

WATER PROGRAM SUMMARY

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Division: Resource Policy and Planning

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TOPIC: Recent Clark County Clean Water Program Activities

This program summary is provided to the Clean Water Commission to make members aware of ongoing program activities and accomplishments. Commissioners wishing to discuss particular items or ask questions at meetings should contact staff and the commission chair to make time on the agenda. Otherwise this program summary is provided for informational purposes.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Clark County's Clean Water Program meets several requirements of the NPDES Phase I Municipal Stormwater Permit, including: Stormwater Infrastructure Inventory, Facility Inspection; Facility Maintenance, Stormwater Capital Planning and Construction, Drainage Complaints and Facility Issues, Watershed Planning/Modeling, Low Impact Development BMP testing, Whipple Creek Stormwater Plan and Stormwater-related Public Outreach and Education Activities.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Stormwater Infrastructure Inventory

Stormwater infrastructure mapping is a requirement of our NPDES permit. We maintain a complete database of stormwater assets, which forms the backbone of our inspection and maintenance activities and supports many other program activities such as Source Control and Illicit Discharge detection. In 2014, 70 development projects were added to the inventory (as of December 2014, there are 1,021 county-owned and 1,053 privately-owned stormwater facilities in unincorporated Clark County).

Facility Inspection

In 2014, our NPDES permit requires that we annually inspect 80% of private stormwater facilities and 95% of public stormwater facilities we completed inspections for approximately 81% of private and 97% of public facilities.

Facility Maintenance

Our NPDES permit sets maintenance requirements and timelines for facilities that are found to have defects during annual inspections. At the end of 2014, over 88% of county stormwater facilities were fully compliant with maintenance standards; and all county stormwater facilities are within permit timelines for required maintenance

Stormwater Capital Planning and Construction

Thomas Wetlands East stormwater facilities, was constructed in 2014. The \$2.2 million project was funded in part a \$1 million grant from Washington Department of Ecology. They retrofitted the existing wetland system with a larger wetland feature that expanded the volume capacity of the wetland. The design reduces peak flow quantity to the Burnt Bridge Creek minimizing erosion potential downstream. Over 7,000 native plants create habitat for a variety of wildlife species and enhances the functions of the wetlands. A nature trail and educational signage provide a unique visitor experience.

Drainage Complaints and Facility Issues

We respond to public and internal concerns regarding drainage, flooding, stormwater facility design and ownership, and maintenance responsibility. We successfully responded to 11 drainage issues and over 50 facility-related inquiries.

Watershed Planning/Modeling

Stormwater infrastructure staff is performing hydrologic and water quality modeling as part of the team completing NPDES permit-required Watershed-Scale Stormwater Planning activities in Whipple Creek.

Low Impact Development BMP testing for partial compliance with Permit requirement S8.C. Effectiveness Monitoring

The 2013 NPDES permit (Permit) required permittees solicited from several options including paying into an account to be used by Ecology to fund several stormwater program effectiveness studies (\$86,000 per year) or making a smaller payment (\$43,000 per year and completing an effectiveness study). Clark County elected to make the smaller payment and complete an effectiveness study. The study will continue a project completed under the 2007 project that monitored performance of a large permeable paver parking lot at McCord Vancouver Toyota. A project proposal was approved by Ecology in September, to be followed by a detailed project plan submitted in early January 2015 for Ecology approval. After detailed plan approval, the project will continue to monitor the site to ensure it continues to meet its design standard (all rainfall soaks into the spaces between pavers). It will examine other site features such as the extent of moss growth that can clog spaces between pavers and the effect of moss growth on performance, and review simpler methods to decide when spaces between pavers must be cleaned.

Whipple Creek Stormwater Plan for compliance with Permit requirement S5.C.5.c. Watershed-Scale Stormwater Plan

The 2013 Permit requires Snohomish, Pierce, King and Clark counties to each produce stormwater plan for a selected watershed during the permit term. Clark County selected Whipple Creek Watershed, draining an urbanizing area along I-5 and rural lands to the west. The permit requirements are complex and not well defined. Clark County obtained Ecology approval of its scope and schedule in August 2014, with an expected completion of late 2016. The Permit's goal is for the plan to identify strategies that should result in stream hydrology and water quality conditions that will fully support designated use. Designated use includes salmon spawning and rearing. In order to meet this goal, the strategies need to establish stream flows and water quality similar to a forested watershed through the extensive use of stormwater retrofit projects, projects to restore channel and flood plain conditions, and strict standards for development and redevelopment. The Clean Water Program is currently collecting stream flow, water quality and biologic data to be used for hydrology and water quality model development. Models will be used to evaluate strategies and identify the most cost effective strategies that create future hydrology and water quality conditions compatible with restoring designated uses. Strategies will be then be described in a plan submitted to Ecology after public comment.

Stormwater-related Public Outreach and Education Activities for compliance Permit requirement Education and Outreach

Department of Environmental Service's Clean Water Program is providing public outreach and education on stormwater related activities. This includes information to local businesses, especially mobile businesses. This will include brochures to individuals who are involved in dumpster maintenance, landscaping, surface cleaning, and carpet cleaning. All will include messaging about the do's and don'ts of their business practices and what they can do to protect stormwater"only rain down the drain."

Brochures are available for distribution through technical visits, at Green Business workshops, and are disseminated to business groups.

On February 10, 2015 from 10 AM to 12:00 PM, at the Water Recreational Center, Clark County Environmental Services staff and agencies will hold a free Mobile Business work shop to provide information about: Water Quality Regulations for Mobile Washing Businesses; Best Management Practices for Mobile Washing Businesses; Sanitary Sewer Discharge Requirements; Clark County Green Business Program. Commissioners interested in attending this work shop should contact Cary Armstrong at cary.armstrong@clark.wa.gov by February 3, 2015.

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