City of Gig Harbor
Stormwater Management Program
2026 Update

GIG HARBOR®
"THE MARITIME CITY"

Permit # WAR045009

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INTRODUCTION

Overview and Background

The federal *Clean Water Act* (CWA) is the principal law in the United States governing water pollution with the goal of restoring our waters for "fishable, swimmable" uses. Pursuant to that goal, the *National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System* (NPDES) permit program was created to regulate pollutant sources. In 1987, Congress amended the CWA to specifically address stormwater pollution from *municipal separate storm sewer systems* (MS4's), requiring municipalities with these systems to obtain NPDES permits. In Washington State, the federal *Environmental Protection Agency* (EPA) has delegated NPDES permit authority to the *Department of Ecology* (Ecology) who administers the program and writes the permits. The NPDES permits implement the standards of the CWA as well as relevant provisions of the State's Water Pollution Control Law by imposing limits on discharges, enforcing water quality monitoring, and outlining requirements for reducing pollutants in stormwater.

NPDES permits were originally issued in two phases: Phase I communities are municipalities that had a population of over 100,000 as of the 1990 census. Falling below that threshold, the City of Gig Harbor was designated as a Phase II community along with about 100 other municipalities in Washington who are operators of small-and-medium-sized MS4s. Phase II permits are further broken down into Western and Eastern Washington to account for the different climates and geography. The EPA promulgated the NPDES Phase II rules in 1999 and Ecology issued the City of Gig Harbor its first permit in 2007, with subsequent extensions and reissuances occurring to the present day:

- 2007-2012 NPDES Permit, extended by Ecology to 2013.
- 2013-2018 NPDES Permit, extended by Ecology to 2019.
- 2019-2024 NPDES Permit, expired July 31, 2024.
- 2024-2029 NPDES Permit, current permit issued by Ecology July 1, 2024.

The permit allows municipalities to discharge stormwater runoff from municipal drainage systems into the State's waterbodies (i.e., streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands) and groundwater if the municipalities implement *best management practices* (BMPs) through a *Stormwater Management Program* (SWMP). The following elements of the SWMP are required in the current permit:

1. Stormwater Planning
2. Public Education and Outreach
3. Public Involvement and Participation
4. MS4 Mapping and Documentation
5. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE)
6. Controlling Runoff from New Development, Redevelopment, and Construction Sites
7. Stormwater Management for Existing Development
8. Source Control Program for Existing Development
9. Operations and Maintenance (O&M)

As a programmatic permit, these elements work together to ensure protection of water quality in our waterways. The permit also includes general provisions for reporting, stormwater monitoring, assessing program effectiveness, source identification, and implementation of waterbody-specific cleanup plans (*Total Maximum Daily Loads* or TMDLs). Ecology has not yet developed such plans for Gig Harbor waterbodies.

The permit requires the city to report annually on SWMP implementation for the prior year and describe proposed SWMP activities for the coming year. Some permit conditions are phased throughout the five-year permit term. The current permit became effective August 1, 2024 and will be in force until July 31, 2029. City staff have reviewed permit deadlines and adjusted the SWMP accordingly.

The permit requirements affect departments across the city organization. The Engineering Division of the Public Works Department is the lead and coordinates tasks that may require some collaboration with the other departments and divisions such as Operations, Community Development, Parks, Wastewater, and Administration. While some tasks may be cross-departmental, the lead department has been identified in the task tables for each permit component in the sections below.

The city also coordinates with neighboring jurisdictions when necessary to implement the stormwater program. This often happens with development that occurs at the city limits or within the Urban Growth Area (UGA) or where the city's MS4 interconnects with Pierce County or state highways (WSDOT). The city actively participates in several regional partnerships to optimize permit implementation and share knowledge.

Sections 2 through 10 of the SWMP are organized by permit component and describe actions Gig Harbor will take to maintain compliance from January 1, 2026 through January 1, 2027. See Appendix A for a glossary of terms and acronyms.

The Western Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit and additional information can be found on Ecology's website (www.ecology.wa.gov) and the city's stormwater webpage (www.gigharborwa.gov/Stormwater).

Annual & Phased Permit Requirements

While some of the permit requirements are done annually or on an ongoing basis, others are phased in over the permit term and often build upon previous efforts and programs.

On March 31 of each year, the city must:

1. Submit an annual report to Ecology documenting permit compliance activities for the previous calendar year.
2. Submit its SWMP document to Ecology describing compliance activities planned for the coming year.
3. Post the SWMP document and annual report on the city website.

Permit requirements scheduled to be phased in for 2026 include:

1. **S5.C.3.a.ii** – No later than December 31, 2026, document methods used to identify overburdened communities.
2. **S5.C.4.b.i** – No later than March 31, 2026, submit locations of all known MS4 outfalls according to the standard templates and format provided in the Annual Report. Report the size and material of the outfalls, where known.
3. **S5.C.4.b.ii** – No later than December 31, 2026, using available, existing data, map tree canopy to support stormwater management on Permittee-owned or operated properties. Permittees shall develop and follow a methodology to intentionally identify canopy for stormwater management purposes, which may be updated annually or as needed.
4. **S5.C.5.e.ii(a)** – No later than December 31, 2026, the Permittee shall coordinate with firefighting agencies/departments that serve the areas that discharge to the MS4 to be notified when PFAS-containing AFFFs are used during emergency firefighting activities.
5. **S5.C.5.e.ii(b)** – No later than January 1, 2027, Permittee shall update and implement procedures to minimize discharges to the MS4 during post-emergency clean-up and disposal activities including, but not limited to, the immediate clean-up in all situations where PFAS-containing AFFFs have been used, diversions, and other measures that prevent discharges to the MS4. The Permittee is not expected to deploy control measures during an emergency.

Stormwater Management in Gig Harbor

The City of Gig Harbor has an estimated population of 13,110 (2025 Washington State OFM projected estimate) and covers an area a little over 6 square miles. Gig Harbor Bay, Henderson Bay, and Wollochet Bay are the receiving water bodies of the city's stormwater system and our local natural streams such as North (Donkey) Creek, McCormick Creek, and Crescent Creek. These waterbodies historically supported populations of coho, chinook, and chum salmon as well as steelhead trout and sea run cutthroat, but pollution (among other factors) has decreased their populations. The primary source of this pollution in Puget Sound is stormwater, which carries oils, metals, trash, and other spills from parking lots, roads, construction sites, commercial sites, and industrial sites into our waterways. Protecting water quality will not only benefit aquatic ecosystems, but also benefit our human community as we restore beneficial uses of these water resources for healthy drinking water, fishing, swimming, and other recreation. Having a well-maintained and compliant stormwater system is one of the major ways the City of Gig Harbor is committed to doing just that.

The city's stormwater system consists of catch basins, pipes, drainage ditches, wetlands, ponds, and stormwater management facilities providing flow control and water quality treatment of storm runoff. The inventory of stormwater facilities and infrastructure has grown substantially over the past decade with continuing development and annexations to the city. The Public Works Operations Department has been responsible for maintaining the publicly owned components of this system which consists of 25 ponds, 2500 inlets, 16 miles of drainage ditch, 7 bioretention swales, 72 miles of storm pipe, and more. The city finances these maintenance activities and other components of the stormwater program with a Stormwater Utility Fee, first established in 1984 and updated several times since. The utility code was most recently updated in 2025.

Improvements to the public stormwater system are driven by the current Stormwater Comprehensive Plan (2018 update) and Stormwater Management Action Plan (SMAP) which identifies capital projects and targeted actions necessary to ensure the system properly serves the community and projected growth. The city also looks for opportunities for stormwater retrofits in other capital improvement projects such as for transportation and parks.

Contact Information

The city encourages the public to participate in the yearly updates to this SWMP. For questions and comments, please contact the stormwater department:

Mail:	3510 Grandview St. Gig Harbor, WA 98335	Email:	stormwater@gigharborwa.gov
Phone:	(253) 853-2646	Website:	www.gigharborwa.gov/Stormwater

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

Permit Requirements

Section S5.A requires the city to:

- Implement a SWMP and prepare written documentation for submittal to Ecology on March 31 of each year summarizing implementation activities for the previous calendar year. The purpose of the SWMP is to reduce the discharge of pollutants from the municipal stormwater system to the *maximum extent practicable* (MEP) thereby protecting water quality. The SWMP must include all 9 elements outlined in the permit as well as planned actions to meet the requirements of applicable TMDLs and Monitoring & Assessment.
- Track information to evaluate SWMP development, implementation, and permit compliance and to set priorities. This includes tracking costs as well as the number of inspections, follow-up actions, enforcement actions, and public education activities.
- Coordinate among other permittees for interconnected MS4s and shared waterbodies. Coordinate internally among departments to eliminate barriers to permit compliance.

Current Activities

The city is currently implementing the following activities to comply with the permit requirements above:

- The city is on track to submit the SWMP documentation by the deadline (March 31, 2026).
- The city is tracking costs associated with implementation of the SWMP.
- The city is tracking training, inspections, enforcement actions, and public education activities.
- The city is active in coordination among permittees.
- The city regularly meets internally to coordinate activities among departments.

Planned Activities

Table 1 presents the work plan for the 2026 SWMP Administration activities. These tasks were developed through an interactive process with staff from the pertinent city departments.

Table 1. 2026 Stormwater Management Administration Program Work Plan			
Task ID	**Task Description**	**Lead**	**Schedule Notes**
SWMP-1	Summarize annual activities for "Stormwater Management Program" component of Annual Report; identify any updates to SWMP document.	Engineering	The SWMP and Annual Report are due on or before March 31 each year.
SWMP-2	Use data from Cartegraph, the grant tracker, and expense status reports to more accurately account NPDES implementation costs. Break down costs by permit components.	Engineering/Finance	This information will be transferred to Virtual Project Manager (VPM) for tracking.
SWMP-3	Consolidate tracking of training activities, inspections, enforcement actions, and public education activities.	Engineering/ Operations/ Construction Inspectors/ Code Enforcement	Continue to refine tracking procedures throughout 2026.
SWMP-4	Coordinate among municipal permittees as necessary. Continue to actively participate in work groups and technical teams that are directly permit-related or stormwater adjacent to maintain cross-jurisdictional relationships: • West Sound Stormwater Outreach Group (WSSOG) • West Sound Partners for Ecosystem Recovery (WSPER) • KGI Watershed Council • Phase II Permit Coordinators' Groups (South, West, and Central Sound) • APWA Stormwater Group • Business Inspections Group (BIG) • Regional Operations and Maintenance Program (ROADMAP) • Stormwater Outreach for Regional Municipalities (STORM) • Pierce Conservation District • Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department	Engineering	Coordination is especially important with Pierce County and WSDOT as the only jurisdictions with MS4 interconnection. Gig Harbor is located within Watershed Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 15.
SWMP-5	Coordinate internally among departments. Conduct an annual charette with all departments to discuss the year's activities, upcoming phased requirements, and goals. Find opportunities for cross-cutting.	All Departments	Annual charette should occur early in the year.

STORMWATER PLANNING

Permit Requirements

Section S5.C.1 requires the city to:

- Convene an interdisciplinary team to inform and influence the development and progress of the SWMP.
- Coordinate with comprehensive plan updates and describe how stormwater needs and the protection of receiving waters are informing the planning update process and influencing policies and strategies.
- Continue to require *Low Impact Development* (LID) principles and BMPs when updating, revising, and developing new local development codes, rules, standards, and other enforceable documents. Annually assess and document any newly identified administrative or regulatory barriers to LID implementation and the measures developed to address the barriers.
- Adopt and implement tree canopy goals and policies to support stormwater management.
- Develop a *Stormwater Management Action Plan* (SMAP) for one new priority catchment using the same process that was used for the SMAP required in the 2019-2024 NPDES Permit term or update the existing SMAP with additional actions. Submit the SMAP with the annual report March 31, 2027.

Current Activities

The city is currently implementing the following activities to comply with the permit requirements above:

- The city has convened an inter-disciplinary team that informs and assists in development, progress, and influence of this program. This team includes city staff from Public Works, Community Development, and Operations.
- The city adopted the current Comprehensive Plan in April 2025. Stormwater management needs informed the Land Use, Environmental, Shoreline Management, Capital Facilities, and Transportation elements of the Plan.
- The city has drafted a new Climate Element for inclusion in the Comprehensive Plan that city council will consider in 2026. This Climate Element includes strategies informed by climate resilience needs of stormwater infrastructure.
- The city requires LID principles and BMPs as the preferred approach to site development. Requirements are found in the city's current Stormwater Management and Site Development Manual and the Gig Harbor Municipal Code. Barriers to LID are assessed on an ongoing basis.

- The city adopted a SMAP on November 28, 2022 by Ordinance 1501, which incorporated it into the Stormwater Comprehensive Plan as Appendix F. The SMAP identifies North Creek as Gig Harbor's priority basin and outlines short-term and long-term actions the city will take to protect it.
- The city adopted its Urban Forestry Management Plan by Resolution 1295 on October 9, 2023. This plan details the city's tree canopy and includes a priority planting map to maximize stormwater management benefits.
- The city adopted its Climate Action Plan by Resolution 1294 on October 9, 2023. This plan is a framework of actions and strategies the city can implement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase climate change resilience.

Planned Activities

Table 2 presents the work plan for the 2026 Stormwater Planning activities. Tasks were developed through an interactive process with staff from the pertinent city departments.

Table 2. 2026 Stormwater Planning Work Plan

Task ID	Task Description	Lead	Schedule Notes
SWPL-1	Continue to convene annual charette with inter-disciplinary team. Conduct additional meetings between Engineering/Planning for tree canopy and Comp Plan/SMAP updates.	Engineering	Continue to convene annually
SWPL-2	Report stormwater considerations on long-range plans.	Engineering/Planning	Due March 31, 2027
SWPL-3	Require LID principles and BMPs when updating, revising, and developing new local development codes, rules, standards, and other enforceable documents. Annually assess and document barriers to LID.	Engineering/Planning	Ongoing
SWPL-4	Implement adopted Urban Forestry Management Plan for meeting tree canopy planning requirements.	Engineering/Planning	Due December 31, 2028
SWPL-5	Develop a SMAP for a new priority catchment area or identify additional actions for the existing SMAP.	Engineering/Planning	New/updated SMAP due March 31, 2027
SWPL-6	SMAP action item: North Creek Culvert Removal project (CIP 2305).	Engineering	In Design/Permitting
SWPL-7	Develop an Ecology-approved Enhanced Maintenance Plan (EMP) for North Creek basin.	Engineering	Grant-funded project, pending Ecology approval.

PUBLIC EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Permit Requirements

Section S5.C.2 requires the city to:

- Build general awareness about methods to address and reduce impacts from stormwater runoff.
- Implement a new behavior change campaign or improve an existing one to reduce or eliminate behaviors and practices that cause or contribute to adverse stormwater impacts.
- Create stewardship opportunities that encourage community engagement in addressing the impacts from stormwater runoff.
- Track and maintain records of public education and outreach activities.

Current Activities

The city is currently implementing the following activities to comply with the permit requirements above:

- The city participates in the West Sound Stormwater Outreach Group (WSSOG), a multijurisdictional partnership between Kitsap County and other municipalities in the region. This year, WSSOG and the city renewed the Interlocal Agreement to manage education and outreach campaigns for meeting permit obligations. Over the course of this partnership, WSSOG has implemented the following campaigns:
    - Pet Waste – Intended to reduce fecal coliform pollution in our waterbodies, the city maintains 31 Mutt Mitt stations in strategic locations.
    - Natural Yard Care – Intended to reduce chemical fertilizers and nutrients in our waterbodies, WSSOG facilitates virtual webinars and in-person demonstrations hosted by Master Gardeners to promote natural yard care techniques to homeowners. WSSOG also partnered with local retailers to offer discounts on organic lawn food. In 2024, the campaign outputs included 94,144 people reach through social media ads, 14,347 reached through physical postcards, 3 webinars and 1 in-person event attended by 29 people, and 68 organic fertilizer coupons redeemed. A report evaluating the impacts and recommended changes to the campaign was completed as required by the permit (due by March 31, 2024).
- The city completed a major overhaul of its stormwater webpages online. The webpages now include more detailed education on stormwater topics broken out by audiences as well as resources for stewardship opportunities.

- The city raises general awareness of stormwater by participating in various *Puget Sound Starts Here* (PSSH) campaigns through the *Stormwater Outreach for Regional Municipalities* (STORM) group. In 2025, WSSOG contributed to the *Don't Wait to Inflate* campaign, encouraging the public to check their car's tire pressure to reduce tire wear and the associated pollutant (6PPD-q) in runoff.
- The city participates in the Leadership Council of the Key Peninsula-Gig Harbor-Islands (KGI) Watershed Council. Efforts include hosting an annual State of the Watershed that is open to the public, reviewing applications for the small grants program (Lu Winsor Fund), and organizing community field trips.
- The city partnered with Harbor WildWatch to facilitate a series of stormwater education workshops for school grades K-12, including a geology series and water series. They began their stormwater series in 2023 and reached 583 students across 28 classrooms, primarily in the Peninsula and Steilacoom School Districts. Each series meets national STEM standards and aligns with the Washington State Next Generation Science Standards (NGSC).
- The city hosts or participates in various events to share stormwater information with the public. Educational material is passed out and city staff meet face-to-face with community members to directly address questions and concerns. Outreach events in 2025 include Harbor Hello, HOA Fair, and a PCB Workshop.
- The city created a Stormwater StoryMap using ArcGIS that provides a high-level overview of stormwater, regulations, and what the city is doing regarding stormwater and was significantly updated in 2025. The StoryMap is available to the public on the city website and used as an education and outreach tool.
- The city provides a storm drain catch basin marker installation program containing the message "Only Rain Down the Storm Drain" for volunteers and developers to install.
- The city provides multiple informative signs throughout the community that educate on topics such as streams, wetlands, and our local watershed.
- The city provides outreach material such as Client Assistant Memos, brochures, flyers, magnets, pet waste bag dispensers, paint sticks, etc. These materials cover topics including stormwater pollution, spills reporting, maintenance of stormwater facilities, and specific source control BMPs for businesses.
- The city partnered with Harbor WildWatch to initiate a new Storm Drain Art project in 2025. Four catch basins along the waterfront were chosen for local artists to connect the natural and built environments through their art.

Planned Activities

Table 3 presents the work plan for the 2026 Public Education and Outreach activities. These tasks were developed through an interactive process with staff from the pertinent city departments.

Table 3. 2026 Public Education and Outreach Work Plan			
Task ID	**Task Description**	**Lead**	**Schedule Notes**
EDUC-1	Utilize available city channels to distribute outreach material, educate on stormwater topics, seek public comment, and advertise campaigns and stewardship opportunities: • Weekly Gig-A-Byte Newsletter • Department Updates Letter • City Social Media posts • Stormwater Webpage • Stormwater StoryMap • City-hosted events • Community events	Engineering	Potential events, as allowed: • HOA Fair • Parks Appreciation Day • Donkey Creek Chum Festival • State of the Watershed
EDUC-2	Continue to implement the following programs with assistance from WSSOG: • Pet Waste/Mutt Mitt • Spill hotline • PSSH campaigns/PSSH Month • Educational signs and salmon counting station • Natural Yard Care (with recommended changes to strategy based on program evaluation)	Engineering/Parks/ WSSOG/STORM/ Harbor WildWatch	Continue implementing education and outreach programs and events throughout the year
EDUC-3	Implement new Dumpster campaign. Implement strategies for enhancing outreach to overburdened communities as described in WSSOG report.	Engineering/WSSOG	
EDUC-4	Continue to support and expand partnership with Harbor WildWatch on stormwater education such as Marine Life Center exhibits, classroom curricula, and storm drain art project.	Engineering/Harbor WildWatch	
EDUC-5	Provide education and outreach to private storm system owners on maintenance, specifically Homeowner Associations.	Engineering	
EDUC-6	Promote tree planting events: Parks Appreciation Day, Tree Share, etc.	Engineering/Parks	Promote ahead of events

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT & PARTICIPATION

Permit Requirements

Section S5.C.3 requires the city to:

- Provide ongoing opportunities for public involvement through advisory boards, council meetings, watershed committees, participation in developing rate structures or other similar activities. The public must be able to participate in the decision-making processes involving the development, implementation and updating of the SWMP.
- Annually document specific public involvement and participation opportunities provided to overburdened communities and specifically, highly impacted communities. No later than December 31, 2026, document methods used to identify overburdened communities.
- Post the SWMP document and annual report on the city's website by May 31 of each year.

Current Activities

The city is currently implementing the following activities to comply with the permit requirements above:

- City staff gave a presentation to city council on March 10, 2025 on the current state of the stormwater program. The meeting was open for public comment.
- The city's Committee on Diversity and Engagement completed a community survey in 2025 to gather baseline data on perceptions of Gig Harbor as a "welcoming city" with the intent of improving outreach to overburdened communities.
- The city participates in the Leadership Council of the KGI Watershed Council to discuss projects and share information relevant to preserving and improving the health of the watershed. Watershed councils are intended to be community-led and are therefore open to and attended by the public and their ideas and comments drive the actions of the organization.
- The city makes all stormwater-related codes, standards, and plans available on its website. This includes the 2018 Stormwater Comprehensive Plan, current Stormwater Management and Site Development Manual, the current SMAP, Ordinance 1168 Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE), and Ordinance 1169 Code Revisions to Stormwater, Grading and Civil Permits. The public is encouraged to offer comments and provide feedback on any of these documents to city staff, at city council meetings and to the mayor.

- The city posts and regularly updates a Capital Improvement Projects page on the city website including stormwater projects that the public can monitor and offer comments on to city staff and administration.
- In 2021, Kitsap County received a $42,000 Municipal Grant of Regional or Statewide Significance (GROSS) from the Department of Ecology to enhance public involvement and participation in overburdened communities for WSSOG. A web-based story map was developed with 23 demographic, socioeconomic, and environmental metrics, viewable at the community or census tract level, to guide WSSOG partners in creating inclusive and equitable outreach. In 2023, with assistance from The Athena Group, the final GROSS grant outcomes were delivered, including three workshops to improve outreach strategies and an Outreach and Engagement Report and Implementation Plan for WSSOG members. The city was an active participant in this project and intends to actualize the plan's strategies in coordination with WSSOG in the coming years.
- The city posts the current SWMP and annual report on the city website with encouragement to provide feedback.
- The city complies with all applicable state and local public notice requirements.
- The city updated its ADA policies in 2025 to ensure equitable public communications.

Planned Activities

Table 4 presents the work plan for the 2026 Public Involvement and Participation activities. These tasks were developed through an interactive process with staff from the pertinent city departments.

Table 4. 2026 Public Involvement and Participation Work Plan

Task ID	Task Description	Lead	Schedule Notes
PI-1	Provide public involvement opportunities for SWMP updates and SMAP. Activity and meeting dates will be posted on city website.	Administration/ Engineering	Annually track efforts
PI-2	Continue to be an active member of the KGI Watershed Council and encourage public involvement in watershed planning and projects.	Engineering/KGI Watershed Council	KGI meets monthly, alternating between general and leadership
PI-3	Document methods used to identify overburdened communities (WSSOG's report and equity atlas)	Engineering/WSSOG	Due December 31, 2026
PI-4	Present SWMP to city council for their input and public comment.	Administration/ Engineering	As requested by city council
PI-5	Post SWMP and Annual Report on city website.	Engineering	Due May 31 each year

MAPPING & DOCUMENTATION

Permit Requirements

Section S5.C.4 requires the city to:

- Maintain mapping data for known MS4 assets:
    - Outfalls and discharge points including size and material where known
    - Receiving waters, other than groundwater
    - Stormwater treatment and flow control BMPs/facilities owned or operated by the city
    - Geographic areas served by the MS4 that do not discharge stormwater to surface waters
    - Tributary conveyances to all known outfalls and discharge points with a 24-inch nominal diameter or larger, or an equivalent cross-sectional area for non-pipe systems. Include type, material, size, associated drainage areas, and land use
    - Connections between the MS4 owned or operated by the city and other municipalities or public entities
    - All known connections to the MS4 authorized or allowed by the city after February 16, 2007
    - All known connections from the MS4 to a privately owned stormwater system.
- Collect new mapping data:
    - Tree canopy to support stormwater management on city owned or operated properties (due December 31, 2026)
    - Acreage of MS4 tributary basins to outfalls with a 24-inch nominal diameter or larger, or an equivalent cross-sectional area for non-pipe systems that have stormwater treatment and flow control BMPs/facilities owned or operated by the city (due March 31, 2028)
    - Overburdened communities in relation to stormwater treatment and flow control BMPs/facilities, outfalls, discharge points, and tree canopy on city owned or operated properties (due December 31, 2028)
- Submit to Ecology the location, size, and material of all known MS4 outfalls in a standard template by March 31, 2026
- Require electronic format for mapping and provide mapping information upon request.

Current Activities

The city is currently implementing the following activities to comply with the permit requirements above:

- The city maintains mapping data on the Esri ArcGIS geospatial platform in compliance with the permit requirements (see the required mapped MS4 assets listed under Permit Requirements above). The data is updated as needed.
- The city integrates the collected GIS data with Cartegraph, an asset management software, to connect field and desktop data and keep all information up to date. Cartegraph is also able to track maintenance activities, inspections, costs, etc.
- Stormwater as-builts and record drawings from city and private development projects continue to be added to GIS data. The combination of data integration, project data digitization and staff web mapping capabilities has greatly assisted in the city's plan review process, and in helping to prioritize stormwater work.
- Gig Harbor maps are available in electronic format and can be provided to Ecology, Tribes, or other jurisdictions upon request.
- The city maintains the Harbor's Atlas, a public version of the city's GIS that includes stormwater pipes and catch basins and is available on the city website.
- The city utilized GIS to assist in the development of the current SMAP. Using GIS, the city updated its stormwater basins and integrated large data sets into that basin layer for analysis. Such data included development, population, city regulation layers, and assets per basin.
- The Stormwater StoryMap was developed as a GIS tool in public outreach. The stormwater department compiled the raw asset data, educational materials, and links to other resources and tied them all together in a web presentation for the public. This resource is available on the city's website and is updated regularly.
- GIS applications were used in the development of the Source Control Business Inspection inventory, forms, and data management. These tools will be improved as the Source Control Program continues.
- GIS applications were used in developing the Private Stormwater Facilities Maintenance Certification form on the stormwater page of the city website.

Planned Activities

Table 5 presents the work plan for the 2026 MS4 Mapping and Documentation activities. These tasks were developed through an interactive process with staff from the pertinent city departments.

Table 5. 2026 MS4 Mapping and Documentation Work Plan			
Task ID	**Task Description**	**Lead**	**Schedule Notes**
MAP-1	Maintain GIS data and mapped assets that comply with the current requirements of the permit.	Engineering	GIS stormwater mapping is complete and is updated when new facilities are built.
MAP-2	GIS data will be continually updated as new assets are found or built. Source Control and O&M inspections are two primary opportunities for field verification and quality control of GIS data. As-built drawings will be used to update data during land development projects.	Engineering	
MAP-3	Use high accuracy GPS to enhance stormwater system data and begin comprehensive mapping of known missing elements.	Engineering	Ongoing
MAP-4	Submit to Ecology the location, size, and material of all known MS4 outfalls in a standard template.	Engineering	Submit with the March 31, 2026 Annual Report
MAP-5	Use available, existing data including maps used in the development of the Urban Forestry Management Plan to map tree canopy on city owned or operated properties. Develop and follow a methodology to intentionally identify canopy for stormwater management purposes.	Engineering	Due December 31, 2026
MAP-6	implement a methodology to map and assess acreage of MS4 tributary basins to outfalls with a 24-inch nominal diameter or larger, or an equivalent cross-sectional area for non-pipe systems that have stormwater treatment and flow control BMPs/facilities owned or operated by the Permittee. Submit to Ecology a map(s) and table with a breakdown of the MS4 tributary basins quantifying estimated acres managed or unmanaged by stormwater treatment and flow control BMPs owned or operated by the Permittee.	Engineering	Submit with the March 31, 2028 Annual Report. Map must be .pdf and table must be .xlsx.
MAP-7	Map overburdened communities as described in permit.	Engineering	Due December 31, 2028

ILLICIT DISCHARGE DETECTION & ELIMINATION (IDDE)

Permit Requirements

Section S5.C.5 requires the city to:

- Implement an ongoing program to prohibit, prevent, detect, characterize, trace, and eliminate illicit connections and illicit discharges into the MS4.
- Establish procedures for reporting and correcting or removing illicit connections, spills, pollutants entering the MS4 from an interconnected MS4, and other illicit discharges when they are suspected or identified. Procedures need to include characterizing the nature of the illicit discharge, tracing the source of the illicit discharge, eliminating the illicit discharge, and notification of the appropriate parties. IDDE response must comply with timelines prescribed in the permit.
- Inform public employees, businesses, and the public of hazards associated with illicit discharges and improper disposal of waste.
- Implement an IDDE ordinance that prohibits non-stormwater discharges into the MS4 and lists Allowable and Conditionally Allowable discharges.
- By July 1, 2027, update the IDDE ordinance to include language regarding debromination of pool/spa water and external building washdown to control PCB pollution.
- Implement field screening methodology that covers an average of 12% of the MS4 each year.
- Publicly list and publicize a hotline for public reporting of spills and other illicit discharges.
- By December 31, 2026, coordinate with the local fire department to be notified when PFAS-containing firefighting foams are used in emergency firefighting activities.
- By January 1, 2027, develop procedures for the post-emergency clean-up of firefighting activities that minimize discharges to the MS4, with particular attention to situations where PFAS-containing firefighting foams have been used.
- Train staff in proper IDDE response procedures and to recognize and report illicit discharges.
- Track illicit discharge reports and actions taken in response through close-out, including enforcement actions. Summarize these actions in the annual report.
- In 2025, city staff attended an IDDE training hosted by Washington Stormwater Center.

Current Activities

The city is currently implementing the following activities to comply with the permit requirements above:

- The city enforces the adopted Ordinance 1168 Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE).
- The city uses *Illicit Connection and Illicit Discharge Field Screening and Source Tracing Guidance Manual* (Herrera Environmental Consultants, Inc.; May 2020) as guidance for its IDDE program.
- The city's IDDE program manual was overhauled in 2025 to be more comprehensive and clearer for field crews to use.
- The city has open communication with Pierce County and WSDOT in the event of a transfer of pollutants from one jurisdiction's MS4 to the other.
- The city trains field employees on IDDE response procedures and to recognize and report illicit discharges. Field crew vehicles are supplied with spill kits for immediate response.
- Although Public Works employees are all trained on recognizing illicit discharges and the response procedures, crews perform official IDDE screening of the MS4 during catch basin cleaning (see Operations & Maintenance section below).
- The city has emergency phone numbers posted on the city's website and distributed in outreach material that allows the public to report pollution spills, illicit discharges, or illicit dumping. The city responds to the calls received, clean up actions are taken as needed, and incidents are tracked in Cartegraph.
- The city also allows the public to report spills, illicit discharges, or other problems using its own Resident Reporter program. Reports and requests are immediately uploaded into Cartegraph where Public Works staff are alerted for response.
- The city notifies Ecology of known spills and key city personnel are notified to respond to spills reported to Ecology through the Environmental Report Tracking System (ERTS).
- The city tracks IDDE events in GIS to identify potential hot spots or patterns.
- City codes and standards have sections that address illicit discharges and enforcement including civil infraction penalties.
- The city submits IDDE events to Ecology WQWebIDDE for the annual report.

Planned Activities

Table 6 presents the work plan for the 2026 Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination activities. These tasks were developed through an interactive process with staff from the pertinent city departments.

Table 6. 2026 Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination Work Plan

Task ID	Task Description	Lead	Schedule Notes
IDDE-1	Continue to implement city-wide IDDE Program and revise IDDE response, monitoring, and inspections as needed.	Engineering	Ongoing program that was first developed in 2011. Significant update to program manual in 2025.
IDDE-2	Use GIS/Cartegraph to investigate, track, and record spills. Observe waterways that are affected and any hot spot areas.	Engineering	Ongoing
IDDE-3	Update the adopted IDDE Ordinance that defines current IDDE response process into a standard, city-wide IDDE response and enforcement process and procedure.	Engineering/Operations/ Planning	Ordinance 1168 originally adopted August 2009. Update due July 1, 2027.
IDDE-4	Coordinate with Gig Harbor Fire on firefighting foam discharges and develop post-cleanup procedures.	Engineering/Operations/ Fire Department	Due December 31, 2026 and January 1, 2027
IDDE-5	Continue training field staff on the identification, investigation, termination, cleanup, and reporting of illicit discharges, improper disposal and illicit connections.	Engineering/Operations	Provide and track training for field staff as needed.
IDDE-6	Incorporate awareness of illicit discharges into Source Control, and Public Outreach & Education programs.	Engineering	Ongoing
IDDE-7	Continue to submit IDDE events to Ecology through WQWebIDDE for the Annual Report	Engineering/Operations	Annual Report submitted before March 31 of each year.

CONTROLLING RUNOFF FROM NEW DEVELOPMENT, REDEVELOPMENT, AND CONSTRUCTION SITES

Permit Requirements

Section S5.C.6 requires the city to:

- Implement, and enforce a program to reduce pollutants in stormwater runoff to the MS4 from new development, redevelopment and construction site activities. The program must apply to both private and public development, including transportation projects.
- Adopt regulations (codes and standards) and implement a permitting process with site plan review, inspection, and escalating enforcement processes and procedures necessary to implement the program in accordance with permit conditions.
- Adopt Ecology's 2024 update to the *Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington* (SWMMWW) or a Phase I equivalent by July 1, 2027.
- Inspect construction sites:
    - Prior to clearing and construction activities
    - During construction to verify proper installation and maintenance of required erosion and sediment controls
    - Upon completion of construction to ensure proper installation of permanent stormwater facilities.
- Maintain records of construction site inspections and any enforcement actions.
- Make available to representatives of proposed new development and redevelopment online links to the following Ecology forms as applicable:
    - Construction Stormwater General Permit Notice of Intent (NOI)
    - Industrial Stormwater General Permit Notice of Intent (NOI)
    - Underground Injection Control (UIC) well registration
- Provide training to inspection and code enforcement staff.

Current Activities

The city is currently implementing the following activities to comply with the permit requirements above:

- The city has developed and implemented a program to reduce pollutants in stormwater runoff to the MS4 from development and construction site activities. The city enforces this program through the Gig Harbor Municipal Code (including Chapter 14.20 Stormwater Management and Chapter 14.30 Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination Chapter) and the current City of Gig Harbor Stormwater Management and Site Development Manual (adopted in 2023).
- The city has land use, civil, and building permitting processes that require submittal of Temporary Erosion and Sediment Control (TESC) plans and stormwater drainage plans (i.e. for stormwater quantity control, runoff treatment facilities, and conveyance requirements) of private development and city capital improvement projects. In 2025, the city reviewed 39 site plans.
- The city conducts regular construction and stormwater site inspections during the pre-construction and construction phases and documents the inspections in the SmartGov permit database. The city coordinates with Code Enforcement to issue Stop Work Orders or other penalties to projects that violate the code. In 2025, the city inspected 29 construction sites (4 of which were city projects) and imposed 5 enforcement actions.
- The city has a “punch-out” list that must be satisfied prior to finalizing permits that includes final inspection of the permanent stormwater facilities, engineer certifications of stormwater facilities, and recording a stormwater maintenance agreement against the property with the Pierce County Assessor’s Office.
- The city requires stormwater easements that grant the city access to the private storm facilities of permitted new developments.
- The city provides links to Ecology’s NOI forms and UIC registration for construction and industrial activities during the permit review process with developers. The city includes these links in pre-application conference memos as well as on the city’s stormwater webpage.
- Inspection staff and code enforcement staff are regularly trained on erosion control and maintain CESCL certification.
- The city is actively following the development of Pierce County’s updated Phase I stormwater manual for future adoption.

Planned Activities

Table 7 presents the work plan for the 2026 Controlling Runoff from Development, Redevelopment, and Construction Sites activities. These tasks were developed through an interactive process with staff from the pertinent city departments.

Table 7. 2026 Controlling Runoff from Development, Redevelopment, and Construction Sites Work Plan

Task ID	Task Description	Lead	Schedule Notes
CTRL-1	Continue implementation of the current Gig Harbor Stormwater Management and Site Development Manual requirements, standards and BMPs for development projects. Prepare for manual update by following Pierce County's manual update development and completing a first draft by the end of 2026.	Engineering/Planning	Current manual became effective May 2023. New manual due July 1, 2027
CTRL-2	Use Engineering Stormwater Plan Review checklist to ensure department is consistent and following current manual.	Engineering	Ongoing
CTRL-3	Continue to inspect construction sites as required in the permit. Document findings and enforcement actions in SmartGov.	Engineering/Building	Ongoing
CTRL-4	Continue to include maintenance covenants and BMP inspection on final "punch list" for permits.	Engineering	Ongoing
CTRL-5	Continue to provide links to Ecology's NOI's and the UIC registration to developers.	Engineering	Ongoing
CTRL-6	Update GIS with as-built conditions post-development to incorporate into private storm system inspection program.	Engineering	Ongoing
CTRL-7	Continue to track training of staff responsible for implementing the construction inspection program.	Engineering	Ongoing

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT FOR EXISTING DEVELOPMENT

Permit Requirements

Section S5.C.7 is a new program introduced in the permit that requires the city to:

- Implement stormwater facility retrofits, or tailored SWMP actions that meet the criteria of Appendix 12 in the permit, using one or a combination of the following:
    - Strategic stormwater investments identified in the SMAP
    - Opportunistic stormwater investments identified by leveraging projects outside of SMAP areas.
- Provide project list and status to Ecology in the annual report.
- Fully fund, start construction or completely implement projects that meet the assigned equivalent acreage (2 acres for Gig Harbor) by March 31, 2028. The city may collaborate on regional projects for some acreage credit but must manage at least 0.5 equivalent acres within its jurisdiction.
- Report to Ecology the estimated or projected equivalent acres managed by stormwater facility retrofits for the next permit term by March 31, 2028.

Current Activities

The city is currently implementing the following activities to comply with the permit requirements above:

- The city reviews capital improvement projects for opportunities to include stormwater retrofits and is analyzing potential sites using GIS.

Planned Activities

Table 8 presents the work plan for the 2026 Stormwater Management for Existing Development activities. These tasks were developed through an interactive process with staff from the pertinent city departments.

Table 8. 2026 Stormwater Management for Existing Development Work Plan

Task ID	Task Description	Lead	Schedule Notes
SMED-1	Monitor Capital Improvement Project list and SMAP for retrofit opportunities.	Engineering	SMED list submitted with Annual Report March 31 each year
SMED-2	Develop a log to track progress on SMED program. Keep updated with changes to project status or scope.	Engineering	Projects must be fully funded, implemented, or construction started by March 31, 2028.

SOURCE CONTROL PROGRAM FOR EXISTING DEVELOPMENT

Permit Requirements

Section S5.C.8 requires the city to:

- Adopt and make effective an ordinance(s), or other enforceable documents, requiring the application of source control BMPs for pollutant-generating sources using sources control BMPs in the SWMMWW or Ecology-approved Phase I Program. Require applicable operational source BMPs for all pollutant-generating sources and structural source control BMPs if operational source control BMPs are inadequate.
- Update source control ordinances to account for changes to IDDE and the stormwater manual required in the permit by August 1, 2027.
- Establish and update an inventory that identifies publicly and privately owned institutional, commercial, and industrial sites which have the potential to generate pollutants to the MS4.
- Implement an inspection program for the business inventory to assess BMP effectiveness and compliance with source control requirements. The number of inspections must equal 20% or more of the business inventory and may include follow-up inspections and inspections conducted based on complaints.
- Implement a progressive enforcement policy that requires sites to comply with stormwater requirements within a reasonable time period. Maintain records and provide training to relevant staff on procedures, techniques, and requirements.

Current Activities

The city is currently implementing the following activities to comply with the permit requirements above:

- The city has developed and implemented a program to reduce source control for existing development and enforces this program through Gig Harbor Municipal Code Chapter 14.20.155 Source control program.
- The city maintains a business inventory and updates the list as needed using business license information and windshield survey. This year, the city refined its inventory to 117 identified sites.
- The city implements a Source Control Inspection program for its business inventory that meets the criteria of the permit. Staff conducted 23 site visits including 2 follow-ups and 2 complaint-based visits, meeting the 20% needed. 2 inspections were related to a Notice of Violation and subsequent closure of a Voluntary Compliance Agreement. No other inspections had enforcement actions beyond education and recommendations.

- Inspection reports are in the process of moving over to Cartegraph for recordkeeping.
- The city has compiled relevant outreach materials and adapted them for this jurisdiction. City staff distribute these materials during inspections and in follow-up communications. Many of these materials are also available on the city's stormwater webpages.

Planned Activities

Table 9 presents the work plan for the 2026 Source Control Program for Existing Development activities. These tasks were developed through an interactive process with staff from the pertinent city departments.

Table 9. 2026 Source Control Program for Existing Development Work Plan

Task ID	Task Description	Responsible	Schedule Notes
SCP-1	Continue to update and manage the city business inventory.	Engineering	Ongoing refinement of the inventory.
SCP-2	Educate and inform local businesses about source control inspections and BMPs.	Engineering	Ongoing
SCP-3	Continue to implement Source Control inspection program to meet 20% of business inventory criteria	Engineering	Ongoing
SCP-4	Update municipal code as needed to require compliance from local businesses.	Engineering	Ordinance 1490 adopted July 2022. Will update to meet new permit language by August 1, 2027.

OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

Permit Requirements

Section S5.C.7 requires the city to:

- Implement an operations and maintenance (O&M) program with the goal of preventing pollutant runoff from the MS4 and municipal O&M activities.
- By June 30, 2027, update maintenance standards for the MS4 that are at least as protective as those specified in Ecology's 2024 SWMMWW or an equivalent Phase I Manual.
- Perform annual inspections of both privately and publicly owned stormwater flow control and treatment facilities.
- Require any necessary maintenance activities be performed by the system owner at the required frequencies, unless previous inspection data show that a reduced frequency is justified.
- Spot check potentially damaged stormwater facilities after major storm events.
- Inspect all publicly owned catch basins every 2 years and clean as needed to meet standards.
- By December 31, 2027, update procedures implemented to reduce stormwater impacts associated with runoff from municipal O&M activities listed in Section S5.C.9(d) of the permit.
- By July 1, 2027, develop and implement a street sweeping program to focus on priority areas and times to maximize water quality benefits to receiving waters. This program includes identifying priority areas, sweeping three times a year (once between July and September), documenting operational procedures, following street waste disposal criteria listed in Appendix 6 of the permit, and reporting program information to Ecology by March 31, 2028.
- Prepare and update a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for the Public Works Operations Facility owned and operated by the city including an annual inspection of the site.
- Train O&M staff on stormwater pollution prevention and implementation of the documented procedures.

Current Activities

The city is currently implementing the following activities to comply with the permit requirements above:

- The city adopted maintenance standards in its current stormwater manual. These standards will be updated with the manual update.
- The city's landscape, open space, and facility management activities are managed to minimize the potential for stormwater pollution.
- The city has a program for annually inspecting and maintaining both private and public flow control facilities and treatment facilities.
- Stormwater outfall maintenance is planned to replace or improve outfalls that have deteriorated due to tidal action or lack of maintenance. Outfalls have been inspected and prioritization has been assigned with assistance from the State Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- The city tracks activities and costs related to O&M inspections in Cartegraph.
- The city performs spot checks of the stormwater system after heavy storm events.
- The city inspects all publicly owned catch basins and inlets every two years. GIS has mapped 2 Maintenance Zones that are completely inspected on an alternate basis each year. In 2025, Public Works inspected 1,039 catch basins and performed maintenance on 274 of them.
- The city developed and implements a Stormwater Practices Handbook that outlines procedures for all activities listed in the relevant section of the permit.
- The city is in the process of developing a street sweeping program that meets the requirements of the permit and the needs of our public roads.
- The City Public Works Operations Facility is subject to a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) developed and updated for the site.
- The city regularly trains O&M staff on proper stormwater practices and procedures.

Planned Activities

Table 10 presents the work plan for the 2026 Operations and Maintenance activities. These tasks were developed through an interactive process with staff from the pertinent city departments.

Table 10. 2026 Operations and Maintenance Work Plan

Task ID	Task Description	Responsible	Schedule Notes
OM-1	Update maintenance standards.	Engineering/Operations	Standards will be updated with adoption of new stormwater manual by June 30, 2027.
OM-2	Include stormwater BMPs in Parks Standards, Conservation Area Management Plan and Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan.	Engineering/Parks	Collaborate during development process
OM-3	Continue annual inspection of publicly owned flow control and treatment BMPs and perform identified maintenance by prescribed permit timelines.	Engineering/Operations	Ongoing
OM-4	Continue annual inspection of privately owned flow control and treatment BMPs and follow up using prescribed permit timelines. Educate and advertise new online certification form for self-inspections.	Engineering	Ongoing
OM-5	Continue to use Cartegraph to track maintenance activities and inspections. Identify barriers to use.	Engineering/Operations	Ongoing
OM-6	Kick off capital improvement project “Stormwater Prioritization and Permitting – Outfalls to Marine Water Upgrades”.	Engineering/Operations	Budgeted for 2025-2026.
OM-7	Continue to spot check stormwater system after major storm events.	Operations	Ongoing
OM-8	Continue to inspect all catch basins every two years.	Operations	Ongoing
OM-9	Update the Stormwater Practices Handbook and train staff for implementation.	Engineering/Operations	Due December 31, 2027
OM-10	Implement the Public Works Operations Center SWPPP.	Engineering/Operations	Update SWPPP yearly

TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD REQUIREMENTS (TMDL)

Permit Requirements

Required by the CWA, a TMDL is the regulatory term for an EPA-approved plan for restoring an impaired waterbody as identified on Washington State's 303(d) list. Ecology performs a Water Quality Assessment on Waters of the State every 2 years and classifies them into 5 categories based on available and credible data:

- **Category 1**: Meets Tested Standards (Not impaired)
- **Category 2**: Waters of Concern (Not impaired)
- **Category 3**: Insufficient Data (Not impaired)
- **Category 4a**: Impaired with EPA-Approved TMDL Plan
- **Category 4b**: Impaired with Pollution Control Program Plan (Ecology-approved, but not EPA-approved).
- **Category 4c**: Impaired with Non-Pollutant Impairment (cannot be addressed by a cleanup plan such as invasive species, low flow, etc.)
- **Category 5**: 303(d) Listed (Impaired, no cleanup plan approved yet)

Section S7 of the Phase II NPDES permit requires the city to do the following:

- If the applicable TMDL is listed in Appendix 2 of the permit, comply with specific requirements identified in the Appendix which are typically additional or enhanced conditions to the SWMP components.
- If the applicable TMDL is not listed in Appendix 2, compliance with the rest of the permit will constitute compliance with the TMDL.

Current Activities

The current permit does not include TMDL requirements for the City of Gig Harbor because there are currently no TMDLs affecting the city. There are, however, several 303(d) listed impaired waters without TMDL plans (Category 5) that are receiving waters for the city's stormwater runoff including Gig Harbor Bay, Henderson Bay, Wollochet Bay, North (Donkey) Creek, Crescent Creek, and McCormick Creek. The impairments are mostly from Fecal Coliform contamination but also includes lead, copper, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs).

Planned Activities

There are currently no TMDLs within the city's jurisdiction and no related activities are planned. However, SWMP activities, particularly Education & Outreach and Source Control activities, will consider the pollutants responsible for the 303(d) listing impairments of our local waterways when focusing tasks and designing campaigns.

MONITORING & ASSESSMENT

Permit Requirements

Section S8 requires the city to either:

- A) Conduct stormwater discharge monitoring per permit Section S8.C

  OR

- B) Pay annually into the Stormwater Action Monitoring (SAM) program. SAM conducts status and trends monitoring of regional receiving water as well as effectiveness and source identification studies.

Current Activities

The city sent a letter to Ecology in November 2024 electing to make annual payments to SAM to satisfy both the Regional Status and Trends Monitoring requirement and the SWMP Effectiveness and Source Identification Studies requirement. The city will continue to pay dues into the program throughout the permit term.

The city attends meetings of the Stormwater Working Group (SWG), a regional partnership that directs the SAM program implementation and manages the SAM contributions by setting priorities for studies. In recent years, SWG has prioritized investigating 6PPD-quinone, a toxic chemical found in stormwater that comes from worn tire particles.

Planned Activities

Gig Harbor will continue to participate in the SAM program by making annual contributions, attending SWG meetings, and providing input as needed.

CONCLUSION

The SWMP is a living document that is updated yearly, and the city is continually seeking improvements to the stormwater program. The planned activities in the SWMP describe the intent of the program but may be postponed, altered, or implemented differently depending on circumstances and funding but the city remains committed to full permit compliance.

The public is encouraged to provide suggestions and other feedback on the SWMP to city staff for consideration. This can be submitted to the Stormwater Program at the contact information in the introduction of this document, at city public meetings, by mail, or in person at the Civic Center during working hours.

ACRONYMS & DEFINITIONS

The following definitions and acronyms are taken directly from the Phase II Permit and are reproduced here for the reader's convenience.

AKART means all known, available, and reasonable methods of prevention, control and treatment. **All known, available and reasonable methods of prevention, control and treatment** refers to the State Water Pollution Control Act, Chapter 90.48.010 and 90.48.520 RCW.

Basin Plan is a surface water management process consisting of three parts: a scientific study of the basin's drainage features and their quality; developing actions and recommendations for resolving any deficiencies discovered during the study; and implementing the recommendations, followed by monitoring.

Best Management Practices ("BMPs") are the schedules of activities, prohibitions of practices, maintenance procedures, and structural and/or managerial practices approved by the Department that, when used singly or in combination, prevent or reduce the release of pollutants and other adverse impacts to waters of Washington State.

BMP means Best Management Practice.

Component or **Program Component** means an element of the Stormwater Management Program listed in S5 Stormwater Management Program for Cities, Towns, and Counties or S6 Stormwater Management Program for Secondary Permittees of this permit.

CWA means Clean Water Act (formerly referred to as the Federal Water Pollution Control Act or Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972) Pub.L. 92-500, as amended Pub. L. 95-217, Pub. L. 95-576, Pub. L. (6-483 and Pub. L. 97-117, 33 U.S.C. 1251 et.seq.

Discharge for the purpose of this permit means, unless indicated otherwise, any discharge from an MS4 owned or operated by the permittee.

Ecology's Western Washington Phase I Municipal Stormwater Permit regulates discharges from municipal separate storm sewers owned or operated by Clark, King, Pierce and Snohomish Counties, and the cities of Seattle and Tacoma.

Ecology's Western Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit covers certain "small" municipal separate stormwater sewer systems.

Entity means another governmental body, or public or private organization, such as another permittee, a conservation district, or volunteer organization.

Equivalent document means a technical stormwater management manual developed by a state agency, local government or other entity that includes the Minimum Technical Requirements in Appendix 1 of the permit. The Department may conditionally approve manuals that do not include the Minimum Technical Requirements in Appendix 1; in general, the Best Management Practices (BMPs) included in those documents may be applied at new development and redevelopment sites, but the Minimum Technical Requirements in Appendix 1 must still be met.

Heavy equipment maintenance or storage yard means an uncovered area where any heavy equipment, such as mowing equipment, excavators, dump trucks, backhoes, or bulldozers are washed or maintained, or where at least five pieces of heavy equipment are stored.

Illicit connection means any man-made conveyance that is connected to a municipal separate storm sewer without a permit, excluding roof drains and other similar type connections. Examples include sanitary sewer connections, floor drains, channels, pipelines, conduits, inlets, or outlets that are connected directly to the municipal separate storm sewer system.

Illicit discharge means any discharge to a municipal separate storm sewer that is not composed entirely of storm water except discharges pursuant to a NPDES permit (other than the NPDES permit for discharges from the municipal separate storm sewer) and discharges resulting from fire fighting activities.

IDDE means Illicit discharge detection and elimination

Low Impact Development (LID) means a stormwater management and land development strategy applied at the parcel and subdivision scale that emphasizes conservation and use of on-site natural features integrated with engineered, small-scale hydrologic controls to more closely mimic pre-development hydrologic functions.

Major Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Outfall means a municipal separate storm sewer outfall from a single pipe with an inside diameter of 36 inches or more, or its equivalent (discharge from a single conveyance other than circular pipe which is associated with a drainage area of more than 50 acres); or for municipal separate storm sewers that receive stormwater from lands zoned for industrial activity (based on comprehensive zoning plans or the equivalent), an outfall that discharges from a single pipe with an inside diameter of 12 inches or more or from its equivalent (discharge from other than a circular pipe associated with a drainage area of 12 acres or more).

Material Storage Facilities means an uncovered area where bulk materials (liquid, solid, granular, etc.) are stored in piles, barrels, tanks, bins, crates, or other means.

Maximum Extent Practicable (MEP) refers to paragraph 402(p)(3)(B)(iii) of the federal Clean Water Act which reads as follows: Permits for discharges from municipal storm sewers shall require controls to reduce the discharge of pollutants to the maximum extent practicable, including management practices, control techniques, and system, design, and engineering methods, and other such provisions as the Administrator or the State determines appropriate for the control of such pollutants.

MEP means Maximum Extent Practicable.

MTRs means Minimum Technical Requirements.

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) means a conveyance, or system of conveyances (including roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, manmade channels, or storm drains):

(i) owned or operated by a state, city, town, borough, county, parish, district, association, or other public body (created by or pursuant to State Law) having jurisdiction over disposal of wastes, storm water, or other wastes, including special districts under State law such as a sewer district, flood control district or drainage district, or similar entity, or an Indian tribe or an authorized Indian tribal organization, or a designated and approved management agency under section 208 of the CWA that discharges to waters of the United States.

(ii) designed or used for collecting or conveying stormwater.

(iii) which is not a combined sewer; and (iv) which is not part of a Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) as defined at 40 CFR 122.2.

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) means the national program for issuing, modifying, revoking, and reissuing, terminating, monitoring and enforcing permits, and imposing and enforcing pretreatment requirements, under sections 307, 402, 318, and 405 of the Federal Clean Water Act, for the discharge of pollutants to surface waters of the state from point sources. These permits are referred to as NPDES permits and, in Washington State, are administered by the Washington Department of Ecology.

Notice of Intent (NOI) means the application for, or a request for coverage under an Ecology-issued stormwater permit (Municipal, Construction, or Industrial).

Outfall means point source as defined by 40 CFR 122.2 at the point where a municipal separate storm sewer discharges to waters of the State and does not include open conveyances connecting two municipal separate storm sewer systems, or pipes, tunnels, or other conveyances which connect segments of the same stream or other waters of the State and are used to convey waters of the State.

O&M means Operations and Maintenance

Permittee unless otherwise noted, the term “Permittee” includes Permittee, Co-Permittee, and Secondary Permittee, as defined below:

(i) A “Permittee” is a city, town, or county owning or operating a regulated small MS4 applying and receiving a permit as a single entity.

(ii) A “Co-Permittee” is any operator of a regulated small MS4 that is applying jointly with another applicant for coverage under this permit. Co-Permittees own or operate a regulated small MS4 located within or adjacent to another regulated small MS4.

(iii) A “Secondary Permittee” is an operator of regulated small MS4 that is not a city, town or county.

Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System or **Small MS4** is a conveyance or system of conveyances including roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, man-made channels and/or storm drains which is:

a. Owned or operated by a city, town, county, district, association or other public body created pursuant to State law having jurisdiction over disposal of sewage, industrial wastes, stormwater, or other wastes, including special districts under State law such as a sewer districts, flood control districts or drainage districts, or similar entity.

b. Designed or used for collecting or conveying stormwater.

c. Not a combined sewer system,

d. Not part of a Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) as defined by 40 CFR 122.2.

e. Not defined as “large” or “medium” pursuant to 40 CFR 122.26(b)(4) & (7) or designated under 40 CFR 122.26 (a)(1)(v).

Small MS4s include systems similar to separate storm sewer systems in municipalities such as: universities, large publicly owned hospitals, prison complexes, highways and other thoroughfares. Storm sewer systems in very discrete areas such as individual buildings do not require coverage under this permit.

Small MS4s do *not* include storm drain systems operated by non-governmental entities such as: individual buildings, private schools, private colleges, private universities, and industrial and commercial entities.

Stormwater means runoff during and following precipitation and snowmelt events, including surface runoff and drainage.

Stormwater Associated with Industrial and Construction Activity means the discharge from any conveyance which is used for collecting and conveying stormwater,

which is directly related to manufacturing, processing or raw materials storage areas at an industrial plant, or associated with clearing grading and/or excavation, and is required to have an NPDES permit in accordance with 40 CFR 122.26.

Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington (SWMMWW) means the 5-volume technical manual (Publication Nos. 99-11 through 15 for the 2001 version and Publication Nos. 05-10-029-033 for the 2005 version (The 2005 version replaces the 2001 version) prepared by Ecology for use by local governments that contains BMPs to prevent, control, or treat pollution in storm water.

Stormwater Management Action Plan (SMAP) means a plan for a high priority receiving waters in need of retrofits, land management, development strategies and/or actions, or implementation of stormwater management actions.

Stormwater Management Program (SWMP) means a set of actions and activities designed to reduce the discharge of pollutants from the regulated small MS4 to the maximum extent practicable and to protect water quality, and comprising the components listed in S5 or S6 of this permit and any additional actions necessary to meet the requirements of applicable

Vehicle Maintenance or Storage Facility means an uncovered area where any vehicles are regularly washed or maintained, or where at least 10 vehicles are stored.

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GIG HARBOR
THE MARITIME CITY

Public Works Stormwater Program

Thank you!

Prepared in compliance with the 2024-2029 Western Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System and State Discharge General (effective August 1, 2024)