



TO: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
FROM: Michael P. Slevin III, P.E., Environmental Services Director *MPS*
James G. Parvey, P.E. LEED AP, Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Ordinance amending various sections of Title 10 and Title 12 of the Tacoma Municipal Code, related to the Design Manual and Low Impact Development Update Project – November 17, 2015
DATE: October 29, 2015

SUMMARY:

An ordinance amending various sections of Title 10 and Title 12 of the Tacoma Municipal Code, related to stormwater management, to implement and provide for compliance with low impact development and related requirements as mandated in the City's NPDES permit.

STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:

- Assure outstanding stewardship of the natural and built environment.
- Encourage and promote an efficient and effective government, which is fiscally sustainable and guided by engaged residents.

This action supports stewardship of the environment and effective government by adopting improved environmental design procedures in accordance with State of Washington requirements.

BACKGROUND:

The August 2013 NPDES permit mandated that the City review all development codes and regulations to ensure that Low Impact Development (LID) is the "preferred and commonly-used approach" to stormwater management. City staff reviewed and updated the City of Tacoma Right-of-Way Design Manual (Design Manual), the Stormwater Management Manual, and the City Standard Plans to meet this mandate.

The Design Manual, which had not been updated since 2004, required changes to document current City design practices and requirements and incorporate LID as required by the Washington State Department of Ecology. Approximately 70 new City of Tacoma Standard Plans and figures needed to implement LID will be available for use by both City staff and private developers. All proposed changes have been developed with a cross-departmental team and have been coordinated with relevant departments.

Information regarding these updates was presented to the Infrastructure, Planning and Sustainability Committee on January 28, 2015; the Planning Commission received a briefing on February 18, 2015; public stakeholder meetings were held February 3, 2015 and October 8, 2015 providing an overview of the Design Manual and the update process; the SWMM and Design Manual had public comment periods and comments received were addressed; and the SWMM was the subject of a public meeting on April 10, 2014, and has been revised and submitted to the Department of Ecology for approval.



ISSUE:

To comply with current City practices and requirements and the City's NPDES permit to incorporate LID as the "preferred and commonly-used approach" to stormwater management, it is necessary to amend Section 10.14.060 TMC (Planting Strips), Section 10.18.010 TMC (Materials), Chapter 10.22 TMC (Rights-of-Way), and Chapter 12.08 (Wastewater and Surface Water Management – regulations and Rates) of the Tacoma Municipal Code, to incorporate LID requirements mandated by the NPDES permit and to incorporate the updated Design Manual. The NPDES permit also requires that all related code and regulatory changes be effective by January 7, 2016.

ALTERNATIVES:

The proposed amendments to the TMC are required by the NPDES Phase I Municipal Stormwater Permit issued by Washington State Department of Ecology, and if the proposed amendments are not passed, the City will be out of compliance with the Section S5.C.5. of the NPDES permit.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Environmental Services Department recommends amending various sections of Title 10 and Title 12 of the Tacoma Municipal Code, related to stormwater management, to implement and provide for compliance with low impact development and related requirements as mandated in the City's NPDES permit.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact.