

CLEAN 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 request time on the agenda. Otherwise this program summary is provided for informational purposes.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Clark County's Clean Water Program received approval from the Washington Department of Ecology to implement Whipple Creek Watershed-scale Stormwater Planning and Stormwater Flow Reduction Monitoring of permeable pavement at McCord's Toyota site in Vancouver. In addition, the program is initiating Business Visits for stormwater pollution control. The program is also working to fix an illicit connection to the county's stormwater system.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Whipple Creek Watershed-scale Stormwater Planning

The Washington Department of Ecology NPDES permit for Clark County requires the county to develop a watershed-scale stormwater plan for an urbanizing watershed; the county selected Whipple Creek Watershed. The permit required Clark County to submit a project scope and schedule addressing a list of required tasks. In March 2014, the Clean Water Program submitted a scope and schedule; however, Ecology asked for additional information in May. The Clean Water Program submitted a revised scope and schedule in June, which Ecology approved in August.

To date, the Clean Water Program has installed two operating stream gauges in Whipple and Packard Creeks, initiated water quality and macroinvertebrate sampling, started work to calibrate watershed hydrology and water quality computer models, completed a draft report summarizing existing water quality information and established a project web page. The plan will be completed for public comment by the summer of 2016 and submitted to Ecology in October 2016. More information about this effort is available at: www.clark.wa.gov/environment/stormwater/Whipplecreek.html

Stormwater Flow Reduction Monitoring

The Department of Ecology has approved the county's proposal to continue monitoring the effectiveness of a permeable pavement parking area to infiltrate runoff and compare results to original design standards. The county will also examine maintenance-related characteristics such as moss growth, maintenance performed and infiltration testing results in an effort to better understand maintenance needs for this BMP in the Pacific Northwest. The work takes advantage of a unique opportunity to build upon three years of monitoring data at McCord's Toyota, which when built was the largest installation of Interlocking Concrete

Pavement Blocks in the country. As pervious paving systems come into widespread use under new low impact development requirements, knowledge of long-term performance and maintenance needs will become increasingly critical to stormwater managers.

Business Visits for Pollution Control

Through August program staff performed about 75 local source control visits to businesses (with a goal of reaching 400 local source control visits by year-end) to properly keep their waste products out of Clark County's stormwater system. During each visit staff provides technical assistance on pollution prevention measures that are tailored to a specific business's activities. Businesses are required to implement appropriate pollution prevention measures; if they're not staff helps bring them back into compliance.

During these local source control visits staff has identified the following:

- Stormwater inlets that need to be cleaned
- Trash dumpsters/cans that need to be replaced and/or covered
- Materials storage areas that need to be covered
- Floor drains that need to be plugged and/or covered to keep automobile fluids and boat paint away from runoff
- Landscaping and building maintenance practices such as pressure washing that need proper implementation of pollution prevention BMPs

In addition, brochures are being developed that will provide stormwater protection information to businesses doing carpet cleaning, surface cleaning, and professional landscaping.

Illicit Connection Getting Fixed

While screening stormwater systems for illicit connections and/or discharges Clean Water Program staff discovered a sewer line plumbed to storm with a direct discharge into Cougar Creek. The next day county staff along with Clark Regional Wastewater District performed a dye test of the business's bathroom that was suspected of having the cross-connection. The dye test confirmed that a sink and toilet were connected to the stormwater system. County staff informed the business of the cross connection and ordered the bathroom closed. Staff then informed the property owner of the cross connection and required additional dye tests for the rest of the businesses in the complex to make sure no other bathrooms were connected. On September 17 the property owner had the storm system cleaned so any rain that fell before the repair wouldn't wash any residual waste into Cougar Creek. The property owner turned off the water to the bathroom and removed the toilet on September 18. The work to correct the illicit connection is scheduled for September 29.