

Source Water Assessment

A Hydrogeologic Susceptibility and Vulnerability Assessment for Quiet Circle Apts Drinking Water System, Wasilla, Alaska PWSID 224476

November 2006

DRINKING WATER PROTECTION REPORT Report 1597
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

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The Drinking Water Protection (DWP) section of the Drinking Water Program is producing Source Water Assessments in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996. Each assessment includes a delineation of the source water area, an inventory of potential and existing contaminant sources that may impact the water, a risk ranking for each of these contaminants, and an evaluation of the potential vulnerability of these drinking water sources.

These assessments are intended to provide public water systems owners/operators, communities, and local governments with the best available information that may be used to protect the quality of their drinking water. The assessments combine information obtained from various sources, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), public water system owners/operators, and other public information sources. The results of this assessment are subject to change if additional data becomes available. It is anticipated this assessment will be updated every five years to reflect any changes in the vulnerability and/or susceptibility of public drinking water source. If you have any additional information that may affect the results of this assessment, please contact the Program Coordinator of DWP, (907) 269-7521.

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Source Water Assessment for Quiet Circle Apts Source of Public Drinking Water, Wasilla, Alaska

Drinking Water Protection Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This source water assessment provides an evaluation of the vulnerability of the public water system serving the Quiet Circle Apts to potential contamination. This Class A (community) water system consists of one well off of Quiet Circle in Wasilla. The well received a natural susceptibility rating of **Low**. This rating is a combination of a susceptibility rating of **Low** for the actual wellhead and a **Low** rating for the aquifer in which the well is drawing water from. Identified potential and current sources of contamination for the Quiet Circle Apts public water system include: sewer lines, hardware stores, closed LUST sites, injection wells, septic systems, and roads. These are considered as sources of bacteria and viruses, nitrates and/or nitrites, volatile organic chemicals (VOCs), heavy metals, cyanide, and other inorganic chemicals, synthetic organic chemicals (SOCs), and other organic chemicals (OOCs). Combining the natural susceptibility of the well with the contaminant risk, the public water system for Quiet Circle Apts received an overall vulnerability rating of **High** for nitrates and/or nitrites, heavy metals, cyanide, and other inorganic chemicals, **Medium** for bacteria and viruses, and **Low** for VOCs, OOCs, SOCs.

QUIET CIRCLE APTS PUBLIC DRINKING WATER SYSTEM

Quiet Circle Apts public water system is a Class A (community) water system consisting of one well off of Quiet Circle.

Wasilla is located near the center of the Matanuska-Susitna (Mat-Su) Borough in south central Alaska. The Mat-Su Borough encompasses approximately 23,000 square miles, including the majority of the drainage of the Susitna and Matanuska Rivers. Wasilla is located south of the Talkeetna Mountains, about 12 miles north of Knik Arm on Cook Inlet (Wickersham Alaska Corporation, 1986), (Matanuska-Susitna Borough/Fran Seager, 1991).

The Matanuska Susitna Valley is dominated by geological features created by several episodes of glacial advances and retreats. These events left the area scattered with glacial drift composed of till outwash stream deposits and estuarine and lake deposits.

Most of the soils in the area provide good sources of sand, gravel and topsoil. The deposition of silt, clay and organic muck in old lakes and depressions means that some areas have soil conditions that vary over relatively short distances. (Wickersham Alaska Corporation, 1986).

In the Mat-Su Valley, groundwater is primarily recharged by snowmelt and precipitation infiltrating both directly and from the infiltration into the foothill slopes of the Talkeetna and Chugach Mountains. In addition,, aquifers may be recharged by streams where surface water percolates into surrounding permeable sediments (losing reaches of streams. Groundwater flow in the confined aquifers is generally from the north and north-northwest. The direction of groundwater flow in the upper unconfined aquifer is more variable due to the influence from surficial topography as well as its close connection with surface water bodies (Trainer,1960).

The Quiet Circle Apts public water system serves 120 residents through 4 service connections.

QUIET CIRCLE APTS DRINKING WATER PROTECTION AREA

The pathways most likely for surface contamination to reach the groundwater are identified as the first step in determining a drinking water system's risk. These areas are determined by looking at the characteristics of the soil, groundwater, aquifer, and well.

The most probable area for contamination to reach the drinking water well is the area that contributes water to the well, the groundwater capture zone. The groundwater capture zone is located in the area circling the well (the area influenced by pumping) and also the area of the water table upgradient of the well, usually forming a parabola shape.

There are many different methods for calculating the size of capture zones. Drinking Water Protection (DWP) uses a combination of two simple groundwater flow equations, the Thiem and uniform flow equations for all groundwater wells screened in unconsolidated material. The orientation of the capture zone is then drawn using a water table elevation map (if available) or a land surface elevation map of the area. The capture zone calculated by the DWP is an estimate using the

available information and resources, and may differ slightly from the actual capture zone.

The parameters used to calculate the shape of this capture zone are general for the whole alluvial plain and were obtained from various United States Geological Survey (USGS) reports, area well logs, and the Groundwater textbook by Freeze and Cherry (Freeze and Cherry, 1979).

Because of uncertainties and changing site conditions, a factor of safety is added to the groundwater capture zone to form the drinking water protection area for the well.

The protection areas established for wells are usually separated into two zones, limited by the watershed. These zones correspond to times-of-travel (TOT) of the water moving through the aquifer to the well (plus the factor of safety).

The following is a summary of the two zones for wells and the calculated time-of-travel for each:

Table 1. Definition of Zones

Zone	Definition
A	Several months travel time
B	Less than 2 years time-of-travel

The time of travel for contaminants within the water varies with their unique physical and chemical characteristics.

The drinking water protection area outlined for the Quiet Circle Apts on Map 1 of Appendix A will serve as the focus for voluntary protection efforts.

INVENTORY OF POTENTIAL AND EXISTING CONTAMINANT SOURCES

Drinking Water Protection (DWP) has completed an inventory of potential and existing sources of contamination within the Quiet Circle Apts protection area. This inventory was completed through a search of agency records and other publicly available information. Potential drinking water contaminants are found within agricultural, residential, commercial, and industrial areas, but can also occur within areas that have little or no development.

For the basis of all Class A public water system assessments, six categories of drinking water contaminants were inventoried. They include:

- Bacteria and viruses;
- Nitrates and/or nitrites;
- Volatile organic chemicals;
- Heavy metals, cyanide, and other inorganic chemicals;

- Synthetic organic chemicals; and
- Other organic chemicals.

The sources are displayed on Map 2 of Appendix C and summarized in Table 1 of Appendix B.

RANKING OF CONTAMINANT RISKS

Once the potential and existing sources of contamination have been identified, they are each assigned a ranking according to what type and level of risk they represent. Ranking of contaminant risks for a “potential” or “existing” source of contamination is a combination of toxicity and volume associated with that source. Rankings include:

- Low
- Medium
- High
- Very High

Tables 2 through 7 in Appendix B contain the ranking of inventoried potential and existing sources of contamination with respect to bacteria and viruses, nitrates and/or nitrites, volatile organic chemicals, heavy metals, cyanide and other inorganic chemicals, synthetic organic chemicals and other organic chemical

VULNERABILITY OF QUIET CIRCLE APTS DRINKING WATER SYSTEM

The vulnerability of public drinking water systems to regulated contaminants is determined by assessing the susceptibility of the wellhead, the susceptibility of the aquifer and the potential contaminant sources identified within the protection area.

The Drinking Water Protection developed a vulnerability assessment tool that assigns a vulnerability risk ranking based upon various factors associated with the well, aquifer and potential and existing contaminants identified within the protection area.

Factors contributing to the susceptibility of the wellhead are: whether the sanitary seal in place, protection from flooding, and if the well casing is properly grouted.

The wellhead for the Quiet Circle Apts received a **Low** susceptibility rating. The most recent sanitary survey (3/19/2005) indicates the well is capped with a sanitary seal. The land surface is not sloped away from the well, and the well is not grouted. A sanitary seal prevents potential contaminant from entering the well while sloping of the land surface and grouting help to prevent potential contaminants from traveling down the outside of the well casing.

Factors contributing to the susceptibility of the aquifer are: whether the aquifer is confined or unconfined, whether the well is completed in unconsolidated or fractured bedrock, whether wells and bore holes are penetrating the aquifer and, if applicable, the confining layer.

The aquifer the Quiet Circle Apts well is completed in received a **Low** susceptibility rating. The high degree of confinement of this aquifer helps to protect from potential contaminants originating on the ground's surface. Table 2 summarizes the Susceptibility scores and ratings for Quiet Circle Apts.

Table 2: Susceptibility

	Rating
Susceptibility of the Wellhead	Low
Susceptibility of the Aquifer	Low
Natural Susceptibility	Low

The Contaminant Risk has been derived from an evaluation of the routine sampling results of the water system and the presence of potential sources of contamination. Contaminant risks to a drinking water source depend on the type and distribution of contaminant sources.

Table 3 summarizes the Contaminant Risks for each category of drinking water contaminants.

Table 3. Contaminant Risks

Category	Rating
Bacteria and Viruses	Very High
Nitrates and/or Nitrites	Very High
Volatile Organic Chemicals	Low
Heavy Metals, Cyanide, and Other Inorganic Chemicals	Very High
Synthetic Organic Chemicals	Low
Other Organic Chemicals	Low

Finally, an overall vulnerability is determined for each water system by combining each of the contaminant risk scores with the natural susceptibility score:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Natural Susceptibility} \\ & + \\ & \text{Contaminant Risks} \\ & = \\ & \text{Vulnerability of the} \\ & \text{Drinking Water Source to Contamination} \end{aligned}$$

Table 4 contains the overall ratings for each of the six categories of drinking water contaminants.

Table 4. Overall Vulnerability

Category	Rating
Bacteria and Viruses	Medium
Nitrates and Nitrites	High
Volatile Organic Chemicals	Low
Heavy Metals, Cyanide, and Other Inorganic Chemicals	High
Synthetic Organic Chemicals	Low
Other Organic Chemicals	Low

Bacteria and Viruses

Class V injection wells in the protection area represent the greatest risk for bacteria and viruses to the drinking water well. For a complete listing of potential sources for bacteria and virus contamination please see Table 2 in Appendix B.

Only a small amount of bacteria and viruses are required to endanger public health. Coliforms are found naturally in the environment and although they aren't necessarily a health threat, it is an indicator of other potentially harmful bacteria in the water, more specifically, fecal coliforms and E. coli which only come from human and animal fecal waste (EPA, 2006). Harmful bacteria can cause diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms (EPA, 2006). No samples have tested positive for coliforms in recent history.

After combining the contaminant risk for bacteria and viruses with the natural susceptibility of the well, the overall vulnerability of the well to contamination is medium.

Nitrates and Nitrites

Class V injection wells in the protection area also represent the greatest risk to nitrates and nitrites for this source of public drinking water. For a complete listing of potential sources for nitrate and nitrite contamination please see Table 3 in Appendix B.

Nitrates are very mobile, moving at approximately the same rate as water. Nitrates have been detected at 2%

of its maximum contaminant level (MCL = 10mg/L) in recent sampling history for the Quiet Circle Apts well. In greater concentrations nitrates/nitrites have been known to cause 'blue baby syndrome' in infants (EPA 2006).

After combining the contaminant risk for nitrates and nitrites with the natural susceptibility of the well, the overall vulnerability of the well to contamination is high.

Volatile Organic Chemicals

Hardware stores represent the greatest identified risk for volatile organic chemical contamination to the well. For a complete listing of potential sources for bacteria and virus contamination please see Table 4 in Appendix B.

Volatile Organic Chemicals have not been detected within source waters. After combining the contaminant risk for volatile organic chemicals with the natural susceptibility of the well, the overall vulnerability of the well to contamination is low.

Heavy Metals, Cyanide, and Other Inorganic Chemicals

Hardware stores represent the greatest risk for inorganic chemicals to the well. For a complete listing of potential sources for bacteria and virus contamination please see Table 5 in Appendix B.

Barium and arsenic were detected during recent sampling. Arsenic was detected in higher relative concentration at 98% of its maximum contaminant level (MCL). The MCL for arsenic is 0.01 mg/L. In greater quantities, arsenic is known to cause skin damage, problems with circulatory systems, and may create an increased risk of developing cancer (EPA, 2006).

After combining the contaminant risk for heavy metals, cyanide and other inorganic chemicals with the natural susceptibility of the well, the overall vulnerability of the well to contamination is high.

Synthetic Organic Chemicals

Septic systems represent the greatest risk for synthetic organic chemicals to the well. For a complete listing of potential sources for bacteria and virus contamination please see Table 6 in Appendix B.

Synthetic organic chemicals have not been sampled for in this water system.

After combining the contaminant risk for synthetic organic chemicals with the natural susceptibility of the well, the overall vulnerability of the well to contamination is low.

Other Organic Chemicals

Septic systems represent the greatest risk for other organic chemicals to the well. For a complete listing of potential sources for bacteria and virus contamination please see Table 7 in Appendix B.

Other organic chemicals have not been sampled for in this water system.

After combining the contaminant risk for synthetic organic chemicals with the natural susceptibility of the well, the overall vulnerability of the well to contamination is low.

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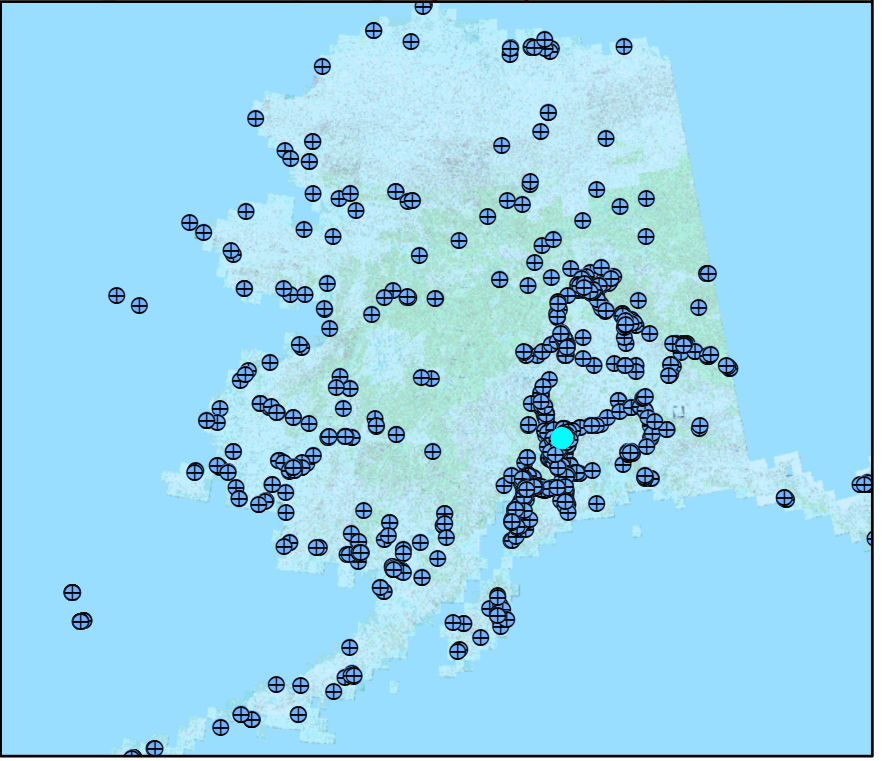
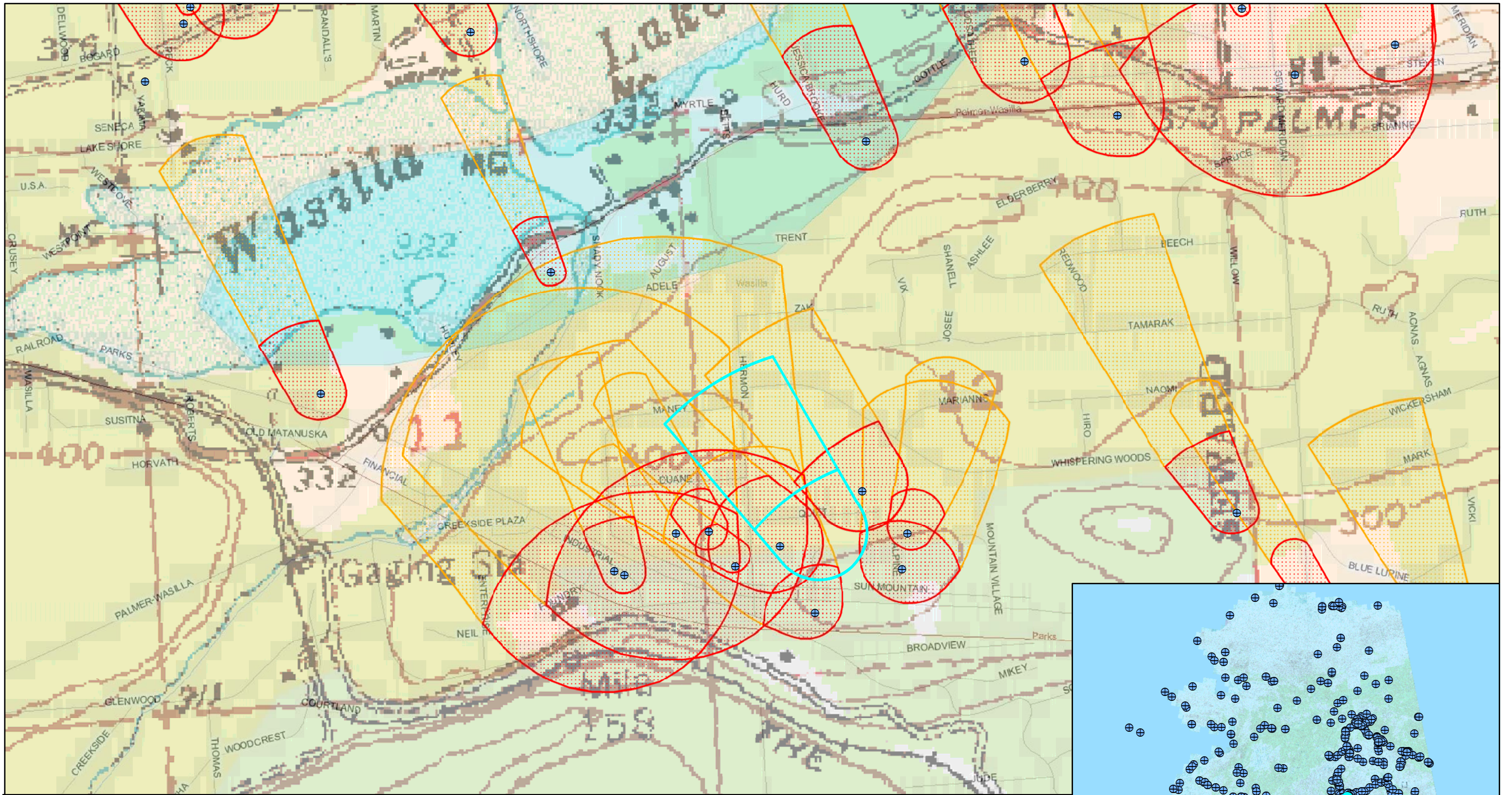
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APPENDIX A

Quiet Circle Apts Drinking Water Protection Area Location Map (Map 1)



Map 1- Quiet Circle Apartments and Surrounding Water Systems

PWSID: 224476.001



0 1:10,795 2,500 Feet

Data Sources:
 Mat-Su Borough: Roads and parcels
 Potential Sources of Contamination: ADEC

- Public Water Sources
- Zone A Protection Area
- Zone B Protection Area

APPENDIX B

Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for Quiet Circle Apts (Tables 1-7)

Table 1

**Contaminant Source Inventory for
Quiet Circle Apartments**

PWSID 224476.001

Contaminant Source Type	Contaminant Source ID	CS ID tag	Zone	Map Number	Comments
Hardware stores	C17	C17-01	A	1	
Domestic wastewater collection systems (sewer lines or lift stations)	D01	D01-1	A	1	2 sewerlines in Zone A
Injection wells (Class V) Large-Capacity Septic System (Drainfield Disposal Method)	D10	D10-1-2	A		
Closed Leaking Underground Fuel Storage Tank (LUST) Sites	U08	U08-1	A		
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-1-2	A	1	2 roads in Zone A
Injection wells (Class V) Large-Capacity Septic System (Drainfield Disposal Method)	D10	D10-1	B	1	2 large capacity septic systems in Zone B
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02	R02-1-4	B	1	4 residential septic systems in Zone B
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-3-6	B	1	4 roads in Zone B

Table 2

*Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for
Quiet Circle Apartments
Sources of Bacteria and Viruses*

PWSID 224476.001

<i>Contaminant Source Type</i>	<i>Contaminant Source ID</i>	<i>CS ID tag</i>	<i>Zone</i>	<i>Risk Ranking for Analysis</i>	<i>Map Number</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Domestic wastewater collection systems (sewer lines or lift stations)	D01	D01-1	A	Medium	1	2 sewerlines in Zone A
Injection wells (Class V) Large-Capacity Septic System (Drainfield Disposal Method)	D10	D10-1-2	A	High		
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-1-2	A	Low	1	2 roads in Zone A
Injection wells (Class V) Large-Capacity Septic System (Drainfield Disposal Method)	D10	D10-1	B	High	1	2 large capacity septic systems in Zone B
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02	R02-1-4	B	Low	1	4 residential septic systems in Zone B
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-3-6	B	Low	1	4 roads in Zone B

Table 3

*Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for
Quiet Circle Apartments
Sources of Nitrates/Nitrites*

PWSID 224476.001

<i>Contaminant Source Type</i>	<i>Contaminant Source ID</i>	<i>CS ID tag</i>	<i>Zone</i>	<i>Risk Ranking for Analysis</i>	<i>Map Number</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Hardware stores	C17	C17-01	A	Low	1	
Domestic wastewater collection systems (sewer lines or lift stations)	D01	D01-1	A	Medium	1	2 sewerlines in Zone A
Injection wells (Class V) Large-Capacity Septic System (Drainfield Disposal Method)	D10	D10-1-2	A	High		
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-1-2	A	Low	1	2 roads in Zone A
Injection wells (Class V) Large-Capacity Septic System (Drainfield Disposal Method)	D10	D10-1	B	High	1	2 large capacity septic systems in Zone B
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02	R02-1-4	B	Low	1	4 residential septic systems in Zone B
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-3-6	B	Low	1	4 roads in Zone B

Table 4

*Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for
Quiet Circle Apartments
Sources of Volatile Organic Chemicals*

PWSID 224476.001

<i>Contaminant Source Type</i>	<i>Contaminant Source ID</i>	<i>CS ID tag</i>	<i>Zone</i>	<i>Risk Ranking for Analysis</i>	<i>Map Number</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Hardware stores	C17	C17-01	A	Low	1	
Domestic wastewater collection systems (sewer lines or lift stations)	D01	D01-1	A	Low	1	2 sewerlines in Zone A
Injection wells (Class V) Large-Capacity Septic System (Drainfield Disposal Method)	D10	D10-1-2	A	Low		
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-1-2	A	Low	1	2 roads in Zone A
Injection wells (Class V) Large-Capacity Septic System (Drainfield Disposal Method)	D10	D10-1	B	Low	1	2 large capacity septic systems in Zone B
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02	R02-1-4	B	Low	1	4 residential septic systems in Zone B
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-3-6	B	Low	1	4 roads in Zone B

Table 5

*Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for
Quiet Circle Apartments
Sources of Heavy Metals, Cyanide and Other Inorganic Chemicals*

PWSID 224476.001

<i>Contaminant Source Type</i>	<i>Contaminant Source ID</i>	<i>CS ID tag</i>	<i>Zone</i>	<i>Risk Ranking for Analysis</i>	<i>Map Number</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Hardware stores	C17	C17-01	A	Low	1	
Domestic wastewater collection systems (sewer lines or lift stations)	D01	D01-1	A	Low	1	2 sewerlines in Zone A
Injection wells (Class V) Large-Capacity Septic System (Drainfield Disposal Method)	D10	D10-1-2	A	Low		
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-1-2	A	Low	1	2 roads in Zone A
Injection wells (Class V) Large-Capacity Septic System (Drainfield Disposal Method)	D10	D10-1	B	Low	1	2 large capacity septic systems in Zone B
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02	R02-1-4	B	Low	1	4 residential septic systems in Zone B
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-3-6	B	Low	1	4 roads in Zone B

Table 6

*Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for
Quiet Circle Apartments
Sources of Synthetic Organic Chemicals*

PWSID 224476.001

Contaminant Source Type	Contaminant Source ID	CS ID tag	Zone	Risk Ranking for Analysis	Map Number	Comments
Domestic wastewater collection systems (sewer lines or lift stations)	D01	D01-1	A	Low	1	2 sewerlines in Zone A
Injection wells (Class V) Large-Capacity Septic System (Drainfield Disposal Method)	D10	D10-1-2	A	Low		
Injection wells (Class V) Large-Capacity Septic System (Drainfield Disposal Method)	D10	D10-1	B	Low	1	2 large capacity septic systems in Zone B
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02	R02-1-4	B	Low	1	4 residential septic systems in Zone B

Table 7

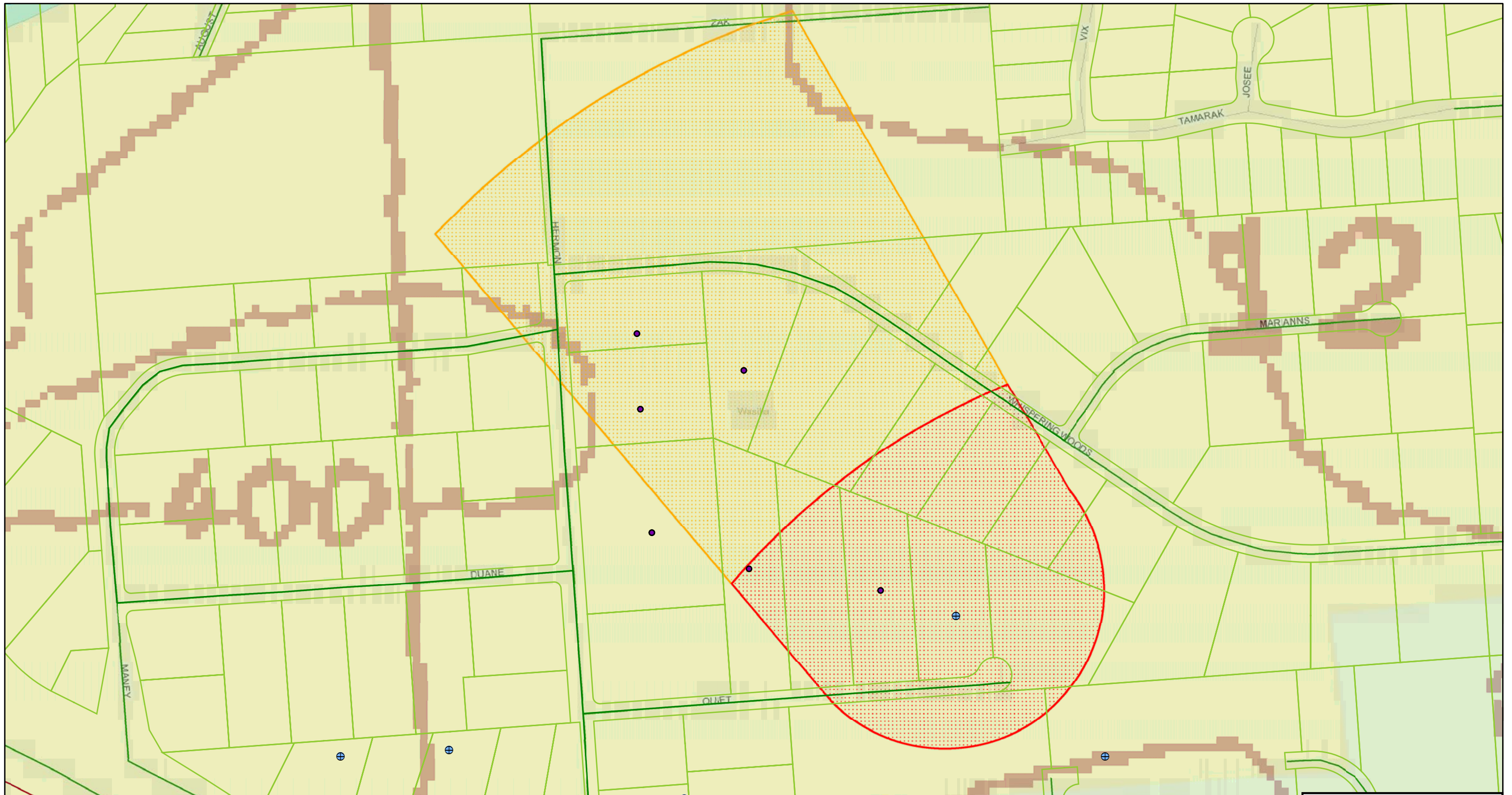
*Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for
Quiet Circle Apartments
Sources of Other Organic Chemicals*

PWSID 224476.001

<i>Contaminant Source Type</i>	<i>Contaminant Source ID</i>	<i>CS ID tag</i>	<i>Zone</i>	<i>Risk Ranking for Analysis</i>	<i>Map Number</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Hardware stores	C17	C17-01	A	Low	1	
Domestic wastewater collection systems (sewer lines or lift stations)	D01	D01-1	A	Low	1	2 sewerlines in Zone A
Injection wells (Class V) Large-Capacity Septic System (Drainfield Disposal Method)	D10	D10-1-2	A	Low		
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-1-2	A	Low	1	2 roads in Zone A
Injection wells (Class V) Large-Capacity Septic System (Drainfield Disposal Method)	D10	D10-1	B	Low	1	2 large capacity septic systems in Zone B
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02	R02-1-4	B	Low	1	4 residential septic systems in Zone B
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-3-6	B	Low	1	4 roads in Zone B

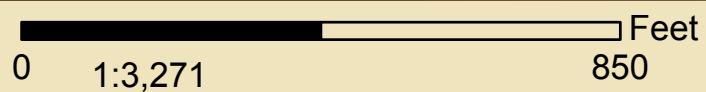
APPENDIX C

Quiet Circle Apts Drinking Water Protection Area and Potential and Existing Contaminant Sources (Map 2)









Map 2- Quiet Circle Apartments Potential Contaminants

PWSID: 224476.001



Data Sources:
 Mat-Su Borough: Roads and parcels
 Potential Sources of Contamination: ADEC

-  Zone A Protection Area
-  Zone B Protection Area
-  parcels
-  Public Water Sources
-  Septics
-  Roads