

CLARK COUNTY STAFF REPORT

DEPARTMENT: Public Works/Development Engineering Division

DATE: January 6, 2015

REQUESTED ACTION: Approve reduction in Stormwater Inspection (SWI) Fees per the attached fee table, effective January 1, 2015.

SR Number:

FOR APPROVAL BY: BOCC COUNTY MANAGER HEARING

BACKGROUND

In April of 2012, per the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit, the County established additional erosion control requirements on construction projects, including inspections and fees. Given this was a newly created program, a provision was added to periodically review the revenue/cost data to ensure appropriate fee charges. County Staff joined with members of the Development Engineering Advisory Board (DEAB), and over the course of several meetings (August/September 2014) reviewed the implications and results of the program, including costs. Of the 172 projects in process and/or completed over the past three construction seasons, it was realized revenue was out-pacing costs, and a reduction appeared in order, especially for smaller sized projects. Savings were largely attributed to contractor compliance, and construction inspection efficiencies (such as coupling erosion control inspections with other needed site inspections). In summary the proposal is to reduce the base fee from \$450 to \$350, and to reduce inspection fees on sites up to 5 acres by 50%. The proposal is supported by DEAB and the Public Works Director.

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY IMPLICATIONS

None.

COUNCIL POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This action proposes a refinement of existing policy. It requires a change to county code 6.110A.035 – NPDES Erosion Control Inspection Fees.

PREVIOUS REVIEWS AND ACTIONS

DEAB reviewed and approved this recommended change at public meetings, as noted above, and gave their final review/approval on October 2, 2014.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

DEAB brought this recommendation forward in public meetings on August 7 and October 2. Minutes from the meetings are on the County's webpage. The hearing was advertised on December 24, 2014, in The Reflector newspaper.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

YES	NO	
X		Action falls within existing budget capacity.
	X	Action falls within existing budget capacity but requires a change of purpose within

PW15-001

		existing appropriation
	X	Additional budget capacity is necessary and will be requested at the next supplemental. If YES, please complete the budget impact statement. If YES, this action will be referred to the county council with a recommendation from the county manager.

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PUBLIC WORKS APPROVALS:

Greg Shafer, PE
Development Engineering Division Mgr.



Heath Henderson, PE
Public Works Director/County Engineer

Attachments:

- Exhibit A - Table 6.110A.035 - NPDES Erosion Control Inspection Fees
- Notice of Public Hearing

CC: Greg Shafer and Dianna Nutt

APPROVED: _____
CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON
BOARD OF COUNTY COUNCILORS

DATE: _____

SR #: _____

COUNTY MANAGER ACTION\RECOMMENDATION

By: Mark McCauley

Date:

SR Number:

REQUESTED ACTION:

Approve reduction in Stormwater Inspection (SWI) Fees per the attached fee table, effective January 1, 2015.

COUNTY MANAGER RECOMMENDATION:

Action	Conditions	Referral to council?
<i>Approval\denial</i>	<i>Enter conditions or requests here</i>	<i>Yes\No</i>

Mark McCauley
County Manager

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PW 15-001

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Clark County Board of County Councilors (BOCC) will hold a public hearing on January 6th 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the Councilors Hearing Room, 6th floor, 1300 Franklin Street, Vancouver, Washington, to consider:

The reduction of Stormwater Inspection (SWI) fees.

More information concerning this matter may be obtained by contacting Dianna Nutt at the Clark County Department of Public Works, 1300 Franklin, Vancouver, Washington, telephone (360) 397-6118 extension 5790.

Any person wishing to give testimony in this matter should appear at the time, date, and place above stated.

BOARD OF COUNTY COUNCILORS

Rebecca Tilton/s/

Clerk of the Board

PUBLISH: December 24, 2014



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Voice (360) 397-2322; **Relay** 711 or (800) 833-6388
Fax (360) 397-6165; **Email** ADA@clark.wa.gov



Exhibit A

Fees shown on this table are effective January 1, 2015.

Table 6.110A.035 - NPDES Erosion Control Inspection Fees⁽¹⁾

Section	Activity	Fee	Issuance Fee	Proposed Fee
A	Annual Erosion Control Inspection Fee - First Year ⁽²⁾ Fee consists of base fee plus disturbed area component. ^(3,4)			
a	Base fee	\$450	\$94	\$350
b	Additional fee for disturbed area up to and including 1 acre	\$2,000/acre	n/a	\$1,000/acre
c	Additional fee for disturbed area over 1 acre to 5 acres	\$700/acre	n/a	\$350/acre
d	Additional fee for disturbed area over 5 acres to 100 acres	\$100/acre	n/a	\$100/acre
e	Additional fee for disturbed area over 100 acres	\$50/acre	n/a	\$50/acre
B	Erosion Control Inspection Fee during Maintenance Bond Period (2-year fee)	\$600	\$94	\$600
C	Annual Extensions ⁽⁵⁾	80% of Initial Inspection fee	\$94	80% of Initial Inspection fee

Notes:

- 1 NPDES erosion control inspection fees are in addition to development inspection fees in Table 6.110A.030.
- 2 The inspection permit year for erosion control begins on the date of the preconstruction conference. If no preconstruction conference is held, the permit year begins when fees are paid.
- 3 The disturbed area fee calculation adds the fee component from each applicable area range. The fee formula calculates the area in acres using two significant figures after the decimal point. For example, the fee for a project with 200 acres of disturbed area is \$17,344 (17,344=350+94+1,000+1,400+9,500 +5,000)
- 4 Disturbed area is defined in Clark County Code Section 40.385.010(D).
- 5 "Erosion Control Inspections" are initially valid for one year. Extensions at a reduced rate are allowed if fees are paid before the expiration date. Projects with expired annual erosion control inspection permits shall pay the full fee and may be subject to code enforcement action.