



Lake County Public Works Ordinance Updates

Austin McFarlane, Director

April 01, 2026

Public Works Mission: Deliver exceptional, financially sustainable, reliable, drinking water and wastewater services in a safe manner, ensuring high quality service, public health and environmental stewardship.

LCPW Ordinances

PURPOSE:

- Establish the governing rules/standards for how water and sewer systems are built, used and protected
- Provide guidance on drinking water safety, pollution reduction, and supports future growth
- Ensure employee safety, integrity of County infrastructure, and provisions for public health

WHY THE UPDATES:

- Meet current Federal Standards for an Approved Pretreatment Program
- Meet State Regulations and Best Practices
- Provide clearer definitions

Ordinance Review

LCPW Outreach:

- The ordinances were shared with consultants, contractors, partnering municipalities, and related County departments

USEPA:

- USEPA reviewed and approved the Sewer Use and Pretreatment Ordinances
- USEPA published a 30-day public notice in the Daily Herald for the potential formation of the LCPW Pretreatment Program

Communications Department:

- Lake County Communications published the ordinances on our website for public review/comments

Water Use Ordinance

Primary Updates:

- A. Memorialize modern standards already in place, aligning the Water Use Ordinance with the Sewer Use Ordinance**
- B. County must review plans, permit, and inspect installation of new sections of pipe**
- C. Water main extensions must extend across the full property frontage, unless approved otherwise**
- D. Service pipes must be as short as possible**
- E. Option available for sending backflow certification electronically**

Sewer Use Ordinance

Primary Updates:

- A. Clarify that sewer service pipes may serve more than one building if the buildings share a common use and are under common ownership**
- B. Allow the use of low-pressure sewer systems where gravity sewer is impractical**
- C. Automobile Service/Repair – requires installation of a triple basin to capture oil and grease before discharging to sanitary sewer**
- D. Dental Office – requires the installation and maintenance of an amalgam separator to eliminate mercury discharge to sanitary sewer, where applicable**

Pretreatment Ordinance

Primary Updates:

- A. Local limits were re-established for each Treatment Facility**
- B. A Treatment Facility with an approved USEPA Pretreatment Program has the jurisdiction over all industrial users that discharge to that plant, even if the users are in another sanitary sewer system**
- C. Non-residential users of certain business types may be subjected to USEPA Categorical Standards, (e.g., metal finisher, battery maker, electroplating)**
- D. Industrial users must complete an initial survey and will be issued a discharge permit**



Questions?