

The following is an excerpt from *[Chapter 2 - Identifying & Resolving Quality of Life Issues](#)* from the Community & Environmental Defense Services (CEDS) book *[How to Win Land Development Issues: A Citizens Guide to Preserving & Enhancing Quality of Life in Developing Areas](#)*. You will find this section more helpful if you read the Chapter 2 introductory text. Also, the following is just the text we could fit into the book without making it unduly large. We have a substantially greater amount of information available in our files on this topic. To learn how CEDS can assist you with concerns about this topic visit the CEDS website at: [www.ceds.org](http://www.ceds.org) or contact us at: 1-800-773-4571 or [info@ceds.org](mailto:info@ceds.org)

### **Adequate Public Facility Ordinances**

Some local governments have enacted an Adequate Public Facility Ordinance (APFO) which prohibits the issuance of additional building permits when the affected schools are at capacity or soon will be. Actual trigger points range from 100% to 150% of capacity, which is usually based on 25-30 students per classroom. APFOs may also limit growth when other services are near capacity, such as roads, water, sewer, and emergency services. For an example of an APFO guidance document visit <http://www.mdp.state.md.us/info/download/Mmg14.PDF>

### **Adequate Public Facilities**

Some local jurisdictions have adopted adequate public facility ordinances (APFOs). The intent of APFOs is to manage development approvals so that schools, roads, water, sewer and other infrastructure are not overtaxed. Frequently, APFO requirements kick in at the building permit stage. In other words, a building permit would not be issued unless adequate capacity is available to accommodate the students generated by construction of a new home along with other additional service needs.