



**City of Portland, Oregon**  
**Bureau of Development Services**  
**Land Use Services**  
FROM CONCEPT TO CONSTRUCTION

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**To:** Mayor Wheeler  
Commissioner Gonzalez  
Commissioner Mapps  
Commissioner Rubio  
Commissioner Ryan

**From:** Rebecca Esau, Director RE  
Bureau of Development Services

**Regarding: Proposed Amendments to City Code Title 25 (Plumbing Regulations)**

**I. RECOMMENDATION**

Add Dry Wells and Other Underground Injection Controls Code to Title 25 Plumbing Regulations to permanently add the authority to regulate and permit dry wells and other underground injection controls (UICs) to Title 25 (add Code Chapter 25.10).

**II. BACKGROUND**

This ordinance amends City Code Title 28 – Plumbing Regulations, adding a new section, 25.10 Drywells and Other Underground Injection Controls. Adding this section grants the Bureau of Development Services regulatory authority over underground infiltration systems like dry wells, soakage trenches, and other manufactured chamber systems classified as underground injection controls (UICs) by the Department of Environmental Quality.

The Bureau of Environmental Services regulates dry wells, UICs, and stormwater facilities for projects over 500 square feet through City Code and the Stormwater Management Manual; the Bureau of Development Services (BDS) regulates all other dry wells, UICs, and stormwater facilities via the Oregon State Plumbing Code (OSPC). The latest version of the OSPC no longer includes UIC regulations, as it has in the past. Instead, the OSPC provides language regarding dry well construction as guidelines only. Without these provisions in the OSPC, BDS has no authority to regulate UICs. Consequently, BDS must adapt and incorporate the guidelines from the OSPC into Portland City Code Title 25 as requirements in order to continue regulating these underground stormwater infiltration systems.