



STORMWATER WORK GROUP

To: PSEMP Steering Committee

From: Stormwater Work Group

Date: **November 6, 2013 DRAFT for work group discussion**

Subject: Priority status and trends monitoring gaps

The PSEMP Stormwater Work Group (SWG) prioritized monitoring needs as part of completing the [2010 Stormwater Monitoring and Assessment Strategy for the Puget Sound Region](#). We then identified a subset of those priorities to be conducted as part of a Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program (RSMP) funded by municipal stormwater NPDES permittees in Puget Sound. At the same time, we identified key existing monitoring efforts that were important to continue.

In June we sent you a list of 16 priorities and highlighted six gaps and one lost program for consideration in your cross-workgroup prioritization exercise focused on monitoring needed to characterize and understand the condition of the ecosystem and to inform management actions, as opposed to identifying needs for effectiveness monitoring or other studies. We also understand that this process will be revisited in a few years.

In response to your request following your November 5 meeting, we now submit this smaller list of stormwater-related monitoring priorities for consideration in cross-workgroup prioritization. The RSMP will begin in 2015 and we urge you to give additional consideration to opportunities to leverage that sampling effort and reduce overall costs. Please contact SWG Chair [Jim Simmonds](#) or SWG Staff [Karen Dinicola](#) if you have any questions.

What is the gap?	Why is it important?	What is the approximate cost?
Conditions in marine nearshore areas outside Urban Growth Area (UGA) boundaries, specifically for sediment chemistry, toxics in mussels, and bacteria	The new RSMP will collect information inside UGAs to characterize and track condition and help us better understand stormwater impacts and the effectiveness of stormwater management programs in protecting water quality and biota. What is missing is similar information outside UGA boundaries to draw a comparison.	\$200,000 per year on average
Presence and persistence of current urban and agricultural use pesticides in receiving waters	Relatively little pesticide sampling occurs in a design and at a scale that informs how these chemicals impact water quality and biota in Puget Sound. Better pesticide sales and use data are needed, and targeted sampling leveraging the upcoming RSMP stream sampling should be done to inform a long term status and trends study design.	\$150,000 once
Conditions in lakes, specifically levels of nutrients and metals	There are thousands of lakes in the Puget Sound basin, yet very few are monitored and there is no regional plan to evaluate lake condition to better understand whether our stormwater management actions working to improve conditions. A regional assessment should be followed by a status and trends study design process.	\$150,000 once
Conditions in groundwater, specifically levels of nutrients, metals, pesticides, and PAHs	Impacts of stormwater on groundwater are not well understood. With increased requirements to implement Low Impact Development and infiltrate more stormwater, a plan is needed to better understand whether our stormwater management are causing unintended harm. A regional assessment of should be followed by a status and trends study design process.	\$300,000 once