
2025 Stormwater Management Program Plan

Updated February 5, 2025



King County

Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Water and Land Resources Division

Stormwater Services Section

King Street Center, KSC-NR-0600
201 South Jackson Street, Suite 600
Seattle, WA 98104

206-477-4800 TTY Relay: 711
www.kingcounty.gov/stormwater

Alternate Formats Available

206-477-4800 TTY Relay: 711

Permit WAR044501

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AKART	All Known, Available Reasonable Methods of Treatment
BMP	Best Management Practice
CBIMP	Catch Basin Inspection and Maintenance Program
CESCL	Certified Erosion and Sediment Control Lead
CSP	Conveyance Screening Program
DES	Department of Executive Services
DNRP	Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Ecology	Washington State Department of Ecology
EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FMD	Facilities Management Division
GPS	Geographic Positioning System
GIS	Geographic Information System
IC	Illicit connection
IC/IDDE	Illicit Connection / Illicit Discharges Detection and Elimination
ID	Illicit Discharge
KCC	King County Code
KCD	King Conservation District
KCIA	King County International Airport
DLS Permits	King County, Division of Local Services – Permits
LID	Low Impact Development
MEP	Maximum Extent Practicable
MIS	Maintenance Information System
MS4	Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
Parks	Parks and Recreation Division
Permit	NPDES Phase I Municipal Stormwater Permit
PGIS	Pollution Generating Impervious Surface
PGPS	Pollution Generating Pervious Surface
PHSKC	Public Health - Seattle & King County
PSSH	Puget Sound Starts Here

PSP	Puget Sound Partnership
ROADMAP	Regional Operations and Maintenance Program
Roads	Road Services Division
ROW	Right-of-Way
RSMP	Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program
SIMPLA	Site Management Plan
SIP	Stormwater Investment Plan
SMAP	Stormwater Management Action Plan
SMED	Stormwater Management for Existing Development
SPPM	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Manual
SPP	Stormwater Planning Program
SPPU	Strategy Policy and Performance Unit
STORM	Stormwater Outreach for Regional Municipalities
SWD	Solid Waste Division
SWDM	Surface Water Design Manual
SWG	Stormwater Work Group
SWMP	Stormwater Management Program
SWMP Plan	Documentation of the SWMP
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
SWSS	Stormwater Services Section
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
Transit	Metro Transit Department.
WAC	Washington Administrative Code
WLRD	Water and Land Resources Division
WQCU	Water Quality Compliance Unit
WRIA	Water Resource Inventory Area
WTD	Wastewater Treatment Division

KING COUNTY STORMWATER PROGRAM OVERVIEW

King County is a permittee under the Phase I Municipal Stormwater Permit (Phase I Permit or Permit) issued by the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) on July 1, 2024 and effective on August 1, 2024. The current permit coverage expires on July 31, 2029.

The Permit requires King County to develop and implement a Stormwater Management Program (SWMP) designed to minimize impacts caused by stormwater runoff. It also requires the County to document its stormwater management program in the Stormwater Management Program Plan (SWMP Plan).

This SWMP Plan describes planned activities of King County's SWMP for 2025.

REGULATORY BACKGROUND

The federal Clean Water Act (CWA) establishes the basic structure for regulating discharges of pollutants into the waters of the United States and regulating water quality standards for surface waters. The CWA's primary objective is to restore and maintain the integrity of the nation's waters. The objective translates into two fundamental national goals: to eliminate the discharge of pollutants into the nation's waters and to achieve water quality levels that are fishable and swimmable. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulates stormwater under Section 402(p) of the CWA, including regulating discharges from municipal separate storm sewer systems.

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting program regulates point sources that discharge pollutants to waters of the United States. EPA delegated NPDES permit authority to Ecology. Under Washington's Water Pollution Control Act, Ecology issued Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) general permits in two phases. The Phase I Permit was first issued in 1995 to cover incorporated cities with a population of more than 100,000 people and unincorporated counties with a population of more than 250,000 people. Two Phase II Permits were first issued in 2007: one for Western Washington and one for Eastern Washington.

OTHER KING COUNTY NPDES PERMITS

In most areas of King County stormwater and wastewater are conveyed separately. Wastewater is routed to a treatment plant and stormwater typically flows directly into receiving waters. Receiving waters can include streams, lakes, groundwater, wetlands, rivers, and marine waters. While the NPDES Phase I Permit applies to most of unincorporated King County, some King County sites are covered by other types of NPDES permits.

Table 1. Other King County NPDES Permits

KC Agency	NPDES Permits Held	Location
Solid Waste Division (SWD)	Industrial Stormwater General Permit	Cedar Hills Regional Landfill and six separate recycling & transfer stations
	Construction Stormwater General Permit	South County Recycling & Transfer Station (Active) Cedar Hills Regional Landfill (Pending)
King County International Airport (KCIA)	Industrial Stormwater Permit	Portions of KCIA are covered by KC or KC tenant ISGP. Areas covered by the ISGP are typically operations and maintenance areas and generally covers the entire airport.
Parks Division	Sand and Gravel General Permit (Inactive Site)	Maury Island Natural Area (formerly CalPortland Glacier Pit)
Road Services Division (Roads)	Sand and Gravel General Permits Construction Stormwater General Permit	17 King County gravel pits These permits are obtained if a construction site is expected to disturb an area of 1 acre or more.
Metro Transit Department (Transit)	Industrial Stormwater General Permit	Transit South Operating Base, Transit North Operating Base, Transit East Operating Base, Transit Bellevue Operating Base, Transit South Base Annex, coming in 2025 Transit Tukwila Operating Base
Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD)	Individual NPDES Waste Discharge Permits	WTD owns and operates five wastewater treatment plants, Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) facilities, and other ancillary facilities in its service area. Stormwater at two of the three large regional treatment plants is routed into the plants for treatment.
	Industrial Stormwater General Permit (ISGP)	ISGPs also are in place for portions of two of the regional treatment plants, and a separate material processing facility. The KCIW program regulates the allowable

	Construction Stormwater Permit	disposal of stormwater and other commercial/industrial process waters to the sanitary sewer system. In the CSO system, a large majority of stormwater is conveyed to West Point wastewater treatment plant; and the NPDES permit requires pollution prevention actions for the CSO basins. Stormwater separation projects within CSO areas can contribute additional stormwater (to Seattle’s MS4 system).
Multiple Agencies	Construction Stormwater Permit	Construction projects that disturb one or more acres of land.

SWMP PLAN ORGANIZATION

This SWMP Plan’s organization follows the sequence of SWMP components in the Phase I Permit. Each section includes a summary of the relevant component and the planned activities for 2025:

- Training Program
- Section 1 - S5.C1. Legal Authority
- Section 2 - S5.C2. MS4 Mapping and Documentation
- Section 3 - S5.C3. Coordination
- Section 4 - S5.C4. Public Involvement and Participation
- Section 5 - S5.C5. Controlling Runoff from New Development, Redevelopment, and Construction Sites
- Section 6 - S5.C6. Stormwater Planning
- Section 7 - S5.C7. Stormwater Management for Existing Development
- Section 8 - S5.C8. Source Control Program for Existing Development
- Section 9 - S5.C9. Illicit Connections and Illicit Discharges Detection and Elimination
- Section 10 - S5.C10. Operation and Maintenance Program
- Section 11 - S5.C11. Education and Outreach Program
- S7. Compliance with TMDL Requirements
- S8. Monitoring and Assessment
- S9. Reporting Requirements
- Conclusion
- Appendix

KING COUNTY TRAINING PROGRAM

King County training programs are outlined below, as well as the permit requirements for training. These requirements are spread throughout the permit and have been consolidated into this section. Each county agency is responsible for ensuring that requisite training has been done for the required staff.

The Permit sections contained below have been edited for length. The permit sections in their entirety may be found at https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/ezshare/wq/permits/MS4_2024_Phase%20I_FinalPermit.pdf.

PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

S5.C.5 Controlling Runoff from New Development, Redevelopment, and Construction Sites

b.viii. Each Permittee shall ensure that all staff whose primary job duties are implementing the program to Control Stormwater Runoff from New Development, Redevelopment, and Construction Sites, including permitting, plan review, construction site inspections, and enforcement, are trained to conduct these activities. As determined necessary by the Permittee, follow-up training shall be provided to address changes in procedures, techniques or staffing. Permittees shall document and maintain records of the training provided and the staff trained.

S5.C.8. Source Control Program for Existing Development

e. Permittees shall train staff who are responsible for implementing the Source Control Program to conduct these activities. The ongoing training program shall cover the legal authority for source control, source control BMPs and their proper application, inspection protocols, lessons learned, typical cases, and enforcement procedures. Follow-up training shall be provided as needed to address changes in procedures, techniques, requirements, or staff. Permittees shall document and maintain records of the training provided and the staff trained.

S5.C.9. Illicit Connections and Illicit Discharges Detection and Elimination

c. Each Permittee shall implement an ongoing program designed to detect and identify non-stormwater discharges and illicit connections into the Permittee's MS4. The program shall include the following components:

...

iii. An ongoing training program for all municipal field staff, who, as part of their normal job responsibilities might encounter or otherwise observe an illicit discharge or illicit connection to the MS4, on the identification of an illicit discharge and/or connection, and on the proper procedures for reporting and responding to the illicit discharge and/or connection. Follow-up training shall be provided as needed to address changes in procedures, techniques, requirements, or staffing. Permittees shall document and maintain records of the training provided and the staff trained.

...

e. Permittees shall train staff who are responsible for identification, investigation, termination, cleanup, and reporting of illicit discharges, including spills and illicit connections, to conduct these activities. Follow-up training shall be provided as needed to address changes in procedures, techniques, requirements, or staff. Permittees shall document and maintain records of the training provided and the staff trained.

S5.C.10 Operation and Maintenance Program

Implement an ongoing training program for employees of the Permittee who have primary construction, operations, or maintenance job functions that may impact stormwater quality. The training program shall address the importance of protecting water quality, operation and maintenance standards, inspection procedures, relevant SWPPPs, selecting appropriate BMPs, street sweeper operation, ways to perform their job activities to prevent or minimize impacts to water quality, and procedures for reporting water quality concerns. Follow-up training shall be provided as needed to address changes in procedures, techniques, requirements, or staffing. Permittees shall document and maintain records of the training provided. The staff training records to be kept include dates, activities or course descriptions, names and positions of staff in attendance.

CURRENT AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Training records are currently managed by **each agency**. These records are then uploaded to the stormwater classroom or maintained by the individual agency to ensure appropriate staff members are trained.

Controlling Runoff from New Development, Redevelopment and Construction Sites Training

Department of Local Services Permits (DLS Permits) staff responsible for site plan review are trained internally on the King County Surface Water Design Manual (SWDM). Additional training is provided during SWDM updates.

Select positions in DLS Permits and other King County agencies require Certified Erosion and Sediment Control Lead (CESCL) training. This training is provided through qualified vendors.

Source Control Program for Existing Development Training

King County has an ongoing training program for employees conducting source control work. Stormwater Services Section, the primary agency implementing the source control program, trains staff and updates staff training as needed using both in-house training and field job shadowing.

Illicit Connection and Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IC/IDDE) Training

King County trains field personnel and first responders on the identification, investigation, termination, cleanup, and reporting of illicit discharges and illicit connections, as appropriate for their job duties.

Training records are maintained by the individual agency unless they use the Self-Certification process for Phase I permit required training.

In 2021, King County instituted a Self-Certification process for Phase I permit required IC/IDDE training. County employees in agencies using Self-Certification training receive a survey requiring that they self-identify their need for training by answering questions regarding job duties (such as field work, inspection activities, spill clean-up, etc).

The survey then self-populates the training required to meet permit requirements. Training modules cover IDDE Awareness (one basic module, one more advanced), IDDE Response, and Operations and Maintenance.

The survey collects information of who has been trained and what training they completed. Self-Certification will be done twice per permit cycle to ensure that new employees are trained.

Agencies that use the Self-Certification process:

- Facilities Management Division (FMD)
- King County International Airport (KCIA)
- DLS Permits
- Public Health – Seattle/King County (PHSKC)
- Water and Land Resources Division (WLRD)
- Parks Division
- Solid Waste Division

The remaining divisions have elected to hold specialized internal IC/IDDE training.

King County International Airport (KCIA)

In addition to King County IC/IDDE training for employees; employees, tenants and operators at the King County International Airport receive annual spill response policy training, including procedures for notification, response and reporting, as well as preventative measures. Training records are maintained in the agency's training files.

Roads Division (Roads)

Roads provides "first responder" spill response. Roads has developed customized hazardous waste and spill response ("first responder") training for personnel responding to spilled or illegally dumped materials. The training also includes guidelines for when an outside spill response contractor should be called in. Roads also provides IC/IDDE training to field staff conducting catch basin inspections. Training is tailored specifically for the operations and maintenance staff at Roads and addresses subjects such as stormwater pollution prevention, spill response, hazardous and solid waste management, and aquifer protection. Training records are maintained in Roads' training files. In addition, Roads field crews participate in the Regional Road Maintenance ESA Program (RRMEP) training. This training focuses on BMP practices, and addresses maintenance guidelines, water quality, sediment and erosion control, and fish habitat requirements. These RRMEP training records are recorded in Peoplesoft.

Sheriff's Office

The Sheriff's Office trains field personnel on IC/IDDE using the department online training program. This system also maintains records for the Sheriff's Office.

Metro Transit

Metro Transit has developed customized hazardous waste and spill response training for personnel responding to spilled or illegally dumped materials. The training also includes guidelines for when an outside spill response contractor should be called in. Training records are maintained in the agency's training files.

Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD)

WTD trains field personnel on IC/IDDE using the King County web-based stormwater classroom. Training records are maintained in the agency's training files.

Solid Waste Division (SWD)

SWD participates in the Self-Certification training that King County offers. SWD also offers additional training using vendor provided training. Training records are maintained in the agency's training files.

Operations and Maintenance Program Training

The Self-Certification training discussed above includes a module on operations and maintenance procedures, including King County's Site Management Plan (SiMPla). SiMPla contains King County's practices and procedures to minimize impacts to stormwater during construction, maintenance and operations activities.

Agencies that work on construction, maintenance and operations activities that use the Self-Certification process include:

- Facilities Management Division (FMD)
- King County International Airport (KCIA)
- DLS Permits
- Public Health – Seattle/King County (PHSKC)
- Water and Land Resources Division (WLRD)
- Parks Division
- Solid Waste Division

The remaining divisions have elected to provide specialized operations and maintenance training.

Roads

Training is tailored specifically for the operations and maintenance staff at Roads and addresses, among other subjects, stormwater pollution prevention, spill response, hazardous and solid waste management, and aquifer protection. Training records are maintained in Roads training files. In addition, Roads field crews participate in the Regional Road Maintenance ESA Program (RRMEP) training. This training focuses on BMP practices, and addresses maintenance guidelines, water quality, sediment and erosion control, and fish habitat requirements. These RRMEP training records are recorded in Peoplesoft.

Solid Waste Division

The Wastewater Treatment Division participates in the Self-Certification process as well as providing additional internal training for staff using vendor provided training. Records are maintained in SWD training files.

Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD)

WTD trains field personnel on maintenance and operations procedures using the King County web-based classroom. Training records are maintained in the agency's training files.

SECTION 1 – LEGAL AUTHORITY (S5.C.1)

PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

The Phase I Permit requires Permittees to obtain the legal authority required to implement the Stormwater Management Program.

S5.C.1. Legal Authority

Minimum performance measures:

- a. *Each Permittee shall be able to demonstrate that they can operate pursuant to legal authority which authorizes or enables the Permittee to control discharges to and from MS4s owned or operated by the Permittee.*
- b. *This legal authority, which may be a combination of statute, ordinance, permit, contracts, orders, interagency agreements, or similar means...*

CURRENT AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES

King County Code provides the necessary authority to implement the Stormwater Management Program. King County Code may be found online at <https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/council/governance-leadership/county-legislation-codes/king-county-code>.

King County Code (KCC) Title 9.12 has been the code used for the County’s water quality compliance program since 1992 and addresses S5.C.1.b.i through iii by prohibiting the discharge of contaminants into surface water, stormwater, or groundwater. The intent of this code is the minimization or elimination of water quality degradation; preservation and enhancement of waters for recreation, fishing, and other beneficial uses; and preservation and enhancement of the aesthetic quality and biotic integrity of the water.

KCC Title 23 provides supplementary authority for the implementation and enforcement of code. Title 23 provides legal authority to issue notices of noncompliance, stop work orders, and in the event of continued noncompliance, issue fines to the responsible party. Public rule PUT-8-23 outlines the different types of enforcement actions and includes the penalty/fine matrix.

King County employees are authorized to carry out site inspections and follow monitoring procedures necessary to determine compliance and noncompliance with permit conditions through KCC Title 9.12 and King County Board of Health code. The King County Board of Health code may be found at <http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/BOH/code.aspx>.

King County Code Title 16 contains King County’s building and construction standards, which includes clearing and grading permit requirements contained in the Phase I Permit with the purpose of minimizing impacts of construction projects on the environment.

DRAFT

SECTION 2 – MAPPING (S5.C.2)

PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

The Permit requires King County to maintain a mapping program to map the MS4 and relevant characteristics to support the SWMP.

The Permit section contained below has been edited for length. The permit section in its entirety may be found at https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/ezshare/wq/permits/MS4_2024_Phase%20I_FinalPermit.pdf.

DRAFT

S5.C.2 MS4 Mapping and Documentation

a. Ongoing Mapping: Each Permittee shall maintain mapping data for the features listed below:

- i. Known MS4 outfalls and known MS4 discharge points.*
- ii. Receiving waters, other than groundwater.*
- iii. Stormwater treatment and flow control BMPs/facilities owned or operated by the Permittee...*
- iv. Geographic areas served by the Permittee's MS4 that do not discharge stormwater to surface waters.*
- v. Tributary conveyances to all known outfalls and discharge points... For counties, this requirement applies to urban/higher density rural sub-basins...*
- vi. Connections between the MS4 owned or operated by the Permittee and other municipalities or other public entities.*
- vii. All connections to the MS4 authorized or allowed by the Permittee after February 16, 2007.*
- viii. Existing connections greater than or equal to 8 inches in nominal diameter to tributary conveyances...*
- ix. All known connections from the MS4 to a privately owned stormwater system.*

b. New Mapping:

- i. No later than March 31, 2026, Permittees shall submit locations of all known MS4 outfalls...*
- ii. No later than December 31, 2026, using available, existing data, map tree canopy to support stormwater management on Permittee-owned or operated properties. Permittees shall develop and follow a methodology to intentionally identify canopy for stormwater management purposes, which may be updated annually or as needed.*
- iii. No later than March 31, 2028, implement a methodology to map and assess acreage of MS4 tributary basins to outfalls with 24-in nominal diameter or larger, or an equivalent cross-sectional area for non-pipe systems that have stormwater treatment and flow control BMPs/facilities owned or operated by the Permittee. Submit with the March 31, 2028 Annual Report a map and table with a breakdown of MS4 tributary basins quantifying estimated acres managed or unmanaged by stormwater treatment and flow control BMPs/facilities owned or operated by the Permittee.*
- iv. No later than December 31, 2028, using available, existing data, map overburdened communities in relation to stormwater treatment and flow control BMPs/facilities, outfalls, discharge points, and tree canopy on Permittee-owned or operated properties.*
- v. No later than December 31, 2028, Counties shall complete mapping tributary conveyances, as described in S5.C.2.a.v, for the areas outside the previously mapped urban/higher density rural sub-basins.*

CURRENT AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES

King County regularly updates and maintains the mapping features contained in S5.C.2.a and has procedures in place to add features as they are constructed or discovered.

King County maintains a program that identifies new connections to the MS4 through the building permit records process at DLS Permits. The permit review requires submittal of electronic copies of newly constructed drainage systems that will be turned over to King County post-construction. Private

connections allowed under new permits are manually added to the County's MS4 mapping data set by SWSS staff.

As the data owner, mapping requirements are primarily coordinated by King County's Water and Land Resources (WLRD) Data and Analytics (DnA) Team (housed in the Division Director's Office), as an effort by Roads Division, Parks Division, King County International Airport, WLRD Stormwater Services Section, and others. The infrastructure is typically mapped by the agency owners or DnA into a single database used to centralize the County's MS4 mapping data. Any capital or maintenance activities conducted by county agencies that change the character of the MS4 are reported to DnA to be included in the central database.

King County has mapped known outfalls and will submit locations to Ecology prior to the 2026 deadline.

King County has mapped tributary conveyances to, and including, all known outfalls and discharge points within the urban/higher density rural sub-basins. Ongoing mapping of the rural basins is on track to be completed prior to the December 31, 2028 deadline.

King County has assessed and mapped tree canopy on County-owned properties. SWSS and DnA staff will develop a methodology to identify canopy for stormwater management purposes and update the mapping accordingly.

King County is in the process of developing and refining a methodology to map and assess acreage of MS4 tributary basins for non-pipe systems that have stormwater treatment and flow control BMPs/facilities a map and table can be submitted by the March 31, 2028 deadline.

Program planning efforts are under way to ensure that mapping requirements for tree canopy, acreage treated, and overburdened communities are completed prior to permit deadlines.

The County uses the required format for mapping efforts. Mapping requests should be addressed to:

Stormwater Phase I Permit Coordinator
King County Dept of Natural Resources and Parks
201 South Jackson Street, Suite 6300
Seattle, WA 98104

or by email at stormwater@kingcounty.gov.

SECTION 3 – COORDINATION (S5.C.3)

PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

The Phase I Permit requires King County to have coordination mechanisms in place to eliminate barriers to compliance for both internal agencies and external partners (such as other Permittees within the same watershed).

The Permit section contained below has been edited for length. The permit section in its entirety may be found at https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/ezshare/wq/permits/MS4_2024_Phase%20I_FinalPermit.pdf.

S5.C.3 Coordination

The SWMP shall include coordination mechanisms among departments within each jurisdiction to eliminate barriers to compliance with the terms of this Permit.

The SWMP shall also include coordination mechanisms among entities covered under a municipal stormwater NPDES permit to encourage coordinated stormwater-related policies, programs, and projects within a watershed. Permittees shall document their efforts to establish the required coordination mechanisms.

Minimum performance measures:

- a. Update, if needed, and implement an intra-governmental (internal) coordination agreement(s) or Executive Directive(s) to facilitate compliance with the terms of this Permit. Permittees that update their agreement(s) shall include a written description of internal coordination mechanisms in the Annual Report, due no later than March 31, 2025.*
- b. The SWMP shall include, when needed, coordination mechanisms among entities covered under a municipal stormwater NPDES permit to encourage coordinated stormwater-related policies, programs, and projects within adjoining or shared areas...*

CURRENT AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES

King County addresses the coordination requirements in a variety of ways.

Internal Coordination

An order, signed by the County Executive, establishes the mechanism by which the various entities of County government participate in permit compliance. The order that originally took effect November 20, 2007 was superseded by a new order on June 10, 2014, which is still in effect, and may be read at:

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/about/policies/executive/utilitiesaeo/put8191aeo.aspx>.

As directed by the executive order, King County designated a Municipal Permit Coordinator for the County and a Municipal Permit Lead in each agency subject to the requirements of the Permit. The

Coordinator and Leads collaborate to ensure that each agency understands the impact of Permit requirements on their operations.

The Executive Order will be updated in 2025.

The Coordinator and Leads work on development of standardized approaches to permit compliance. Permit deliverables, such as the Annual Report and SWMP Plan, are prepared by the Permit Coordinator and includes information provided by Permit Leads to ensure accuracy and understanding of permit requirements as well as how Permit and Program Leads/Managers implement their programs. The Permit Leads, Program Managers and the Permit Coordinator meet regularly to discuss, train, schedule, implement and resolve impediments to permit requirements.

External Coordination

King County is instrumental in convening, supporting, and participating in numerous regional forums that develop and implement collaborative stormwater management programs. King County is an active participant in the following forums:

1. Regional Operations and Maintenance Program (ROADMAP)
2. The Regional Phase I and II Permit Coordinators Forums
3. Stormwater Managers Committee of the Washington State Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA)
4. Ecology's Water Quality Partnership
5. Stormwater Work Group (SWG)/ Stormwater Action Monitoring (SAM)
6. Salmon Recovery forums in Water Resource Inventory Areas (WRIAs) 7, 8 and 9, and 10.
7. Inter-Agency Team (TMDL implementation)
8. Issue specific committees such as the Nutrient Forum
9. Stormwater Outreach for Regional Municipalities (STORM)
10. Puget Sound Partnership, Stormwater Initiative Advisory Team (SIAT), South Central Local Integrating Organization (LIO)
11. Business Inspection Group (BIG), a consortium of Phase I and Phase II Source Control Programs.
12. Regional Road Maintenance ESA Program
13. 6PPDQ work groups
14. North Sound PIC (Pollution Identification and Correction) group
15. Peer to Peer PIC group on the Enumclaw Plateau
16. Our Green/Duwamish

The participation and relationships established within these groups form the basis for the timely coordination mechanisms and coordinated activities required by the Permit.

With the inclusion of Stormwater Management for Existing Development requirements for Phase II jurisdictions, King County is actively pursuing opportunities to partner with other Permittees to complete projects that benefit multiple jurisdictions within a watershed.

SECTION 4 – PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND PARTICIPATION (S5.C.4)

PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

The Phase I Permit recognizes the importance of public participation in a SWMP. King County welcomes participation from the communities we serve and ensures that information on the SWMP, such as the SWMP Plan and the Annual Report, are available on the King County website.

The Permit section contained below has been edited for length. The permit section in its entirety may be found at https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/ezshare/wg/permits/MS4_2024_Phase%20I_FinalPermit.pdf.

S5.C.4 Public Involvement and Participation

Permittees shall provide ongoing opportunities for public involvement and participation in the Permittee's SWMP and implementation priorities through advisory councils, public hearings, watershed committees, participation in developing rate-structures or other similar activities. Each Permittee shall comply with applicable state and local public notice requirements when developing elements of the SWMP and SMAP.

Minimum performance measures:

a. Permittees shall create opportunities for the public, including overburdened communities, to participate in the decision-making processes involving the development, implementation, and update of the Permittee's SWMP and SMAP (SMAP applies to counties). Permittees shall document specific outreach measures for overburdened communities...

b. Each Permittee shall post on their website their SWMP Plan and the Annual Report, required under S9.A, no later than May 31 each year. All other submittals shall be available to the public upon request.

CURRENT AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES

King County launched a new public involvement effort in 2024 focusing on the communities of Skyway and White Center. SWSS hired a public engagement staff member and is working with local community coalitions, collaborating across King County divisions, and other agencies who are engaging with underserved and overburdened communities; communications consultants to connect with community members and craft messaging that is relevant to the residents of these areas. In November 2024 King County held an Ethnic Media Tour event and invited representatives from non-English speaking media to tour stormwater features in Renton and discuss how stormwater impacts the health and wellbeing of their communities. King County is working to translate additional materials into a variety of languages to better reach some of the residents in Skyway and White Center.

In 2025 SWSS will focus on relationship building and outreach to residents of Skyway and White Center and craft messaging relevant to the concerns of residents in these communities. Staff will continue

ongoing outreach to residents and businesses in unincorporated King County to provide opportunities to participate in King County's Stormwater Management Program.

King County has identified the following strategies to improve community engagement:

1. Identify program objectives and purpose to address who, what, when, where, why, and how. Set project parameters and timelines.
2. Identify community interests, concerns, and potential barriers (transportation, childcare, meeting times, etc.).
3. Foster relationships through dialogue. Seek a variety of lived experiences, cultural expertise, and knowledge of their community. Use a trained facilitator for community meetings and events.
4. Identify culturally competent community engagement activities and meetings. Provide refreshments, culturally relevant foods, appropriate and inclusive engagement providing a sense of safety (emotionally, physically, spiritually), provide space for open dialogue, and encourage inclusive conversation.
5. Create clear communications through an outreach/marketing plan that effectively engages with communities. Create accessible content that includes multi-lingual materials, improve digital accessibility, and in-person translators.
6. Monitor metrics to ensure they are aligning with original intent. Continually check feedback and response metrics in order to adjust strategies in real-time.
7. Share outcomes and findings with communities, as well as how their impact changed the original plans, to ensure accountability and increase trust.

King County invites public comment on the SWMP Plan as part of the annual update process. Comments are received through the website, by mail, and via social media. All feedback during the public comment period is reviewed and considered prior to finalization of the SWMP Plan.

In addition to input received during the public comment period, King County welcomes feedback year-round. Comments may be emailed to stormwater@kingcounty.gov or mailed to:

Stormwater Phase I Permit Coordinator
King County Dept of Natural Resources and Parks
201 S. Jackson St., Ste 6300
Seattle, WA 98104

King County also engages the public in decision-making processes when it comes to siting, construction, and maintenance of County-initiated capital projects. Public input was sought during the stormwater related updates to the 2024 Comprehensive Plan. The Critical Areas Ordinance is currently undergoing an update and has included opportunities for public participation.

King County will post the final SWMP Plan and the Annual Report to the website no later than May 31st each year. The SWMP Plan and Annual Report may be found at

<https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dnrp/nature-recreation/environment-ecology-conservation/stormwater-surface-water-management/stormwater-management-program/stormwater->

[management-program-plan](#). Other submittals related to the Permit are available upon request by sending an email to stormwater@kingcounty.gov.

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SECTION 5 – CONTROLLING RUNOFF FROM NEW DEVELOPMENT, REDEVELOPMENT, AND CONSTRUCTION SITES (S5.C.5)

PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

King County has developed and implemented the King County Surface Water Design Manual (SWDM) to guide development and construction activities in unincorporated King County. The SWDM contains the requirements and standards for designing surface and stormwater management systems to mitigate the impacts of new development and redevelopment on natural and existing man-made drainage systems. The SWDM also addresses stormwater protections for construction activities.

The Permit section contained below has been edited for length. The permit section in its entirety may be found at https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/ezshare/wq/permits/MS4_2024_Phase%20I_FinalPermit.pdf.

S5.C.5 Controlling Runoff from New Development, Redevelopment, and Construction Sites

The SWMP shall include a program to prevent and control the impacts of runoff from new development, redevelopment, and construction activities. The program shall apply to private and public development, including transportation projects.

Minimum performance measures:

- a. Each Permittee shall continue to implement existing programs...*
- b.iii. Ecology review and determination of the local manuals and ordinances to be functionally equivalent is required. The Permittee shall submit draft enforceable requirements, technical standards, and a manual that corresponds to updates identified in Appendix 10, Part 2, to Ecology no later than July 1, 2025...*
- b.iv. No later than July 1, 2026, each Permittee shall adopt and make effective a local program that meets the requirements in S5.C.5.b.i through ii. Manuals and ordinances determined to be functionally equivalent to Appendix 1 and the SWMMWW under this Section will be listed in Appendix 10, Part 3, following a permit modification.*
- b.vi. The program shall include a permitting process with site plan review, inspection, and enforcement capability to meet the following standards for both public and private projects...*

CURRENT AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES

King County developed the Surface Water Design Manual to comply with Phase I Permit requirements. The 2021 SWDM was accepted by Ecology and included in Appendix 10 of the Permit as an equivalent manual to Ecology's 2019 Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington (SWMMWW). The 2021 SWDM was amended in 2024 and may be found at <https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dnrp/nature-recreation/environment-ecology-conservation/stormwater-surface-water-management/surface-water-design-manual/surface-water-design-manual-2021-amended-2024>. SWSS staff are developing the

SWDM updates to comply with new permit requirements and will submit a draft of the changes to Ecology prior to July 1, 2025.

King County's SWDM is the backbone of the program to prevent and control the impacts of runoff from new development, redevelopment and construction activities. However, there are other documents and ordinances that support stormwater development and construction regulations. The Stormwater Pollution Prevention Manual (SPPM) provides best management practices for managing stormwater on commercial, multi-family, and residential properties. The program is also supported by several sections of King County Code, including:

- KCC 9.04 Surface Water Runoff Policy
- KCC 9.08 Water Quality
- KCC 16.82 Clearing and Grading
- KCC 21A.24 Critical Areas

King County Code may be accessed at <https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/council/governance-leadership/county-legislation-codes/king-county-code>.

The permitting process for development and redevelopment projects is housed in DLS Permits. DLS Permits will continue to implement stormwater site plan review, inspections prior to clearing and construction, inspections during construction and prior to final approval, as well as other activities within this section. DLS Permit flow charts may be found in *Appendix A – King County DLS Permit Flow Charts*.

For proposed projects that may trigger additional requirements from Ecology, DLS Permits provides links to applicable programs. Examples include information on the Construction Stormwater General Permit for projects that disturb more than one acre, Industrial Stormwater General Permit for industrial activity, and registration information for Underground Injection Control wells.

Training requirements under S5.C.5 are discussed in the Training Program section of the SWMP Plan.

SECTION 6 – STORMWATER PLANNING (S5.C.6)

PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

Stormwater Planning requirements in the Permit encompass three primary topics: coordination with long-range plan updates, low impact development code-related requirements (including tree canopy goals), and Stormwater Management Action Planning.

The Permit section contained below has been edited for length. The permit section in its entirety may be found at https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/ezshare/wg/permits/MS4_2024_Phase%20I_FinalPermit.pdf.

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S5.C.6 Stormwater Planning

Minimum performance measures:

a. Each Permittee shall continue to convene an inter-disciplinary team to inform and assist in the development, progress, and influence of this program.

b. Coordination with long-range plan updates.

i. Each Permittee shall describe how stormwater management needs and protection/improvement of receiving water health are (or are not) informing the long-range or comprehensive planning update processes and influencing policies and implementation strategies in their jurisdiction in the Annual Report, due March 31, 2027...

c. Low Impact Development (LID) code-related requirements.

i. Permittees shall continue to require LID Principles and LID BMPs when updating, revising, and developing new local development-related codes rules, standards, or other enforceable documents, as needed... Annually each Permittee shall assess and document any newly identified administrative or regulatory barriers to implementation of LID Principles or LID BMPs...

ii. No later than December 31, 2028, adopt and implement tree canopy goals and policies to support stormwater management... Specific considerations related to canopy for stormwater management on Permittee-owned or operated lands shall include (but are not limited to):

- Maintaining or increasing canopy in overburdened communities*
- Maintaining existing mature canopy.*

d. Stormwater Management Action Planning

No later than March 31, 2027, each county Permittee shall develop a Stormwater Management Action Plan (SMAP) for a new single sub-basin or catchment area... The SMAP shall identify:

- Specific short-term actions (i.e., actions or projects to be accomplished within six years).*
- Specific long-term actions (i.e., actions or projects to be accomplished within seven to 20 years).*
- Land management/development strategies and/or actions needed for water quality management...*
- Focused, enhanced, or customized implementation of stormwater management actions related to Permit sections within S5...*
- Include a description of the stormwater facility retrofits needed for the area...*
- A revised and updated implementation schedule and budget sources.*
- Actions that will benefit overburdened communities, including specifically Vulnerable Populations and Highly Impacted Communities.*

CURRENT AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES

King County has created an interdisciplinary team described in *Section 2 – Coordination*. The interdisciplinary team is comprised of a permit lead from each agency with requirements under the Permit and led by the Permit Coordinator.

Long-Range Plan Updates

King County SWSS reviews and contributes to relevant long-range plan updates to ensure stormwater management practices are included for the protection and improvement of receiving water health. SWSS also influences policies and implementation strategies in King County. Through this coordination, water quality and watershed protection policies, strategies, codes, and other measures that have potential to support and/or have direct intention to protect and improve local receiving water health are reviewed and updated as needed.

SWSS continues to work closely with a team updating the King County Critical Areas Ordinance and the Comprehensive Plan. Through this collaboration, SWSS ensures consistency with the SWDM and can assess impacts to various stormwater programs and goals.

Low Impact Development Code-Related Requirements

King County will continue to require LID Principles and LID BMPs when updating, revising, and developing new County codes, rules, standards, or other enforceable documents.

The SWDM requires projects that trigger Core R9 (LID Flow Control BMPs) to provide flow control LID BMPs for targeted surfaces to the maximum extent feasible and to document feasibility determinations. In addition to requiring LID BMPs implemented to the maximum extent feasible, the SWDM also requires minimum levels of LID BMP implementation and provides alternative BMPs that are not dependent on on-site feasibility to use if minimums can't be achieved by standard BMPs due to site conditions. These alternative BMPs for use in meeting King County's minimum implementation levels, when standard BMPs are not feasible, include native vegetation preservation, reduced impervious footprints, and in lieu fees (program under development). These minimum LID BMP requirements go above and beyond the Ecology stormwater management manual requirements.

Effective November 14, 2024, King County added bioretention designs to the 2021 KC Surface Water Design Manual for water quality treatment and onsite flow mitigation utilizing Ecology approved 'high performance bioretention mixes'.

King County's development related codes, rules, standards, and enforceable documents are designed to minimize impervious surfaces, vegetation loss, and stormwater runoff in all types of development situations, where feasible.

King County continues to review processes and regulations to identify, document, and correct any barriers to implementation of LID Principles and LID BMPs.

Assessment of King County's tree canopy, particularly in overburdened communities, is ongoing. SWSS staff will identify priorities for retention and expansion of tree canopy to support stormwater management. Staff will document the process and the resulting goals and policies in a report to be submitted no later than December 31, 2028.

Stormwater Management Action Planning

King County completed a Stormwater Management Action Plan (SMAP) for the Bear Creek Basin during the 2019-2024 permit cycle. To meet the requirements of the current permit cycle King County has chosen to create a new SMAP focused on the Taylor Creek subbasin in the Skyway area.

Staff will continue to research projects for the Skyway area, looking for both short- and long-term actions to improve water quality in the basin, as well as identifying potential stormwater retrofit projects. Community engagement will be a central piece of the SMAP process. Community engagement staff intend to partner with local community organizations to identify priority stormwater actions. King County has also been working with local media outlets, particularly small communications firms focusing on non-English speaking community members, to identify priorities within the community and craft messaging that is relevant to the residents of Skyway. The Skyway area contains overburdened communities and feedback from the community will help prioritize the projects.

As the SMAP process proceeds, staff will pursue opportunities for customized implementation of the SWMP Plan for the Skyway basin and build an implementation schedule with budgeted sources.

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SECTION 7 – STORMWATER MANAGEMENT FOR EXISTING DEVELOPMENT

PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

Stormwater Management for Existing Development (SMED) requires King County to look at development that occurred prior to current standards and identify retrofits and improvements to address the impacts of stormwater. This section was previously named Structural Stormwater Controls.

The Permit section contained below has been edited for length. The permit section in its entirety may be found at https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/ezshare/wg/permits/MS4_2024_Phase%20I_FinalPermit.pdf.

55.C.7 Stormwater Management for Existing Development

Each Permittee shall implement a Stormwater Management for Existing Development Program (SMED) to prevent or reduce impacts to waters of the State caused by discharges from the MS4. Impacts that shall be addressed include disturbances to watershed hydrology and stormwater pollutant discharges. (This program component was formerly called Structural Stormwater Controls.)

The program shall consider impacts caused by stormwater discharges from areas of existing development; including runoff from highways, streets and roads owned or operated by the Permittee; and areas of new development, where impacts are anticipated as development occurs.

- a. The program shall address impacts that are not adequately controlled by the other required actions of the SWMP...*
- b. Each Permittee's SWMP Plan shall describe the SMED Program...*
- c. With each Annual Report, each Permittee shall provide a list of planned, individual projects scheduled for implementation during this Permit term...*
- d. Each Permittee shall achieve 1,000 SMED Program Points no later than March 31, 2028...*

CURRENT AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES

King County has an existing SMED program to prevent or reduce impacts from stormwater to local waterways. The SMED program focuses on impacts that are not addressed under other actions of the SWMP. SMED project types include:

- New flow control facilities
- New treatment (or treatment and flow control) facilities
- New LID BMPs
- Retrofit of existing treatment and/or flow control facilities
- Maintenance with capital construction costs \geq \$25,000
- Property acquisition for water quality and/or flow control benefits (not associated with future facilities)
- Restoration of riparian buffers
- Restoration of forest cover

- Floodplain reconnection projects on water bodies that are not flow control exempt per Appendix 1 of the Phase I Permit
- Permanent removal of impervious surfaces.
- Street sweeping (beyond Permit requirements)
- Line cleaning
- Watershed collaboration

The SMED Program Points are distributed between Design Report stage and Constructed or Completed Maintenance stage. A minimum of 400 points must come from Constructed or Completed Maintenance stage projects, with at least 275 of those points coming from new facilities or LID BMPs, retrofits of existing facilities or maintenance with costs \geq \$25,000.

SWSS staff are actively identifying projects for the current and future permit cycles and partnering with other King County agencies as well as other Permittees on regional facilities.

A detailed description of the SMED Program, including SMED Program goals, the planning process and the current list of projects scheduled for implementation, may be found in *Appendix B – Stormwater Management for Existing Development List of Planned/Individual Projects for Permit Term*.

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SECTION 8 – SOURCE CONTROL PROGRAM FOR EXISTING DEVELOPMENT (S5.C.8)

PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

The King County Source Control Program works with local businesses to improve onsite practices with the goal of preventing pollution and protecting water quality.

The Permit section contained below has been edited for length. The permit section in its entirety may be found at https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/ezshare/wq/permits/MS4_2024_Phase%20I_FinalPermit.pdf.

S5.C.8 Source Control Program for Existing Development

The Permittee shall implement a program to reduce pollutants in runoff from areas of existing development that discharge to the MS4. The program shall include application of source control BMPs, inspections, and enforcement.

Minimum performance measures:

- a. *Permittees shall enforce ordinance(s), or other enforceable documents, requiring the application of source control BMPs for pollutant generating sources associated with existing land uses and activities...*
- b. *Permittees shall continue to implement a program to identify publicly and privately owned institutional, commercial, and industrial sites which have the potential to generate pollutants to the Permittee's MS4. The Permittee shall update the inventory at least once every 5 years.*
- c. *Permittees shall continue to implement an inspection program, performed by qualified personnel, for sites identified pursuant to S5C.8.b, above.*
 - i. *All identified sites with a business address shall be provided, by mail, telephone, electronic communications, or in-person, information about activities that may generate pollutants and the source control requirements applicable...*
 - ii. *The Permittee shall annually complete the number of inspections equal to 20% of the businesses and or sites listed in their source control inventory to assess BMP effectiveness and compliance with source control requirements...*
 - iii. *Each Permittee shall inspect 100% of sites identified through credible complaints...*
- d. *Permittee shall implement a progressive enforcement policy to require sites to come into compliance within a reasonable time period...*

CURRENT AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES

King County's Source Control Program identifies multifamily, commercial, and industrial sites that are potentially pollutant generating. On identified sites, the Source Control Program inspects structural and operational BMPs and onsite conveyance systems to ensure that the appropriate source control BMPs are employed and properly maintained. If BMPs are lacking or inadequate, verbal or written notice is

provided along with technical assistance, detailing what must be done to achieve compliance. Failure to comply will trigger progressive enforcement.

King County developed the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Manual (SPPM) to provide BMPs for managing stormwater on commercial, multi-family, and residential properties. The SPPM identifies potentially polluting activities and actions to take to reduce the contamination of stormwater, surface water, and groundwater. The SPPM was updated in July 2021 and is available online at <https://your.kingcounty.gov/dnrp/library/water-and-land/stormwater/stormwater-pollution-prevention-manual/2021-stormwater-pollution-prevention-manual.pdf>. The SPPM is used along with KCC Chapter 9 for enforcement of the Source Control Program.

Information on pollution prevention practices is provided in person during the site inspection, or if no one is present, by mail. This allows staff to customize the information to the needs of each site. Sites that do not get inspected during the permit cycle will receive information in the mail about activities that may generate pollutants and applicable source control requirements. This information is also available on King County's website at www.kingcounty.gov/sppm.

King County's current business inventory for the Source Control Program is approximately 1,860 businesses and/or sites. The inventory was developed using the categories found in Appendix 8 of the Permit and is updated regularly. Staff use a combination of historical inspection and complaint records, information available through the King County Department of Assessments, map review, and field inspections to determine potential pollutant generating sites within unincorporated King County. Properties that are owned by the County and have the potential to produce pollutants are included in this inventory.

SWSS uses CityWorks software to track inspections. This software allows staff to rate businesses according to compliance history and potential to pollute. This rating is used to determine inspection frequency, resulting in businesses with higher risk and/or poor compliance history being inspected on a more frequent basis. Records of inspection results, site photos, and correspondence are stored in CityWorks. There are activity logs for each site, which document inspection dates, contacts, illicit connections, referrals to other agencies, etc.

Staff complete upwards of 372 Source Control inspections every year (20% of the 1,860 businesses in the inventory). Annexations may occur within King County over the next few years. Combined with addition of new businesses and the closing of other businesses, there is some fluctuation in the number of businesses in King County from year to year. Staff do an annual analysis to determine the 20% inspection goal. Additional inspections occur through credible complaints received by King County. All credible complaints are investigated by SWSS staff and responses are tracked in Cityworks.

Staff have a progressive enforcement policy for sites that are not in compliance. Inspectors work with property owners, tenants, and business owners to address deficiencies onsite. Assistance may include vouchers for personal protective equipment, spill kits, and waste disposal; providing written materials—such as activity specific required pollution prevention practices, and spill prevention and cleanup plans; facilitating conversations between property owners and tenants; and additional follow-up as needed.

This collaborative approach is typically successful. In the instance where compliance is not achieved additional enforcement actions can be taken. A detailed description of King County’s progressive enforcement approach may be found in *Appendix C: NPDES Source Control Inspection Program – Site List Development and Modification and Progressive Enforcement Process*.

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SECTION 9 – ILLICIT CONNECTIONS AND ILLICIT DISCHARGES DETECTION AND ELIMINATION

PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

An illicit discharge is any discharge to the storm system that is not stormwater or a list of allowable or conditionally allowable discharges contained in the Phase I Permit. Illicit discharges may come from a variety of sources, including illicit connections, illegal dumping, sanitary sewer overflow, and incidental spills such as oil or gas.

The Permit section contained below has been edited for length. The permit section in its entirety may be found at https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/ezshare/wg/permits/MS4_2024_Phase%20I_FinalPermit.pdf.

55.C.9 Illicit Connections and Illicit Discharges Detection and Elimination

The SWMP shall include an ongoing program designed to prohibit non-stormwater discharges, prevent, detect, characterize, trace, and eliminate illicit connections and illicit discharges into the MS4.

Minimum performance measures:

- a. *The program shall include procedures for reporting and correcting or removing illicit connections, spills, and other illicit discharges when they are suspected or identified. The program shall also include procedures for addressing pollutants entering the MS4 from an interconnected, adjoining MS4.
Illicit connections and illicit discharges shall be identified through field screening, inspections, complaints/reports, construction inspections, maintenance inspections, source control inspections, and/or monitoring information, as appropriate.*
- ...
- b. *ii. Conditionally Allowable Discharges: The ordinance or other regulatory mechanism may allow the following categories of non-stormwater discharges only if the stated conditions are met...*
- c. *Each Permittee shall implement an ongoing program designed to detect and identify non-stormwater discharges and illicit connections into the Permittee's MS4...*
- d. *Each Permittee shall implement an ongoing program designed to address illicit discharges, including spills and illicit connections, into the Permittee's MS4...*
- e. *Permittees shall train staff who are responsible for identification, investigation, termination, cleanup, and reporting of illicit discharges...*
- f. *Each Permittee shall either participate in a regional emergency response program or develop and implement procedures to investigate and respond to spills and improper disposal into the MS4 owned or operated by the Permittee.*
- g. *Recordkeeping: Each Permittee shall track and maintain records of the activities...*

CURRENT AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES

King County has an ongoing Illicit Connections and Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IC/IDDE) program. This program is designed to identify and address illicit discharges to the MS4. King County has an IC/IDDE Standard Operating Procedure in place that is based on Ecology's Illicit Connection and Illicit Discharge Field Screening and Source Tracing Guidance Manual – May 2020 Revision and tailored to King County's specific characteristics.

KCC Title 9 provides the regulatory authority to prohibit non-stormwater discharges to the MS4. Other supporting regulatory documents include KCC 16.82 Clearing and Grading, King County's Surface Water Design Manual, and King County's Stormwater Pollution Prevention Manual.

King County agencies that own and maintain their own stormwater infrastructure do field screening of their systems as part of their annual catch basin inspections. The catch basin inspection process includes checking for signs of recent construction activity, unwarranted flow through the stormwater system, and other signs of possible illicit discharges or illicit connections. If any such items are discovered, further investigations are performed.

King County field staff are trained to identify and report suspected illicit discharges to the storm system.

King County also inspects known stormwater outfalls and other locations where stormwater leaves the MS4 in the Puyallup-White River, Bear/Evans Creek and Issaquah Creek (fecal coliform TMDL) drainage basins. If flow is encountered, a grab sample is taken for bacteria analysis, per the requirements found in Appendix 2 of the Phase I municipal NPDES permit. If signs of other illicit discharges (besides bacterial discharges) are encountered, these are investigated as appropriate.

King County provides a variety of options for the public to report suspected illicit discharges. Options include:

- SWSS Water Quality hotline at 206-477-4811
- Roads 24-hour hotline at 206-477-8100 or 800-KCROADS
- Illegal Dumping Hotline at 206-296-SITE or 866-431-7483
- DLS Permits inspector contact information is posted on signage at each development project site that has obtained a permit.
- Online illegal dumping reporting at <http://your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/cleanup/report-dumping.asp>
- Online report form for drainage and water quality problems at <http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/waterandland/stormwater/problem-investigation-line/report-form.aspx>
- Direct contact between King County staff and a member of the public
- Referrals from other King County Departments/Divisions/Agencies

SWSS will continue coordination among King County agencies around proper response, tracking, and reporting of spills and improper disposal into King County's MS4. Recordkeeping for IC/IDDE

investigations is handled by the responding agency and submitted to SWSS for annual reporting purposes.

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SECTION 10 – OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PROGRAM (S5.C.10)

PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

The County's Operations and Maintenance Program provides the framework for inspection and maintenance activities for the MS4.

The Permit section contained below has been edited for length. The permit section in its entirety may be found at https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/ezshare/wq/permits/MS4_2024_Phase%20I_FinalPermit.pdf.

S5.C.10 Operation and Maintenance Program

Each Permittee shall implement and document a program to regulate maintenance activities and to conduct maintenance activities by the Permittee to prevent or reduce stormwater impacts.

Minimum performance measures:

- a. *Maintenance Standards. Each Permittee shall implement maintenance standards that are as protective, or more protective, of facility function than those specified in the Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington, or a Phase I program approved by Ecology...*
- b. *Maintenance of stormwater facilities regulated by the Permittee...*
 - ii. *Each Permittee shall annually inspect all stormwater facilities regulated by the Permittee to enforce compliance with adopted maintenance standards...*
 - iv. *Compliance with the inspection requirements of S5C.10.b.ii, above, shall be determined by... achieving at least 80% of required inspections annually.*
- c. *Maintenance of stormwater facilities owned or operated by the Permittee:*
 - i. *Each Permittee shall implement a program to annually inspect all stormwater treatment and flow control BMPs/facilities owned or operated by the Permittee...*
 - ii. *Permittees may reduce the inspection frequency based on maintenance records of double the length of time of the proposed inspection frequency...*
 - iii. *Each Permittee shall implement a program to conduct spot checks of potentially damaged stormwater treatment and flow control BMPs/facilities after major storm events...*
 - iv. *Compliance with the inspection requirements of S5.C.10.c.,i, and ii, above, shall be determined by... achieving at least 95% of required inspections annually.*
- d. *Maintenance of Catch Basins Owned or Operated by the Permittee*
 - i. *Each Permittee shall annually inspect all catch basins and inlets owned or operated by the Permittee, or implement alternatives below...*
 - iii. *Compliance with the inspections requirements of S5.C.10.d.i, above, shall be determined by... achieving at least 95% of required inspections.*
- e. *Each Permittee shall implement practices, policies, and procedures to reduce stormwater impacts associated with runoff from all lands owned or maintained by the Permittee, and road maintenance activities under the functional control of the Permittee...*
- f. *No later than July 1, 2027, develop and implement a municipal street sweeping program to focus on priority areas and times during the year...*

- g. *Implement a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for all heavy equipment maintenance or storage yards, and material storage facilities owned or operated by the Permittee...*

CURRENT AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES

King County's Operation and Maintenance Program spans multiple agencies in King County. Each agency is responsible for inspection and maintenance of stormwater infrastructure they own or operate.

Maintenance Standards

King County's Surface Water Design Manual sets forth the maintenance standards for stormwater facilities and catch basins in King County. The SWDM implemented maintenance standards that are as protective, or more protective, of facility functions per permit prescribed time frames:

- a. Within 1 year for typical maintenance of facilities, except catch basins.
- b. Within 6 months for catch basins.
- c. Within 2 years for maintenance that requires capital construction of less than \$25,000.

King County maintenance standards may be found in Appendix A of the SWDM at <https://your.kingcounty.gov/dnrp/library/water-and-land/stormwater/surface-water-design-manual/2021/amended-2024/2021-kcswdm-amended-2024-appendix-a-maintenance-requirements.pdf>.

Inspection and Maintenance of Stormwater Facilities Regulated by King County

King County inspects privately owned stormwater treatment and flow control facilities under KCC 9.04 and KCC 9.12. Developers are required to record easements and covenants providing the County with right-of-entry and inspection of private drainage and stormwater control systems during the development process.

Stormwater facilities regulated by King County are inspected in the following manner:

- Half of the private commercial facility inventory is visited by an inspector to confirm full compliance based on the maintenance standards in the SWDM.
- The other half of the private commercial facilities regulated by King County complete a self-certified inspection in which they confirm full functionality of all facilities and catch basins on their property.

For properties with a history of consistent compliance, the inspection frequency may be reduced based on maintenance records, in line with Permit requirements.

If any deficiencies are discovered, a Maintenance Correction Letter is sent, giving the property owner sufficient time to correct the problem. The property owner notifies SWSS when the work has been completed. Progressive enforcement will be used when maintenance is not completed within the timelines specified by the County. See *Appendix D: Progressive Enforcement Process* for an overview of King County's approach to progressive enforcement.

King County achieves a minimum of 80% of the required inspections for regulated facilities.

Inspection and Maintenance of King County Owned Stormwater Facilities

King County inspects and maintains infrastructure across multiple agencies. Each agency is responsible for inspection and maintenance of stormwater facilities they own or operate. Agency staff conduct annual inspections and coordinate maintenance and repair activities as necessary, as well as perform spot checks after large rain events.

Stormwater Services Section

SWSS is responsible for inspection and maintaining approximately 1,100 county-owned facilities in unincorporated King County and cities with which the County contracts. County-owned facilities with consistent compliance may be eligible for a phased inspection (reduced inspection schedule).

Facilities with a reduced inspection schedule are inspected on a two year cycle, while problematic sites undergo annual inspection and maintenance activities. The two-year frequency is based on maintenance records kept in the County's CityWorks asset management system.

When inspections of County facilities identify an exceedance of a maintenance standard the work is scheduled and completed within the one-year timeline required by the Permit.

Newly constructed facilities accepted by King County are inspected on a more regular basis for the first four years. Residential facilities, facilities built through a plat development process, undergo a maintenance and defect bond (M&D), and are accepted at the end of the M&D period into King County ownership. The process for residential facilities added to the inventory is:

1. Facilities are inspected quarterly for a minimum of two years under M&D until all maintenance and defect issues are addressed by the developer and the facility is accepted into County ownership and the stormwater maintenance program.
2. Facilities are subsequently inspected annually for two additional years.
3. Starting in year four, if supported by inspection data, inspections are scheduled every two years.
 - a. When a facility is identified as a problem site, it moves to annual inspections until otherwise resolved.

In 2025 SWSS will continue implementing the above inspection schedule.

Other Agencies

SWSS oversees the majority of King County stormwater facilities. Other agencies are responsible for the infrastructure they own. The following agencies complete inspection and maintenance activities under the Phase I Permit requirements:

- Facilities Management Division
- Parks Division
- Roads

The following agencies maintain their stormwater infrastructure under both the Phase I Permit and additional stormwater permits issued to the agency:

- Metro Transit
- Wastewater Treatment Division
- Solid Waste Division
- King County International Airport

Maintenance of Catch Basins Owned or Operated by King County

Each custodial agency within King County is responsible for the inspection and maintenance of their respective properties and associated stormwater assets. Different agencies may use different alternative schedules allowed by the Phase I Permit. All maintenance needs identified through inspection are addressed within the timelines established in this section.

Stormwater Services Section

Beginning in 2023 SWSS implemented phased catch basin inspections in the following manner:

1. If inspection of a catch basin indicates that a maintenance standard has not been exceeded, this information is captured in CityWorks.
2. If a maintenance standard has not been exceeded for 4 years, the inspection frequency can be reduced to every 2 years. If a maintenance standard has not been exceeded for 6 years, the inspection frequency can be reduced to every 3 years. This information is tracked in CityWorks, and inspection frequencies are tracked and implemented based on the completed inspections.
3. As soon as a maintenance standard is exceeded for a catch basin, inspection frequency reverts to annually. If a maintenance standard is not exceeded for the next 4 years, the inspection frequency can be reduced to every 2 years, etc.

King County International Airport

To address maintenance challenges related to operating an airport, KCIA uses an alternative approach in accordance with the requirements of this section. KCIA performs enhanced daily mechanical sweeping of paved areas. It has established east, west, and central catch basin cleaning activity circuits and cleans all pipes, ditches, catch basins, and inlets in each circuit once during the permit term. The alternative cleaning schedule repeats every three years. Each circuit drains to a single point. Results of annual stormwater facility inspections, annual IC/IDDE screening, stormwater line/facility cleaning, and daily pavement sweeping show that this frequency is optimal.

KCIA also performs these activities in compliance with its Industrial Stormwater General Permit (ISGP) requirements. ISGP Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan requirements include monthly facility inspections, quarterly stormwater discharge monitoring and reporting, corrective actions, training, and annual reporting. Catch basins are also cleaned on an as-needed basis in accordance with the airport's Spill Response Policy and the occurrence of construction activities. KCIA tenants are also required to clean their catch basins and sweep.

Roads Division

Roads holds the largest catch basin inventory, having responsibility for over 20,000 catch basins in the MS4. Roads inspects catch basins on an annual basis, achieving a minimum of 95% of inspections. Beginning in 2024, Roads implemented the alternative inspection approach for those catch basins that meet the criteria established under S5.C.10.d.i (a.). The inspection program is implemented via an asset management database linked to CityWorks. The program includes annual staff training, completion of inspection checklists, data input into a geospatial database, data quality assurance/quality control, work order generation and requisite maintenance, and documentation of maintenance activities.

Other Agencies

The remaining agencies have relatively smaller catch basin inventories (typically 700 or less). Agency staff inspect all catch basins on an annual basis and conduct maintenance on those that fail to meet maintenance standards found in the SWDM. These agencies include:

- Facilities Management Division
- Parks Division
- Solid Waste Division
- Metro Transit
- Wastewater Treatment Division

Street Sweeping

King County already maintains a regular sweeping schedule of County roads, particularly priority areas included in the Permit such as high traffic streets and streets that serve commercial or industrial land use areas.

Staff will implement appropriate documentation of sweeping activities to submit to Ecology prior to the July 1, 2027 deadline.

Decant Facilities

Roads Division operates a regional stormwater decant station in Renton and satellite decant stations at three other maintenance facilities run by the division. Decant solids are transferred to Cedar Hills Regional Landfill for final disposal. All decant liquids are disposed of at the Renton decant station through the sanitary sewer.

These decant facilities are a key element in the disposal of stormwater waste removed from the County's MS4 during street sweeping and catch basin cleaning activities. All stormwater accepted at these decant stations is disposed of through the sanitary sewer.

Standard Operating Procedures and SWPPPs

King County has established practices for reducing stormwater impacts associated with runoff from parking lots, streets, roads, and highways owned, maintained, or operated by the County.

Custodial agencies (FMD, KCIA, Parks, Roads, SWD, Metro Transit, and WTD) are responsible for developing an inventory of their properties and developing and implementing an inspection and maintenance program.

King County's 2021 Site Management Plan (SiMPla), Stormwater Pollution Prevention Manual, or other agency-developed site-specific manuals developed by custodial agencies are used as the minimum standard for operations and maintenance of properties owned or maintained by King County.

SiMPla is used widely across King County. The plan may be found online at <https://your.kingcounty.gov/dnrp/library/water-and-land/stormwater/stormwater-management-program/2021-SiMPla-Manual.pdf>.

King County properties under other NPDES stormwater permits or function as heavy equipment maintenance or storage yard and/or material storage facilities may have site-specific Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPPs) which are used instead of the SiMPla. A list of agencies with separate NPDES permits may be found on page 7 of this SWMP Plan.

Properties owned by King County are evaluated for the need for a SWPPP. Facility SWPPPs are the responsibility of the agency that operates the facility. The need for SWPPPs at King County properties will continue to be evaluated by the individual agencies and SWSS staff.

Roads Division maintains Phase I Municipal SWPPPs for all Roads heavy equipment maintenance or storage yards (Skykomish, Fall City, and Vashon), and material storage facilities (Lake Youngs) that they own or operate and that are not covered under a separate NPDES stormwater permit.

Underground Injection Control (UIC) Wells

King County has successfully inventoried Underground Injection Control (UIC) structures located within its jurisdiction prior to the February 2026 deadline specified in WAC 173-218. King County is currently assessing the known UIC wells following methods included in Appendix F – Underground Injection Control Well Program. The County is on-track to meet the WAC deadline (February 2028) for assessment of municipally owned UICs.

Training and Recordkeeping

Staff training is addressed in SWMP Plan training section beginning on page 9 of this SWMP Plan.

Stormwater-related inspection and maintenance program records are kept within the responsible agency and shared with SWSS for annual reporting or as requested. All agencies conducting inspections of maintenance activities per permit requirements will continue to track those actions and maintain those records for a period of no less than five years.

SECTION 11 – EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAM (S5.C.11)

PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

The education and outreach program is a critical part of protecting water quality in King County. The SWMP includes a range of educational approaches as well as a behavior change program.

The Permit section contained below has been edited for length. The permit section in its entirety may be found at https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/ezshare/wq/permits/MS4_2024_Phase%20I_FinalPermit.pdf.

S5.C.11 Education and Outreach Program

The SWMP shall include an education and outreach program designed to:

- *Build general awareness about methods to address and reduce impacts from stormwater runoff;*
- *Effect behavior change to reduce or eliminate behaviors and practices that cause or contribute to adverse stormwater impacts; and*
- *Create stewardship opportunities that encourages community engagement in addressing the impacts from stormwater runoff.*

Permittees may choose to meet these requirements individually or as a member of a regional group...

Minimum performance measures:

- a. *Each Permittee shall implement an education and outreach program. The program design shall be based on local or regional (or a combination of both) water quality information and priority audience characteristics to identify high priority audiences, subject areas, and/or BMPs...*
 - i. *General awareness: Permittees shall build general awareness with the following audiences and subject areas...*
 - ii. *Behavior change: To affect behavior change, Permittees shall select, at a minimum, one priority audience and one BMP...*
 - a. *Priority audiences...*
 - b. *Social marketing campaign development. Based on recommendation from the evaluation and report, no later than July 1, 2025, each Permittee shall follow social marketing practices and methods and develop a campaign that is tailored to the community...*
 - c. *Behavior change implementation. No later than September 1, 2025, begin to implement the strategy developed in S5.C.11.a.ii.(b).*
 - d. *Behavior change campaign evaluation. No later than March 31, 2029, evaluate and submit report...*
 - e. *Behavior change campaign adaptive management...*
 - iii. *Stewardship. Each Permittee shall provide, partner with, or promote stewardship opportunities to encourage residents or businesses to participate in activities or events...*

CURRENT AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES

King County's education and outreach program focuses on water quality issues in King County but also expands to regional messaging through involvement with Stormwater Outreach for Regional Municipalities (STORM) and Puget Sound Starts Here (PSSH). King County staff carry leadership roles in both organizations.

King County will continue to participate in STORM, the regional consortium that supports outreach projects to meet permit awareness requirements. STORM regional permittees partner on outreach to share resources, build regional programs, and provide consistent messaging across the area. King County serves on STORM's Steering, Campaign, and Measurement committees and supports work teams addressing outreach projects.

STORM's reach beyond jurisdictional boundaries provides greater impact by delivering consistent information to new and mobile audiences. King County will continue to host, update, and maintain online assets, investing in web development, design, testing and translation.

Some of the projects that King County will continue to implement and partner with include:

- Puget Sound Starts Here will continue research, design, and delivery of an annual awareness program using lessons from past efforts. The team will expand on the tested messages and advertising about pollutants, especially lessons learned about multilingual audiences. PSSH first introduced messaging on 6PPD-quinone and its fatal effect on coho salmon in 2021. The messaging has evolved to promote green driving practices, with an emphasis on keeping tires properly inflated to reduce the amount of tire fragments in stormwater. Outreach has expanded to English, Spanish, Korean and Vietnamese.
- The PSSH team will continue to build on the strategic content calendar of seasonal environmental actions and stewardship events.
- The PSSH website (www.pugetsoundstartshere.org) has on average over 60,000 users during the annual awareness campaign period. Social media interactions total over 350,000 with many of the interactions related to the Don't Wait to Inflate campaign, environmental messages and actions, and stewardship events. Users from the English, Spanish, Korean, and Vietnamese communities, as well as low income, vehicle owners, and regional geographic areas will continue to be the 2025 focus audiences.
- King County will continue to partner on STORM Fest. STORM Fest is an annual education outreach event for Highline School District 6th and 7th grade students. The event raises awareness of stormwater with educators, families, and the community through multi-language engagement, paid interpreters, and community volunteers as educators. The curriculum includes translated take-home information that helps students share what they learned to their families.
- STORM will continue to develop outreach materials and toolkits. These materials support awareness and behavior change initiatives and are shared regionally on the Resource Reservoir

at www.pugetsoundstormgroup.org. This site allows member to add vetted engagement research, strategies, and products to share with permittees, nonprofit groups, and educators.

Summaries of education and outreach topics and programming are available in *Appendix E – Education and Outreach Topics by Program*.

General Awareness

King County promotes general awareness of stormwater issues through independent and collaborative efforts. In order to create meaningful education and outreach programs and materials, King County has focused on improving understanding of the communities we serve.

To improve and share best practices on engaging overburdened communities, residents, and businesses, King County plans and hosts trainings to build regional capacity and awareness in outreach, communication, and environmental and racial justice best practices. SWSS will continue sharing how to apply Equity and Social Justice practices to project planning and outreach, as well as offering resources and training to STORM and ECO Net partners.

Some of the ongoing projects aimed at permit-specified key audiences include:

- Dumpster outreach (businesses),
- Puget Sound Starts Here (general public),
- Natural Yard Care: neighborhoods, pet waste, general water quality tips (overburdened communities),
- STORM Fest and K-12 Education Guides (students and educators, overburdened communities),
- Hazardous waste information (businesses and residents, overburdened communities), and
- Green stormwater information (businesses and residents)

Stormwater information is available year-round online and through media campaigns and project partners. In addition, regional social media has a strategic content calendar to deliver messaging depending on the project cycle or time of year.

Behavior Change

King County worked with STORM on a regional behavior change program focused on dumpster lids and dumpster maintenance called the Regional Dumpster Lid Campaign. The program showed significant improvement in the percentage of lids closed, rising from 49% at the start of the campaign to 77% during the final evaluation.

SWSS staff will develop a strategy and schedule prior to July 1, 2025 to implement a social marketing plan for the new permit cycle. Options include implementing the existing campaign more effectively, expanding the existing campaign to a new priority audience or BMP, or selecting a new priority audience and BMP behavior change campaign.

Implementation of the new or expanded campaign will begin no later than September 1, 2025.

King County will continue to partner and invest in capacity building trainings on social marketing, equity, multi-cultural project design and other skills to improve the effectiveness of awareness and behavior change efforts among stormwater managers and nonprofits. This includes helping build a roster of community contractors that can support engagement projects.

Stewardship Opportunities

King County will continue to support ECO Net activities (www.kingcoeconet.org) that provide stewardship opportunities and share clean water messaging. Additional stewardship events will be offered through partnership with other King County agencies, such as King County Parks, Wastewater Treatment Division, Department of Local Services, and others.

King County uses social media channels to advertise and engage with nonprofits and city/county partners to share and promote regional stewardship opportunities. Events are also shared through the King County ECO Net listserv and King County e-newsletters (e.g., WRIA 8, Snoqualmie Watershed, King County Employee News, etc.).

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57. COMPLIANCE WITH TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD REQUIREMENTS

The Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) process is a science-based approach to cleaning up polluted water to meet state water quality standards. A TMDL is a numerical value that represents the highest amount of a pollutant a surface water body can receive and still meet standards. There are three waterbodies with applicable TMDL requirements in the Phase I Permit.

PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

57. Compliance with Total Maximum Daily Load Requirements

The following requirements apply if an applicable Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) is approved for stormwater discharges from MS4s owned or operated by the Permittee. Applicable TMDLs are TMDLs which have been approved by EPA on or before the issuance date of this Permit, or prior to the date that Ecology issues coverage under this Permit, whichever is later.

A. TMDL Specific Requirements

1. *For applicable TMDLs listed in Appendix 2, affected Permittees shall comply with the specific requirements identified in Appendix 2. Each Permittee shall keep records of all actions required by this Permit that are relevant to applicable TMDLs within their jurisdiction. The status of the TMDL implementation shall be included as part of the Annual Report submitted to Ecology. Each Annual Report shall include a summary of relevant SWMP and Appendix 2 activities conducted in the TMDL area to address the applicable TMDL parameter(s).*
2. *For applicable TMDLs not listed in Appendix 2, compliance with this Permit shall constitute compliance with those TMDLs.*

CURRENT AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES

King County has kept and continues to keep records of all actions required by the Permit that are relevant to applicable TMDLs. The status of the TMDL implementation will continue to be included as part of the Annual Report submitted to Ecology. Each Annual Report shall include a summary of relevant SWMP and Appendix 2 activities conducted to address the TMDL parameter(s). The current permit lists the following TMDLs for King County:

- WRIA 8 – Bear-Evans Watershed
- WRIA 8 – Issaquah Creek Basin Water Cleanup Plan
- WRIA 10 – Lower White River pH TMDL
- WRIA 10 – Puyallup Watershed Water Quality Improvement Project

Bear-Evans Watershed

The Bear-Evans fecal coliform TMDL requires King County to take specific actions to address sources of bacterial pollution in the watershed. To comply with the TMDL, King County will:

- Inspect facilities in the watershed with the identified SIC Industry Groups, primarily businesses related to animal production and composting facilities.
- Include public education and outreach activities that increase awareness of bacterial pollution problems and promote proper pet waste management. This will include maintaining signage at public parks and spaces popular with pet owners.
- Parks staff will maintain pet waste collection stations at locations that are reasonably expected to have domestic animal use (such as dogs and horses) and the potential for pollution to stormwater.
- When conducting illicit discharge detection and elimination field screening in the Bear-Evans Watershed, staff will obtain a grab sample to screen for bacteria sources at the drainage circuit's most downstream sampling location if there is water flow. If bacteria levels trigger a response then staff will conduct source tracing efforts.

Issaquah Creek Basin Water Cleanup Plan

The Issaquah Creek Basin Water Cleanup Plan focuses on a reduction in fecal coliform levels. The Permit requires King County to take specific actions to address sources of bacterial pollution in the watershed. To comply with the TMDL, King County will:

- Inspect facilities in the basin with the identified SIC Industry Groups, primarily businesses related to animal production and composting facilities.
- Include public education and outreach activities that increase awareness of bacterial pollution problems and promote proper pet waste management. This will include maintaining signage at public parks and spaces popular with pet owners.
- Parks staff will maintain pet waste collection stations at locations that are reasonably expected to have domestic animal use (such as dogs and horses) and the potential for pollution to stormwater.
- When conducting illicit discharge detection and elimination field screening in the Issaquah Creek Basin, staff will obtain a grab sample to screen for bacteria sources at the drainage circuit's most downstream sampling location if there is water flow. If bacteria levels trigger a response then staff will conduct source tracing efforts.

Lower White River pH TMDL

The Lower White River pH TMDL sets allocations for soluble reactive phosphorus (SRP). The Permit requires King County to complete mapping of outfalls and upstream MS4, screen for high SRP levels, and use source tracing procedures to identify the source when applicable.

To comply with the TMDL, King County will:

- Complete mapping of the MS4 area that discharges to the Lower White River prior to March 31, 2029.

- Prior to October 31, 2028, screen all known piped MS4 outfalls that King County owns or operates which discharge to the Lower White River, Boise Creek, Pussyfoot Creek, or Second Creek.
 - For at least one dry season within the permit cycle, King County will screen piped MS4 outfalls once a month, from May 1 – October 31st, for the presence of a discharge. Piped outfalls may be screened within the same year or divided into groups and screened over multiple years.
 - If a discharge is present at the piped MS4 outfall and estimated to be more than 2.24 gallons per minute, staff will collect an end-of-pipe sample for SRP analysis.
 - If any stormwater outfall samples exceed 7.5 ug/L of SRP (when the daily average White River flow is less than 900 cfs) or 79 ug/L of SRP (when the daily average river flow is between 900 cfs and 2000 cfs), staff will begin source tracing for SRP sources to the MS4.
- No later than July 1, 2026, King County will require Phosphorus Treatment BMPs for all new development and redevelopment projects within the TMDL implementation area that require runoff treatment.

Puyallup Watershed Water Quality Improvement Project

The Puyallup Watershed Water Quality Improvement Project is focused on reducing fecal bacteria levels in the Puyallup-White River. The Permit requires King County to take specific actions to address sources of bacterial pollution in the watershed. To comply with the TMDL, King County will:

- Inspect facilities in the basin with the identified SIC Industry Groups, primarily businesses related to animal production and composting facilities.
- Include public education and outreach activities that increase awareness of bacterial pollution problems and promote proper pet waste management. This will include maintaining signage at public parks and spaces popular with pet owners.
- Parks staff will maintain pet waste collection stations at locations that are reasonably expected to have domestic animal use (such as dogs and horses) and the potential for pollution to stormwater.
- When conducting illicit discharge detection and elimination field screening in the Puyallup River Watershed, staff will obtain a grab sample to screen for bacteria sources at the drainage circuit's most downstream sampling location if there is water flow. If bacteria levels trigger a response then staff will conduct source tracing efforts.

SWSS staff have been communicating and collaborating with multiple outside agencies on the Puyallup Watershed fecal reduction effort over the last decade. SWSS will continue working with the following agencies to address sources of bacterial pollution in the TMDL area:

- Washington State Department of Ecology
- Washington State Department of Agriculture
- King Conservation District

- City of Enumclaw
- Department of Public Health – Seattle/King County

Additionally, SWSS will continue to regularly communicate with and coordinate efforts as needed with staff from the King County Agriculture Program (Livestock Ordinance Program), King County Permitting (Code Enforcement), the King County Environmental Laboratory, and the King County Science and Technical Support Section.

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S8. MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

The Permit section contained below has been edited for length. The permit section in its entirety may be found at https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/ezshare/wq/permits/MS4_2024_Phase%20I_FinalPermit.pdf.

S8. Monitoring and Assessment

...

A. Regional Status and Trends Monitoring

2. Clark, King, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties, the Cities of Seattle and Tacoma, and the Ports of Seattle and Tacoma shall notify Ecology in writing which of the following two options for regional status and trends monitoring (S8.A.2.a or S8.A.2.b) the Permittee chooses to carry out during this Permit term...

a. Make annual payments into a SAM collective fund to implement regional receiving water status and trends monitoring...

Or

b. Conduct stormwater discharge monitoring per the requirements in S8.C.

B. Stormwater Management Program Effectiveness and Source Identification Studies

2. Clark, King, Pierce and Snohomish Counties, the Cities of Seattle and Tacoma, and the Ports of Seattle and Tacoma shall notify Ecology in writing which of the following three options (S8.B.2.a or S8.B.2.b or S8.B.2.c) for effectiveness and source identification studies the Permittee chooses to carry out during this permit term...

a. Make annual payments into a SAM collective fund to implement effectiveness and source identification studies...

Or

b. Conduct stormwater discharge monitoring per the requirements in S8.C.

Or

c. Both: make annual payments into a SAM collective fund to implement regional effectiveness and source identification studies and independently conduct a Stormwater Management Program (SWMP) effectiveness study approved by Ecology...

CURRENT AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES

King County notified Ecology prior to the December 1, 2024 deadline of the chosen options for compliance with S8. Monitoring and Assessment. Options chosen:

- Regional Status and Trends Monitoring – Option S8.A.2.a
 - a. Make annual payments into a collective fund to implement regional receiving water status and trends monitoring of small streams and marine nearshore areas in Puget Sound. The

annual payments into the collective fund are due on or before August 15 each year beginning in 2025. Submit payments according to Section S8.D.

- Stormwater Management Program Effectiveness and Source Identification Studies – Option S8.B.2.a
 - a. Make annual payments into a SAM collective fund to implement effectiveness and source identification studies. The annual payments into the SAM collective fund are due on or before August 15 each year beginning in 2025. Submit payments according to Section S8.D.

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S9. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

The Permit section contained below has been edited for length. The permit section in its entirety may be found at https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/ezshare/wq/permits/MS4_2024_Phase%20I_FinalPermit.pdf.

S9. Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirements

A. Annual Report Submittal

- 1. No later than March 31 of each year beginning in 2025, each Permittee shall submit an Annual Report. The reporting period for the first Annual Report will be from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. The reporting period for all subsequent Annual Reports shall be the previous calendar year unless otherwise specified...***

CURRENT AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES

King County will continue to submit the Annual Report via Ecology's Water Quality Permitting Portal. The most recent annual report may be found online at <https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dnrp/nature-recreation/environment-ecology-conservation/stormwater-surface-water-management/stormwater-management-program/npdes-annual-reports>.

CONCLUSION AND CONTACT INFORMATION

The SWMP Plan describes the actions and activities that King County plans to implement over the coming year. It is the County's intention to minimize the impacts of stormwater to the land, the waterways and the people in King County. Central to that effort is internal coordination among all King County agencies subject to Permit requirements (see Section 3 – Coordination). This coordination mechanism successfully engages staff from several agencies and minimizes barrier to achieving Permit compliance.

King County is committed to implementing the programs described herein and recognizes that doing so contributes to two very important objectives:

- Protection of King County's waters and lands so its citizens can enjoy them safely today and for generations to come; and,
- Compliance with the County's NPDES Phase I Municipal Stormwater Permit.

The SWMP Plan is a living document that will be updated continually as circumstances change. The SWMP Plan will be updated a minimum of annually throughout the Permit term to reflect changes in the County's approach to stormwater management and Permit compliance. King County will continue to invite the public to participate in the decision-making processes regarding the SWMP. For more information on participation opportunities, see Section 4 – Public Involvement and Participation.

Questions and comments on the County's SWMP and SWMP Plan should be directed to:

Stormwater Phase I Permit Coordinator
King County Dept of Natural Resources and Parks
201 South Jackson Street, Suite 6300
Seattle, WA 98104

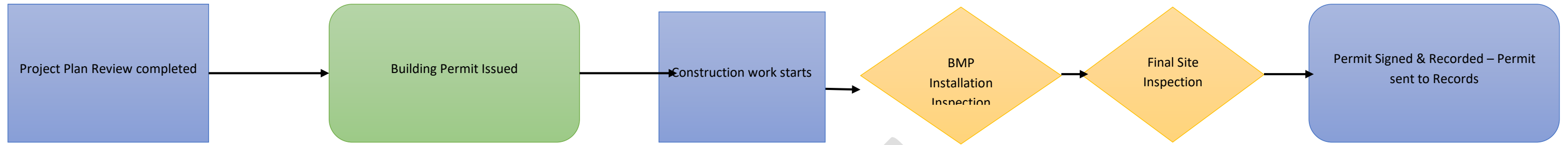
Or by email at: stormwater@kingcounty.gov

APPENDIX A – KING COUNTY DLS PERMITS FLOW CHARTS

Processes outlined below reflect only the steps of the development process related to site condition inspection procedures.

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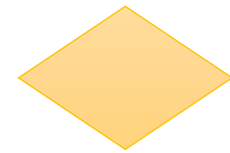
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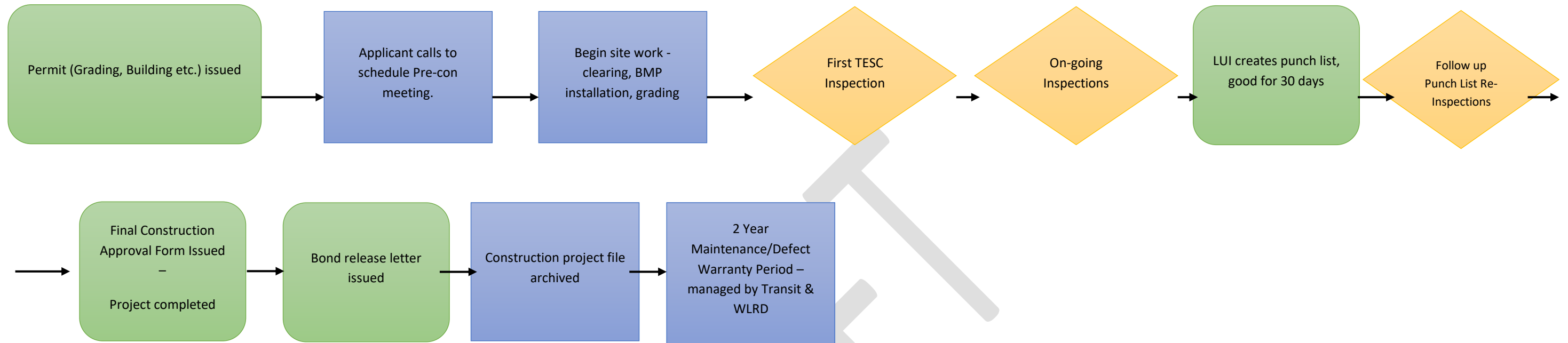
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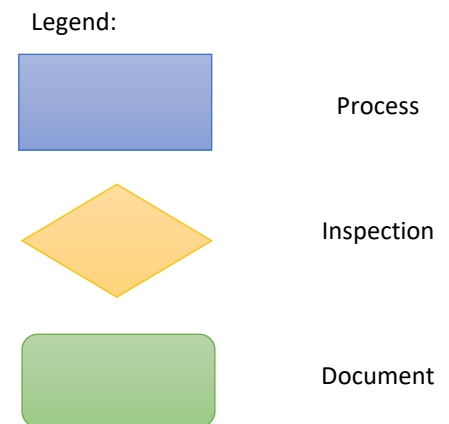
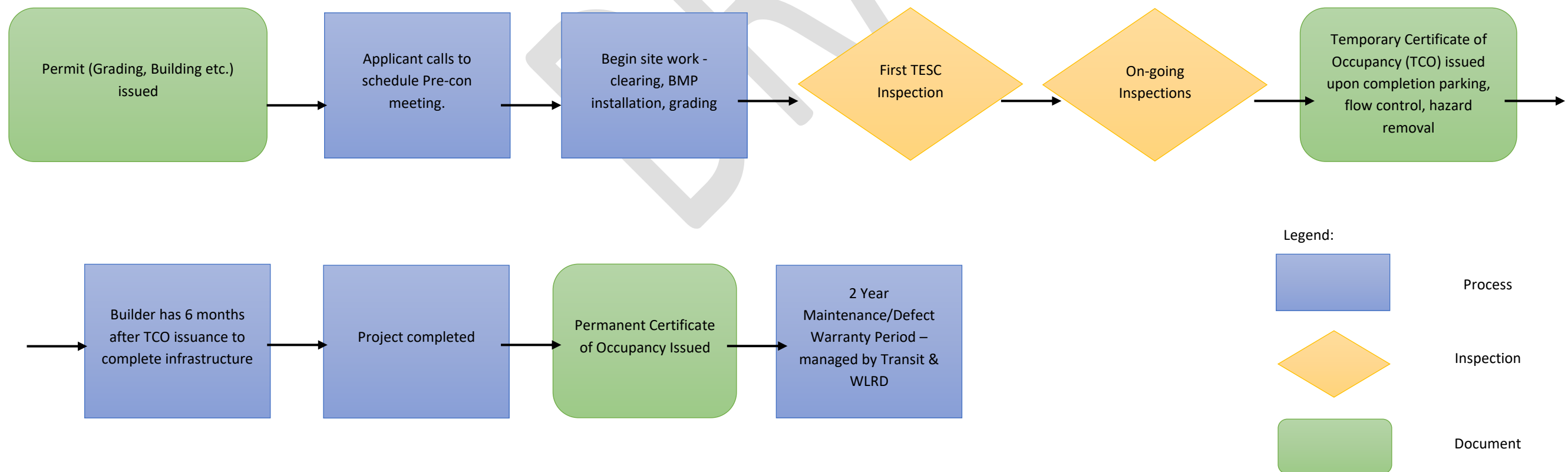
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Infrastructure Construction



Commercial Construction



APPENDIX B – STORMWATER MANAGEMENT FOR EXISTING DEVELOPMENT LIST OF PLANNED/INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS FOR PERMIT TERM

King County has an existing SMED program to prevent or reduce impacts from stormwater to local waterways. The SMED program focuses on impacts that are not addressed under other actions of the SWMP.

King County's planning process used to identify future projects and inform the SMED program, includes:

- a. The geographic scale of the planning process.
- b. Issues and regulations addressed.
- c. Steps in the planning process.
- d. Types of characterization information considered.
- e. Amount budgeted for implementation.
- f. The public involvement processes.
- g. A description of the prioritization process, procedures and criteria used to select the Structural Stormwater Control projects.

The watershed-scale stormwater plans (developed in the 2013-2019 Permit) are being used to help inform a portion of S5.C.7 project prioritization and selection. The County will also conduct a new SMAP effort in the Skyway area for the Taylor Creek subbasin. The County will also continue to participate in larger basin planning efforts to identify stormwater management projects and other actions to mitigate the stormwater impacts of past, present, and future development. The County has led multi-jurisdictional planning efforts that have or will identify stormwater retrofit needs. These include the WRIA 9 Stormwater Retrofit Plan, the Miller/Walker Creeks Stormwater Retrofit Plan, the Bear Creek Study, and the County's Stormwater Retrofit Planning tool. The Bear Creek stormwater basin planning effort was estimated to cost over \$2 million and is a multi-jurisdictional effort being performed by King County to comply with the Permit's watershed-scale stormwater planning requirement. Because the Bear Creek basin is largely developed, a major focus of the effort was to identify a conceptual list of retrofit projects for future implementation. Further planning will be needed to develop pre-designs for these projects to seek local funding and state/federal grant funding for implementation. For the most part the order of projects implementation has been prioritized based on cost vs. Benefit, although the County's Stormwater Retrofit Planner includes a broader set of criteria to support decision making during prioritization of stormwater retrofit projects. This decision support tool includes metrics to track progress on how we are advancing Equity and Social Justice (ESJ) and climate change preparedness goals in addition to water quality benefits associated with stormwater retrofit projects. King County's program prioritizes new regional stormwater facilities and retrofitting facilities in existing developed areas; and promotes planning and prioritization of these projects to reduce impacts to watershed hydrology and pollutant discharges from MS4s. This program also recognizes the benefit of implementing projects that address existing and future impacts from stormwater inadequately controlled by other Permit requirements.

Timing:

No later than March 31, 2028, King County achieved 1000 SMED Program Points, calculated per Appendix 12, as follows:

- 600 Design-stage points
- 400 Complete or Maintenance stage points
- A minimum of 275 points from new facilities or LID BMPs, retrofits of existing facilities or maintenance with costs \geq \$25,000.

Qualifying SMED Project Types:

Relevant Project Type #s	Project Achievement Description	SMED Program Point Factors
#1 & #4	Flow Control	2 times Flow Control Equivalent area
#1 & #4	Flow Control in a known flow control problem area.	3 times Flow Control Equivalent area
#2 & #4	Runoff Treatment	2 times Runoff Treatment Equivalent area
#2 & #4	Runoff Treatment in a known water quality problem area	3 times Runoff Treatment Equivalent area
#2 & #4	Achieves Metals or Phosphorus Treatment	3 times Runoff Treatment Equivalent area
#2 & #4	Meets Runoff Treatment Standards in MR #6 for Full Basin	5 times Runoff Treatment Equivalent area
#3	Provides LID Performance Standard (i.e., On-site infiltration to manage low flows)	3 times LID Equivalent area
#5	Maintenance with capital construction costs \geq \$25,000	0.50 times the acres served by the maintenance activity*, or
#6	Property Acquisition	0.50 times acres acquired
#7	Restoration of Riparian Buffer	0.35 times acres restored
#8	Restoration of Forest Cover	0.50 times acres restored
#9	Floodplain Reconnection	0.10 times acres reconnected, with a maximum of 200 points
#10	Permanent removal of impervious surfaces	1.0 times the acre of impervious surface removed
#11	Sweeping	0.1 times curb miles swept
#12	Line Cleaning	0.01 times the linear feet of lines cleaned
Any project type	Implements Existing Watershed Plan	1.5 times subtotal SMED points
Any project type	Benefits Overburdened Community(ies)	1.5 times subtotal SMED points
Any project type	High Pollutant Generating Transportation Areas (HPGTA)	1.7 times subtotal SMED points
Any project type	Watershed Collaboration	1.5 times subtotal SMED points

APPENDIX C: NPDES SOURCE CONTROL INSPECTION PROGRAM – INVENTORY DEVELOPMENT AND MODIFICATION AND PROGRESSIVE ENFORCEMENT PROCESS

Introduction

This document has been developed in collaboration with other Phase I jurisdictions and describes the program by which King County will prepare, and annually modify, a list of potentially pollution generating sites that meets the requirements of NPDES Phase 1 municipal stormwater permit section S5.C.8. Permittees must annually complete the number of inspections equal to 20% of the sites listed in the source control inventory. Follow-up inspections count towards the required number of inspections. Permittees are not required to inspect 100% of sites over a 5-year period. Consequently, the list must contain a well-defined set of guidelines to identify appropriate sites and processes to include or remove these sites from a central database.

Business License and Parcels

Depending on the permittee (City or County), the basic elements in compiling the initial list is either the business license (for Cities) or the legal land parcel (for Counties). The difference is because most Cities have local business licenses, whereas Counties do not. However, due to the complexities and limitations of each method, the initial list may contain elements generated by both office records and fieldsurveys.

Through time, the list will be refined to maximize the number of elements that should be regulated as “sites” in the context of the source control program of the NPDES permit.

Official date of list

Permittees must annually complete the number of inspections equal to 20% of the businesses and/or sites listed in the source control inventory in any given calendar year. To determine compliance with this requirement, the number of sites must be fixed for that year. The permit does not define a date upon which the official list for the year will be fixed. For the purposes of establishing the official number of sites by which to determine compliance metrics for any given calendar year, an “official” list will be established at a date within the jurisdiction’s budget preparation schedule, with the understanding that as businesses are identified through field survey or other methods cited in this paper, they will be added (or dropped) from the list, as appropriate. Although the total number of businesses will remain constant, it is anticipated that the specific named businesses will shift as businesses relocate or additional businesses missed in records are found in the field. Thus, the final list of inspected businesses at the end of the year may include some businesses not originally on the “official” list.

Initial inventory development

King County developed its list for the 2013 program using the current list of developed parcels located in the current stormwater audit program inventory. King County will modify the inventory for use in future years by the following methods.

Step 1 – Assemble list of sites based on office records

Developed parcels with commercial or industrial zoning: King County has used the current commercial or similar stormwater fee classification in the drainage utility database for commercial and industrial zoned parcels. This list will be supplemented using the current municipal business licenses and any other sets of municipal records.

Developed parcels with multifamily zoning (includes both apartments and condominiums): King County has defined properties with 3 or more residential units and current multifamily or similar stormwater fee classification for inclusion in the drainage utility database based on potential impact.

Step 2 – Add any sites identified by field or database surveys

These databases are both internal to the County and external from other agencies. The databases include the following:

1. The existing database of business/commercial sites that have approved flow control and/or water quality treatment facilities, which are maintained King County.
2. The existing database of business/commercial sites with simple drainage conveyance systems, which may be maintained by King County.
3. The existing database of all properties owned/operated by King County, which is maintained by King County Real Estate Services and the Department of Executive Services Facility Management section; and

These databases and their respective updates will be used to modify the current list of addresses, and winnow out those already listed via commercial, industrial, or multifamily zoning. These datasets will be verified by a combination of telephone, database and field verifications of the businesses existence, and relevance for inclusion in this program.

An additional step in the program will be to identify businesses by conducting field surveys of targeted roads or geographic areas with potential high density of businesses of interest. The program will select target roads or geographic areas and conduct “windshield surveys” to field identify business sites based on visible evidence of commercial activity such as advertising signs or commercial-scale or type of material storage or activities. These businesses will be verified by comparing them to the current database.

Modification of initial inventory list

King County will modify the initial list by the following methods:

- Modifying multiple legal parcels that should be dealt with as onsite.
- Modifying single parcels with multiple businesses (e.g., shopping malls) that should be dealt with as multiple sites.
- Correcting database as occupant records change.
- Adding developed sites shown as undeveloped in office records.
- Identifying the presence of pollutant generating activities using citizen reports, field investigations, or other methods.

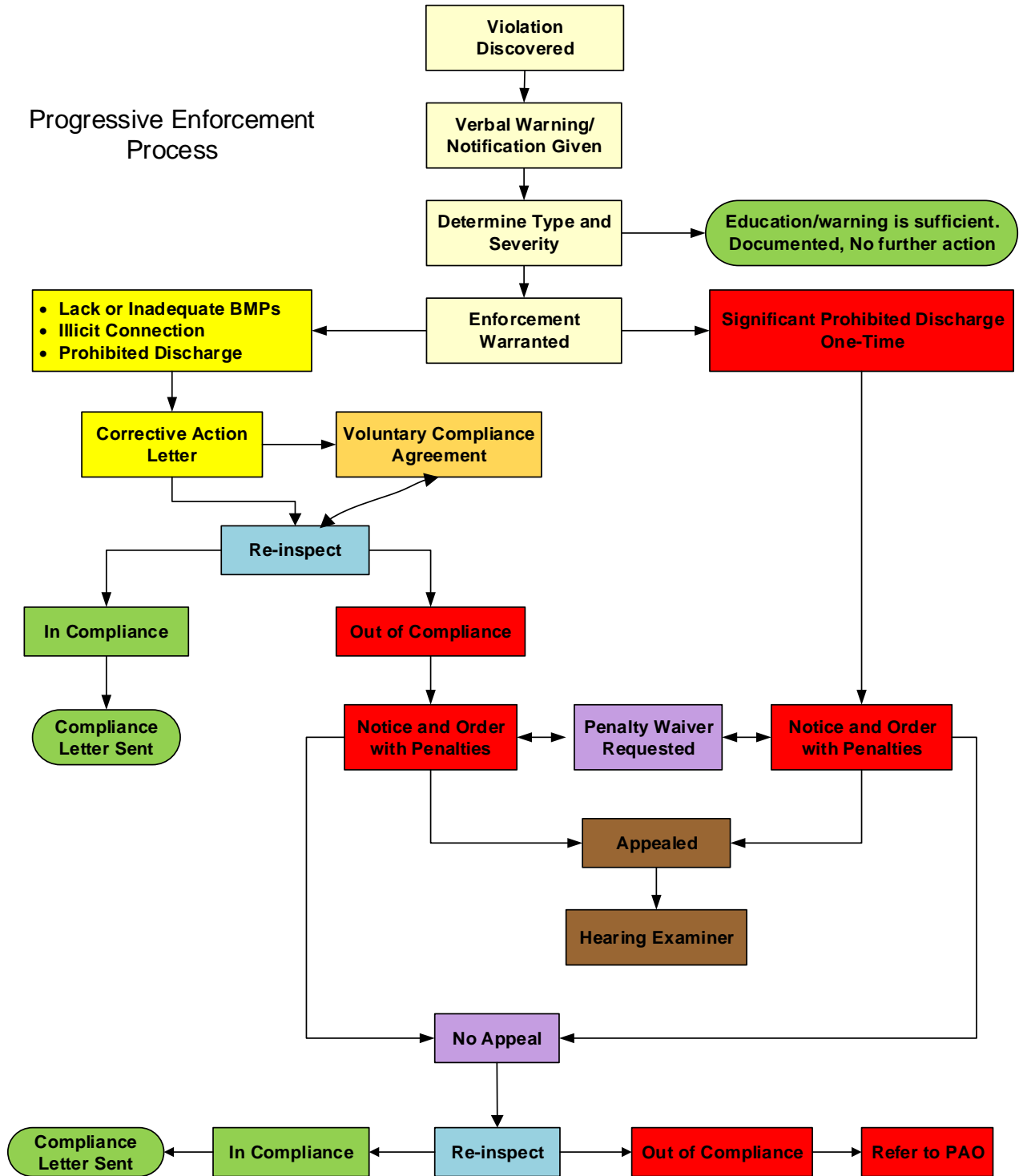
Counting Inspections

For the purpose of complying with the permit conditions to annually complete the number of inspections equal to 20% of the businesses and/or sites listed in the source control inventory, the following shall be counted:

1. Inspections performed by staff of the permittee.
2. Inspections performed by contractors representing the permittee and for which the permittee performs any needed follow-up enforcement activity.

3. Inspections performed by staff from other jurisdictions under an MOA or MOU with the permittee (e.g., inspections performed by King County in the Densmore basin under an MOA).
4. Inspection performed by Source Control Specialists funded by Ecology as part of the Pollution Prevention Assistance Program or the Urban Waters Initiative.

APPENDIX D – PROGRESSIVE ENFORCEMENT PROCESS



Stormwater Management Program Plan

			Public English language school age children, over/underfunded communities	Public Child Impacts (English, school age)	School Age Children (English, other languages)	Businesses (including home-based and mobile businesses)	General Impacts of stormwater on surface water	Imperious surface impacts	Hazards associated with illicit discharges	Hazards associated with improper disposal of	Low Impact Development, LID Best Practices	Engineers	Contractors	Developers	Land Use Planners	Property Managers/Owners	General Impacts of stormwater on surface water	Imperious surface impacts	Hazards associated with illicit discharges	Hazards associated with improper disposal of	Low Impact Development, LID Best Practices	Provide subject area information to the target audience on an ongoing or strategic schedule	Residents	Landscapers	Property Managers/Owners	School-age children	Business (including homebased and mobile businesses)	Use and storage of automotive chemicals, hazardous cleaning supplies, household products	Prevention of illicit discharges	Yard Care techniques protective of water quality	Use and storage of pesticides and fertilizers and other household	Grass cleaning	Repair and maintenance BMPs for vehicles, equipment, and/or home	Pet waste management and disposal	LID principles and LID BMPs	Stormwater facility maintenance, including LID facilities	Dumpster and track/computer maintenance	Litter and debris prevention	(Audience specific) Source Control (BMPs)	(Audience specific) locally important, stormwater-related activities	Each Permittee shall provide and advertise partner with existing organizations (including non-permittees) to encourage						
Stormwater Mapping	Andrea Wong/Mark Preszler	Program develops and maintains a GIS-based inventory of the county's stormwater assets which it owns, operates or regulates. The purpose of this inventory is to meet business needs (e.g. asset management), protect water quality and meet stormwater permit requirements.			X	X	X					X	X	X	X			X					X																								
Parks and Recreation	Brian Lund	Volunteer events, native plant restoration projects planting roughly 30K to 40K trees per year trees, shrubs, etc. or grubbing out blackberries etc.	X	X	X		X	X					X																																		
Metro Transit	Talon Swanson	Fleet maintenance										X					X	X	X	X	X	X																									
Dumpster Outreach Program	Bob Bernhard	Regional partnership on source control connecting dumpster practices with water quality.	X			X	X	X	X							X	X	X	X	X	X				X																						
Asset Management Program	Matt Anderson	Inspection and maintenance of stormwater facilities										X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X			X	X	X	X																	
Source Control Program	Bob Bernhard	Outreach to businesses	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X					X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X												
Stormwater general awareness & behavior change	Mary Rabourn	Website programming, sponsorship, maintenance, security, social media: https://www.naturalyardcare.org/ https://pugetsoundstormgroup.org/	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X										X		
Stormwater educator resources	Mary Rabourn, Nature Vision	K-12 educator resources, updated for online and equity teaching activities at https://kingcounty.gov/services/environment/stewardship/teachers-students.aspx	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X											X	X																								
STORM Fest	Iris Kemp	Annual program to engage Highline School District 6th graders in outdoor environmental education and STE(A)M.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X											X	X																								

APPENDIX F – UNDERGROUND INJECTION CONTROL (UIC) WELL PROGRAM

General Information

The Underground Injection Control (UIC) Well Program administered by the Department of Ecology protects groundwater quality by regulating discharges to UIC wells.

UIC wells are structures used to discharge fluids into the subsurface. UIC wells have a depth greater than the largest surface dimension, a subsurface distribution system that discharges fluids through perforated pipes or drain tiles, or a storm chamber with intent to infiltrate. Some examples include drywells, drain fields, infiltration trenches with perforated pipe, storm chamber systems with the intent to infiltrate, and bioretention systems intended to distribute water to the subsurface by means of perforated pipe installed below the treatment soil.

Permitting UIC Wells

New UIC wells are required to be registered with Ecology 60 days prior to construction. Discharge from UIC wells must meet the nonendangerment standard through either the presumptive approach or the demonstrative approach. UIC wells exempt from registration include single family residences and duplexes receiving stormwater only from residential roofs, wells to control basement flooding, storm drainage components with perforated pipe that are intended to convey water to surface waters, and non-UIC wells such as infiltration ponds, dispersion systems, and infiltration trenches without perforated pipe.

The King County Surface Water Design Manual requires permit applicants to provide proof of UIC well registration if it is required by Ecology prior to plan approval or permit issuance (see KC SWDM Section 2.3.1.1 Technical Information Report (TIR), TIR Section 7 Other Permits and Section 5.2.1).

Existing County-Owned UIC Wells

King County has identified existing UIC wells that are owned by the County. Staff are registering the wells with the Department of Ecology and working to complete well assessments in order to determine if the existing well is a high threat to groundwater.

Staff consider the following factors to determine whether a UIC well meets the nonendangerment standard or must be retrofitted:

- Existing UIC wells receiving prohibited discharges.
- Depth of the groundwater table in relation to the UIC well.
- Whether the UIC well is located within a groundwater protection area.

For UIC wells that have a water quality component that meets the SWDM, the presumptive approach will be applied following WAC 173-218-090 guidelines. For municipally owned wells that do not have water quality components, or do not meet the criteria for the presumptive approach, further investigation will be conducted following guidance for the demonstrative approach outlined in WAC 173-218-090.