

Municipal Permit Comments
WA Department of Ecology
Water Quality Program
P.O. Box 47696
Olympia, WA 98504-7696

Dear Department of Ecology –

We support the general principles and approach embodied in the proposed permit and LID standards, especially the following elements:

- The shift to a watershed approach. This not only makes sense from the streams point of view, but may allow some jurisdictions to share implementation resources.
- The elimination of the 1-acre threshold.
- The establishment of a Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program through which jurisdictions have the option of paying DOE to handle their water monitoring. In a similar vein, DOE might consider how it could enable community education by providing (at cost) key "generic" educational materials, appropriate for most jurisdictions.

We have the following recommendations regarding the proposed permit and LID standards:

- LID techniques should be required for all new development. Where infiltration techniques are not “feasible”, non-infiltration LID techniques should be employed to reduce and control runoff. For example, site preparation for new residential development should be limited to building footprints, with overlying structures constructed on concrete pier foundations, resulting in no disturbance of native soils.
- Rather than allow exemptions for “feasibility”, which are a loophole to avoid compliance with LID requirements, use quantifiable performance standards to define required techniques relative to soil types and site characteristics.
- Emphasize protection of native soil and vegetation on site and reduction of impervious surfaces.
- Include water re-use requirements for all development subject to the permit requirements.
- Revise rain garden standards to be consistent with current studies by WSU which show effective levels of performance in less than optimal soils.
- Require LID training and certification to for those who implement LID structures/facilities.
- Require all municipalities to adopt the current and updated Ecology Stormwater Manual to ensure consistency and reduce costs. They may add more stringent requirements but should not duplicate them.
- Expand watershed & basin planning to include all jurisdictions in that watershed.

- Define the maximum acceptable level of cumulative impervious surface in the watershed. Require a balanced ratio of green space to impervious surfaces on a project and site basis, and on a cumulative basis within a watershed.
- Require LID standards be applied to all construction activities in public rights-of-way.
- Prevent grandfathering of outdated stormwater regulations which allow dormant permits to comply with less stringent regulations. This could be done by mandating a 3-year permit expiration period, terminating a permit if substantial construction has not commenced within 24 months of a SEPA permit review completion and initial grading permit issuance.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Eric Adman
Chair, Sno-King Watershed Council

The Sno-King Watershed Council represents environmental and neighborhood groups, scientists, technical experts and interested citizens working to protect streams and watersheds in north King and south Snohomish Counties. Allied organizations include:

Adopt-A-Stream Foundation
Edmonds Backyard Wildlife Habitat and Sustainability Project
Snohomish County Sustainable Development Task Force
Sierra Club Snohomish Chapter
Brackett's Landing Foundation
Friends of Lund's Gulch Creek
Pilchuck Audubon
Friends of Lake Allen
Friends of Perrinville Creek and the Edmonds Marsh
Livable Snohomish County Coalition
Hilltop-Locust Community Group
Trout Unlimited
People for Environmentally Responsible Kenmore

Friends of Northshore
Denny Creek Neighborhood Alliance
Lake Forest Park Stewardship Foundation
Friends of the Cedar River Watershed
Friends of the North Creek Forest
The Sustainable Fisheries Foundation
Cascadia Environmental Science Center
Edmonds Community College LEAF School
Lake Stickney Conservancy
Just Frogs & Friends Amphibian Center
The Sustainable Living Institute
Friends of Little Swamp Creek