.
SALINITY	Salinity is the amount of dissolved salts in the water. It affects what plants and animals can live there.	Freshwater should have low salinity; higher readings may show contamination or saltwater intrusion.
NUTRIENTS (NITROGEN & PHOSPHEROUS)	These are natural nutrients, but too much can cause algae blooms, which reduce oxygen and harm water life.	Moderate levels are normal, but high levels suggest fertilizer runoff or sewage pollution
TOXICANTS (INSECTICIDES, HERBICIDES, METALS)	These are pollutants that can come from farms, industry, or urban runoff. They may be harmful even in small amounts.	Ideally, reports should show “non-detectable” or very low levels of these substances.