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SUBJECT: Update on New Ecology Stormwater Permit and Stormwater Management Manual

DATE: September 11, 2024

Initial
GMS

PA

PRESENTATION TYPE:
Informational Briefing

SUMMARY:

Staff from the Environmental Services Department and Planning and Development Services Department will co-present an update highlighting Tacoma’s new Municipal Stormwater Permit including additional urban forestry and development requirements and well as describe the plan to update the Stormwater Management Manual by July 2026.

BACKGROUND:

The 2024-2029 Phase I Municipal Stormwater Permit was issued by the Department of Ecology, effective August 1, 2024. The additional requirements incorporated in the new permit focus on better serving low opportunity neighborhoods and vulnerable populations, addressing tree canopy goals, targeted source control activities for toxic stormwater pollutants like PCBs, PFAS, and 6PPD-Q, and increasing water quality treatment levels throughout Tacoma.

The new Stormwater Permit requirements will require additional staffing resources, but Tacoma should be able to accomplish necessary reporting and Stormwater Manual updates by the permit due dates and remain in compliance with the Permit.

The current analysis being performed through the Stormwater Comprehensive Plan development will identify future staff needs and program improvements required to accomplish the new Stormwater Permit requirements, along with accompanying recommendations to meet those needs. This presentation was requested by the IPS Committee, and we are requesting their proposed feedback on the updates.

ISSUE:

Tacoma’s Stormwater Manual and related development requirements are also required to be updated by July 1, 2026. The adjacent, but unrelated, Home in Tacoma Project upzoning and other future development impacts on urban forests and stormwater quality and flooding also present need for updates to the Stormwater Manual update which will be incorporated in the 2026 publishing where feasible.

ALTERNATIVES:

This is an information briefing only. There are no alternatives presented.



FISCAL IMPACT:

This is an information briefing only. There is no fiscal impact.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is an information briefing only. There is no recommendation.