



**Maricopa County Department of Environmental Services
Water and Waste Management Division
Swimming Pool Plan Review Program**

**New Federal Swimming Pool Safety Act
County Plan Review Requirements**

A new federal law, the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act, mandates certain requirements for public pool circulation systems when it goes into effect on December 19, 2008. The requirements of the federal law have different compliance deadlines as compared to current regulations enforced by Maricopa County.

Maricopa County Environmental Services Department has no authority to enforce the new federal law. The County regulates public and semi-public pools based on the requirements of the Maricopa County Environmental Health Code and the Arizona Administrative Code. A public pool, as defined by the federal law, is the same as a public or semi-public pool, as defined by Maricopa County.

It is possible for owners to comply with the federal law requirements and remain in compliance with County regulations.

Owners with a Maricopa County operating permit that plan to make changes to their main drain are reminded that a Maricopa County Environmental Services Department remodeling permit is required if the owner plans to make changes to their pool or spa circulation system. Examples of changes that require owners to submit a permit request include installation of a balanced dual main drain or installation of a safety vacuum release system (SVRS).

No County permit is needed for owners to replace drain covers with like size and configured drain covers, unless the cover replacement is part of a piping modification. Drilling new holes in a drain cover or housing is unacceptable.

Plans must be submitted to the County by a licensed (A-9, A-19, KA-5 or KA-6) swimming pool contractor or licensed architect or engineer. Remodel fees are \$165 for SVRS installation or \$250 for drain system changes. Plan review time is typically 30 days or less. For faster service, owners may request expedited service at twice the standard fee.

The County "approval to remodel" application is available from the department office at 1001 N Central Avenue, Suite 150, Phoenix, or on the internet at <http://www.maricopa.gov/EnvSvc/WaterWaste/SwimPools/Forms.aspx> . The Maricopa County Environmental Health Code is available on the website at <http://www.maricopa.gov/EnvSvc/>.

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