

shall have whatever engineering, legal, advisory, clerical and other personnel as in his judgment are necessary for carrying out the provisions of this subtitle and are approved by the county commissioners. Such personnel, with the exception of legal counsel, shall be subject to the rules and regulations of the Queen Anne's County Merit System. Legal personnel shall receive such wage as may be approved by the county.

428.

(b) No private or public water supply, solid waste or sewerage installation intended for use of two or more buildings [or premises], TWO OR MORE RESIDENTIAL HOUSING OR CONDOMINIUM UNITS; BUILDINGS OR PREMISES; COMMERCIAL BUSINESSES, RENTALS OR LEASEHOLD UNITS; INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS; VESSELS OR PLEASURE CRAFT shall be constructed, nor shall any existing system be extended in the sanitary district unless the person, firm or corporation doing the work has first obtained a permit from the Director and paid a reasonable charge therefor. The plant then shall be installed, maintained, and operated under such rules and regulations as the Director may require or devise. The county shall have full and complete jurisdiction over all fire hydrants connected with its water system. No person, firm, or corporation may operate, use, or make connection with the system without the written authority of the Director, except that no restriction shall apply to any bona fide fire department in the discharge of its duties. The Director, upon a determination that public safety will be served, may require the installation of fire hydrants to public or private systems existing or to be constructed in the sanitary district and may prescribe such rules and regulations for the use and maintenance thereof as he deems necessary. The county is authorized to enter into any agreements with the owners or operators of such systems designed to install fire hydrants or other fire protection equipment as may be deemed in the public interest. No person, firm, or corporation may tamper with, deface, damage, or obstruct any fire hydrant. A violation of any of the provisions of this section is a misdemeanor, punishable under this subtitle.

431.

(a) To provide for the general health and welfare of the residents of the county, the county may acquire, construct, operate, and maintain whatever water, sewer, solid waste, and drainage systems as it deems to be in the public interest. The county may cause surveys, plans, specifications, and estimates to be made for these systems. Unless all owners of land which will be served by any such proposed improvements consent in writing to