

THURSTON COUNTY
WASHINGTON
SINCE 1852

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Carolina Mejia
District One

Gary Edwards
District Two

Tye Menser
District Three

PUBLIC HEALTH AND
SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

January 24, 2023

Angela Rinaldo
Supreme Living Residential Care Services
6604 Martin Way
Olympia, WA 98516

David Bayne, MPH
Director

Dimyana Abdelmalek, MD, MPH
Health Officer

Subject: Supreme Living Less Restrictive Alternative (LRA) Community Housing Facility,
2813 140TH Ave SW, Tenino, Tax Parcel 12609340100, DSHS Contract 2212-45585

Dear Ms. Rinaldo,

Thurston County Environmental Health has received information regarding your proposal to develop and operate a less restrictive alternative (LRA) community housing facility. We understand your proposal is to remodel the existing home to create five bedrooms to house five full-time residents and provide workspace for employees. The home is located on a 14.47-acre property currently served by a single-family well and on-site sewage (septic) system. The septic system was permitted and approved in 1982 to serve a 3-bedroom residence. The change in use from a 3-bedroom single-family residence to the proposed LRA facility will require compliance with a number of health laws.

Environmental Health enforces state and county health laws and regulations governing safe water supplies, adequate sewage disposal, proper waste management and food service. Facilities that have employees, serve the public or provide food service are typically required to be approved or permitted by Environmental Health. **The following Thurston County Sanitary Code requirements must be satisfied for operation of the LRA housing facility:**

1. The facility must be served by an approved public water supply. The water supply must be approved and connected to the housing facility before it can be occupied.
2. The on-site sewage (septic) system that will serve the facility must be approved for the use. You must obtain approval to utilize the existing on-site septic system, modify the existing system, or install a new system to serve the facility. The on-site septic system must be approved for the LRA housing facility before it can be occupied.
3. You must provide a description of the proposed food service facilities and operations for the facility. This information will be used during the evaluation and design of water and on-site septic systems, and to determine if the food facilities require a permit from this office. Any food service permit requirements must be satisfied before occupancy of the facility.

Please read the following information for additional details on the code requirements and required action.

Environmental Health Division – Onsite, Drinking Water & Land Use
3000 Pacific Ave SE Olympia, Washington 98501-8809
(360) 867-2673 FAX (360) 867-2660 TTY/WA Relay 711 or 1-800-833-6388
www.co.thurston.wa.us/health

Article III – Drinking Water Supplies

An approved public water system is required for facilities that serve the public, have employees, or prepare food for the public. Thurston County Environmental Health has no record of an approved public water system to serve as the drinking water source for the LRA facility.

2.2 Scope. This Article regulates water supplies located within Thurston County and requires water systems to be designed and operated to deliver safe and reliable drinking water to every residence, place of business, or other building or place where people congregate, reside or are employed.

2.2.1 All public water systems shall meet the standards of this Article and chapters 246-290 and 246-291 WAC.

5.2 Source Approval. No new water source, previously unapproved water source for a public water system, or modification of an existing water source for a public water system shall be used without approval from the health officer.

To comply with Article III, the following actions must be taken:

The Less Restrictive Alternative housing facility must be served by an approved public water supply. The water supply must be approved and connected to the housing facility before it can be occupied. The first step in the public water system approval process is to submit a completed well site inspection application. To begin the review process, it is important to make sure the proposed well site meets public siting standards with a 100-foot sanitary control area. Minimum standards for water availability are outlined in Article III, Section 7.

Article IV – On-Site Sewage Systems

Thurston County Environmental Health records indicate the septic system is approved to serve a three-bedroom residence. Remodeling the existing home to provide five bedrooms and using the space for employees has the potential to change the volume and characteristics of the wastewater generated by the facility.

4.6 Every residence, place of business or other building where persons congregate, reside or are employed, to which a public sewer system is not physically accessible or available, shall be provided with a water-flush toilet or approved alternative device and shall be connected to a conforming OSS which shall be operated and maintained in such a manner to meet the requirements of this Article.

To comply with Article IV, the following actions must be taken:

You must obtain approval to utilize the existing on-site septic system, modify the existing system, or install a new system to serve the facility. The first step is to work with a licensed on-site septic system designer to evaluate the proposed wastewater flows and wastewater strength from the facility and submit an on-site evaluation application or an on-site sewage system permit application.

Article II – Food Service

A Food Establishment Operating Permit is required if any food or beverage requiring temperature control is stored, prepared, or served to the public. A Food Establishment is required to be served by an approved public water supply.

5.1 Permit Required. No person shall operate a food establishment without a valid food establishment permit issued by the health officer. Only a person who complies with the requirements of this Article shall be entitled to receive or retain such a permit.


Please see WAC 246-215-01115 (50) for the definition of food establishments and facilities and operations that are exempt from food establishment permit requirements.

Articles of the Thurston County Sanitary Code can be located at
<https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/phss/Pages/eh-regulations.aspx>.

Any person aggrieved by a decision, an inspection, or a notice made by the Health Officer has the right to appeal. Your appeal rights are stated in Article I of the Thurston County Sanitary Code. To appeal, a request for a hearing must be filed in writing with the department accompanied by required fees within fifteen calendar days of the date of the notice of the decision being appealed, on a form provided by the department. Appeal forms and copies of Article I are available on request. The content of the appeal shall comply with Article I, section 8.2.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please contact me at 360-867-2650 or dawn.peebles@co.thurston.wa.us.

Respectfully,



Dawn Peebles, R.S.
Senior Environmental Health Specialist
Thurston County Public Health & Social Services Department