

**Clarks Creek Dissolved Oxygen and Sediment TMDL
(Publication no. 14-10-030) Clarifications Only for Pierce County, Washington**

Plan Scope of Work, Schedule and Criteria for Approval

- I. No later than June 30, 2015, Department of Ecology will approve this scope of work and schedule for the preparation of the Clarks Creek Restoration Plan.
- II. No later than June 30, 2016, Pierce County will submit to Ecology for review the draft Clarks Creek Restoration Plan. The purpose of the Restoration Plan is to identify and prioritize projects and actions within the Clarks Creek watershed to address stormwater flows and sediment transport from Pierce County's MS4 to fully satisfy Pierce County's wasteload allocations under the Clarks Creek Dissolved Oxygen and Sediment TMDL and to describe a five (5) year re-assessment to guide TMDL implementation over the longer term.
- III. No later than August 29, 2016 Department of Ecology will provide its written comments and required changes on the County's draft Clarks Creek Restoration Plan. The County will respond to Ecology's comments and revise the draft plan as appropriate by October 31, 2016. This deadline shall be extended by the number of days by which Ecology exceeds its 60 day review.
- IV. The Plan will, at a minimum, describe a method for estimating, tracking and reporting the annual pollutant load reductions over the twenty year implementation period of the Clarks Creek Restoration Plan. The Plan's first five years after the approval of the Plan will be tied to achieve the Waste Load Allocations (WLA) for: 1) 50 percent reduction in stormwater flow or untreated stormflow volumes, Dissolved Oxygen Deficit (DOD), and/or a combination of flow and DOD reduction; and 2) a 66 percent reduction of sediment baseload assigned to Pierce County. The progress from years six through twenty will be determined by the results of the five (5) year reassessment described under paragraph (f). Every five years Pierce County will submit to Ecology a new five year plan that includes the specifics in paragraph (e).
 - a. Proposed projects and actions designed to provide treatment or reduction of the total stormwater flow volume discharged from those portions of Pierce County's MS4 located within the zones identified in the TMDL for years one through twenty. These actions will be based on the volume reduction WLA to Clarks Creek and tributaries by 50 percent relative to the October 21, 2003 storm event or other event mutually approved by Ecology and the County. Types of creditable projects and actions may include:
 - i. Projects completed and operational since October 21, 2003
 - ii. Public water quality improvement projects
 - iii. Water quality BMPs implemented through stormwater retrofit or redevelopment
 - iv. Enhanced road, MS4 infrastructure and private asset maintenance operations for water quality effectuated by the County
 - v. Changes to development-related codes, rules, standards, and plans
 - vi. In-Stream restoration projects including riparian planting, Elodea removal and culvert replacement projects
 - b. Proposed projects and actions designed to reduce sediment to levels required by the WLA of 66 percent sediment reduction based on the TMDL's referenced sites index or other Ecology and Pierce County mutually approved approach, as informed by the reassessment outlined in paragraph (f).

- c. Proposed projects and actions to reduce sediment transport from bank erosion provide long-term channel stability. Projects may be selected from the prioritized list identified in the Puyallup Tribe of Indians Sediment Reduction Study (PTI, 2012) or the County's Basin Plan. It is important to note that if projects from the PTI Sediment Reduction Study are used, it would result in a 50 percent reduction in sediment, and many of these projects would also be able to count towards achievement of the 50 percent reduction/treatment target in stormwater. Many projects can have dual benefits for meeting the Waste Load Allocation.
- d. Types of creditable projects and actions described in paragraphs (b) and (c) may include:
 - i. Projects completed and operational since October 21, 2003
 - ii. Public water quality improvement projects
 - iii. Private parcel BMPs implemented through stormwater retrofit or redevelopment
 - iv. Enhanced road, MS4 infrastructure and private asset maintenance operations for water quality effectuated by the County
 - v. Changes to development-related codes, rules, standards, and plans
 - vi. In-Stream restoration projects including riparian planting, Elodea removal and culvert replacement projects
- e. An implementation section that identifies a schedule of projects and actions, construction timelines, responsible parties, estimated costs, and funding strategies for the first five (5) years.
- f. A process for conducting a five-year (5) re-assessment of the metrics, models, data, and progress directed under the TMDL and the implementation of the Clarks Creek Plan, together with an adaptive management approach for achieving water quality standards. The purpose of the re-assessment is to determine progress made from October 2003 through the first five (5) year implementation plan to determine alternative watershed health indicators, models, data, performance standards, proportionate obligations, and overall progress in achieving water quality standards for the remaining 15 year implementation duration of the TMDL. Pierce County will lead the five (5) year re-assessment process with Ecology as an active participant. Among other considerations, the five (5) year re-assessment may include:
 - i. The delineation of Urban Planning Catchments to better understand compartmental sources of untreated stormwater volumes and sediment transport
 - ii. The development of improved modeling tools to estimate pollutant load reduction action alternatives by Urban Planning Catchment
 - iii. Enhanced monitoring program for evaluating watershed diagnostics and project scale effectiveness
 - iv. Evaluation of relevant emerging technologies and program strategies that improve water quality and enhance stormwater management
 - v. Review of progress to date on overall watershed health of Clarks Creek watershed using a variety of ecosystem health indicators.
 - vi. Identification and re-assessment of the appropriateness of flow and sediment reduction metrics and the selection of alternative metrics by mutual agreement.
 - vii. A mutually approved method for tracking and reporting watershed health trends in the five (5) year re-assessment and for the remaining 15 year implementation plan.

- viii. Update of the actions described in the implementation section based on information developed during the five (5) year re-evaluation, and which meets the pollutant reduction goals of the TMDL. In the event that the five (5) year reassessment is delayed or not completed, progress shall be tracked based on the TMDL.
- g. Ecology may use the results of the five (5) year re-assessment to revise the Clarks Creek TMDL. Proposed changes to the TMDL that require alteration of the WLA must be approved by EPA and Ecology; any changes or alterations would also require a public process.