



TO: Elizabeth A. Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Merita Trohimovich, P.E., Environmental Services Science and Engineering Division
Michael P. Slevin III, P.E., Director, Environmental Services
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Ordinance - Adopting the 2021 Stormwater Management Manual - May 18, 2021
DATE: April 16, 2021

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SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:

An ordinance adopting the updated City of Tacoma Stormwater Management Manual (SWMM) providing policy and design requirements for stormwater management in Tacoma in compliance with the City’s NPDES Stormwater permit.

BACKGROUND:

In Washington, the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) maintains responsibility for implementation and enforcement of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Stormwater Permit for Phase I Municipalities (Permit), and thus the Federal Clean Water Act and 40 CFR 122. On August 1, 2019, Ecology issued the 2019-2024 NPDES Permit to all Phase I Municipalities including the City of Tacoma, City of Seattle, Pierce County, King County, Snohomish County, and Clark County.

The NPDES Permit regulates the discharge of stormwater to surface waters and groundwaters of the state from Tacoma’s storm sewer system. The NPDES Permit is designed to protect and improve the water quality of receiving waters by requiring the City of Tacoma (City) to implement a variety of stormwater management activities.

The NPDES Permit requires that the City implement local requirements meeting the Minimum Requirements of the Permit for controlling runoff from new development, redevelopment and construction sites. Permittees may use Ecology’s SWMM for Western Washington (SWMMWW) as part of this program or have their own equivalent manual. Tacoma has elected to develop and use its equivalent manual for several permit cycles.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ CUSTOMER RESEARCH:

There was a formal public review process of the draft SWMM in July 2020. There were two online meetings in July 2020 to outline the proposed changes and take questions and comments. The two meetings had over 80 attendees. Public comments were reviewed and responded to and the responses to comments are available on the City’s website (www.cityoftacoma.org/stormwatermanual). The SWMM was revised as appropriate based upon public comments.

A State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Determination of Nonsignificance was issued for the SWMM update and the process is complete.

City staff met with Puyallup Tribe of Indians staff and Master Builders Association members to discuss a specific issue related to First Creek dischargers in early 2021.



2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Equity and Accessibility:

The 2021 Stormwater Management Manual will be accessible on the City’s website. A web-based version of the SWMM is in development. The web-based version will include enhanced search functions and increased usability.

Economy/Workforce: Equity Index Score: Moderate Opportunity

Increase the number of infrastructure projects and improvements that support existing and new business developments.

Explain how your legislation will affect the selected indicator(s).

All regulations for new development, redevelopment and construction sites will be available, easy to access and understand throughout the City.

ALTERNATIVES:

Alternative	Positive Impact(s)	Negative Impact(s)
Do not approve the 2021 SWMM.	None.	Non-compliance with the NPDES Municipal Stormwater Permit and possible enforcement actions by Ecology and third parties.

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP:

Project applicants will be required to utilize the new SWMM starting July 1, 2021. City staff will also use the new SWMM for capital projects starting July 1, 2021. Training sessions will occur starting in May 2021 and will continue as demand continues. Staff and applicant feedback will be used to gauge usability of the SWMM. As needed, clarification and revision to the SWMM will occur through errata or clarification documents.

STAFF/SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:

Environmental Services recommends the City Council approve the ordinance to adopt the 2021 Stormwater Management Manual.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No cost to the City of Tacoma.

What Funding is being used to support the expense? N/A

Are the expenditures and revenues planned and budgeted in this biennium’s current budget? N/A

Are there financial costs or other impacts of not implementing the legislation?

YES
If the City does not adopt the 2021 SWMM, the City would not be in compliance with our NPDES Municipal Stormwater Permit and lead to possible enforcement action by Ecology and third parties.

Will the legislation have an ongoing/recurring fiscal impact?

NO

Will the legislation change the City’s FTE/personnel counts?

NO

ATTACHMENTS:



City of Tacoma

City Council Action Memorandum

None