



## King County

### Water and Land Resources Division

Department of Natural Resources and Parks

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March 22, 2010

TO: Molly Johnson, Development Engineer, Engineering Review Section, Land Use Services Division, Department of Development and Environmental Services

FM: Curt W. Crawford, Manager, Stormwater Services Section, Water and Land Resources Division, Department of Natural Resources and Parks *AW*

RE: Elimination of Impervious Surface Percentage Exemption and Small Project Review Threshold

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) reviewed King County's Surface Water Design Manual (the manual) under King County's municipal NPDES permit, to determine if the manual met the permit requirement of having a stormwater manual that is equivalent to Ecology's 2005 Stormwater Manual for Western Washington. Ecology determined that King County's manual is equivalent except for the impervious surface percentage exemption in Core Requirement #3, and the allowance for Small Project Drainage Review for projects in the rural residential, agriculture, and forestry zones that result in no more than 4 percent total impervious surface and no more than 15 percent pervious surface.

Ecology initially indicated that it could approve the impervious surface percentage exemption, based in part on the clearing limits that King County had imposed through KCC 16.82. Now that Washington State courts have thrown out the 16.82 clearing limits, Ecology has determined that the County may no longer allow the impervious surface exemption in Core #3, Section 1.2.3, and the rural zone impervious surface limit criterion for Small Project Review in Section 1.1.2.1.

We plan to revise the text of the 2009 Surface Water Design Manual (SWDM) in an errata this fall. In the meantime, we plan to put a note on the SWDM website to alert users to this change. We suggest that putting a similar note on the Department of Development and Environmental Services website would be appropriate, perhaps along with the note on the change in applying KCC 16.82.

CC:SF:bgd07

cc: Rachel McCrea, Municipal Stormwater Specialist, Washington State Department of Ecology  
Steve Foley, Senior Engineer, Stormwater Services Section, Water and Land Resources Division (WLRD), Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)  
David Batts, Senior Engineer, Stormwater Services Section, WLRD, DNRP  
Dale Nelson, Engineer, Stormwater Services Section, WLRD, DNRP