



Stormwater: Dedicated state revenues needed to help fund local obligations

In a nutshell

- Stormwater pollution is the number one water pollution problem in the state.
- Washington's 100 largest and most densely populated cities are required by federal and state law to manage stormwater flows and remove toxic pollutants from those flows. (Please see reverse side for a list of these cities.)
- These cities raise over \$250 million per year from stormwater fees on resident and business property owners to help meet these obligations, but – it's not enough.
- AWC, counties and the environmental community are working together, asking the state for a dedicated funding source to help meet these obligations
- Cities will “match” dollar-for-dollar, any new funds available to meet their obligations

Background

Managing stormwater events has long been a concern for many Washington cities, especially in Westside communities where seasonal rains can cause flooding. Stormwater is also a major pathway for transporting pollutants to nearby water bodies, both fresh and saltwater. Stormwater pollution is associated with more intense urban development due to an increase in impervious surfaces, road usage, and chemical/fertilizer use.

In 1987 Congress amended the Clean Water Act (CWA) to address stormwater – primarily water quality in flows, through NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permits. Permits have been issued in phases and requirements are unfunded at the federal level and minimally (and temporarily) funded at the state level.

In Washington, the legislature authorizes the Department of Ecology (DOE) to administer these permits. The Phase I permit was first issued in 1995, amended in 2007, and applies to the largest municipalities (only the cities of Seattle and Tacoma, as well as King, Pierce, Snohomish and Clark counties).

The Phase II permit was first issued in 2007 and is scheduled for amendment in 2012. It applies to 98 more cities and the unincorporated urbanized portions of 12 more counties across the state (please see the reverse side for a listing). No additional phases are anticipated, although more cities and counties could be added to Phase II as they become more densely populated (over 10,000 in population or developed at 1,000 people/square mile).

A challenging environment

Without sufficient funding, cities and counties will likely fail to meet permit obligations and citizen expectations that pollution is being addressed. In a recent AWC survey, we found a significant unfunded liability facing local taxpayers and rate payers. Among those jurisdictions responding (less than half covered under the permits), over \$730 million in stormwater projects are planned over the next six years. Many of these projects are not yet funded, but are believed to be required to meet NPDES Phase I & II requirements.

Compliance with NPDES rules is an unfunded mandate and as evidenced by the debate in during the 2010 regular legislation session, all sides agree that additional funding is necessary to successfully implement these permits and efforts to address pollution in water bodies like the Puget Sound.

For questions or more information contact

Dave Williams, davew@awcnet.org or 360-280-5279

continued

What are the requirements of the NPDES permits?

Cities and counties subject to the permits are required to adopt a stormwater management program. Compliance deadlines for implementing all the program requirements are spread over five years from the date the permit was issued. Permit requirements are specific and detailed.

The management program must include the following components:

- A process for involving the public in the initial and on-going development of the stormwater management program.
- A public education and outreach program to educate the public, businesses and others about reducing stormwater pollution.

- Adoption of ordinances to control runoff from new development, redevelopment and construction activities. At a minimum this must include a permitting process for projects that disturb one acre or more, or projects of less than one acre that are part of a larger common development plan.
- An illicit discharge detection and elimination program to identify and remove improper discharges into the storm sewer system.
- An operation and maintenance program to reduce pollutant runoff from municipal operations.

The Phase II permits also require detailed record keeping and reporting for evaluating and assessing compliance with the permit and program effectiveness.

NPDES Phase I Stormwater cities and counties

Cities	Counties
Seattle	King
Tacoma	Pierce
	Snohomish

NPDES Phase II Stormwater cities, towns and counties

Cities

Aberdeen	Brier	Edmonds	Kent	Monroe	Poulsbo	Steilacoom
Algona	Buckley	Ellensburg	Kirkland	Moses Lake	Pullman	Sumner
Anacortes	Burien	Enumclaw	Lacey	Mount Vernon	Puyallup	Sunnyside
Arlington	Burlington	Everett	Lake Forest Park	Mountlake Terrace	Redmond	Tukwila
Asotin	Camas	Federal Way	Lake Stevens	Mukilteo	Renton	Tumwater
Auburn	Centralia	Ferndale	Lakewood	Newcastle	Richland	Union Gap
Bainbridge Island	Clarkston	Fife	Longview	Normandy Park	Sammamish	University Place
Battle Ground	Clyde Hill	Fircrest	Lynnwood	Oak Harbor	Selah	Vancouver
Bellevue	Covington	Gig Harbor	Maple Valley	Olympia	SeaTac	Walla Walla
Bellingham	Des Moines	Granite Falls	Marysville	Orting	Sedro-Woolley	Washougal
Black Diamond	DuPont	Issaquah	Medina	Pacific	Shoreline	Wenatchee
Bonney Lake	Duvall	Kelso	Mercer Island	Pasco	Snohomish	West Richland
Bothell	East Wenatchee	Kenmore	Mill Creek	Port Angeles	Spokane	Woodinville
Bremerton	Edgewood	Kennewick	Milton	Port Orchard	Spokane Valley	Yakima

Counties

Asotin	Cowlitz	Franklin	Skagit	Thurston	Whatcom
Chelan	Douglas	Kitsap	Spokane	Walla Walla	Yakima

In addition, cities in the 12 counties that surround Puget Sound that are not subject to Phase I or Phase II permits but still subject to Puget Sound clean-up efforts include:

Blaine	Coupeville	Gold Bar	Lyman	Port Townsend	Sequim	South Prairie	Tenino
Bucoda	Darrington	Hunts Point	Lynden	Rainier	Shelton	Stanwood	Woodway
Carbonado	Eatonville	Index	Mount Vernon	Roy	Skykomish	Sultan	Yarrow Point
Carnation	Everson	La Conner	Nooksack	Ruston	Snoqualmie	Sumas	Yelm
Concrete	Friday Harbor	Lagley	North Bend				