

WA State Department of Transportation

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these preliminary drafts. Please see attached pdf for WSDOT's comments.

Informal Comments on the PRELIMINARY DRAFT Municipal Stormwater Permits (Phase I, Eastern and Western Phase II) and Stormwater Management Manuals (Eastern and Western)
 October 17 - December 2, 2022

PRELIMINARY DRAFT TOPIC (select from drop down)	Comment	Comment Made By
MS4 Permit: Sweeping	Further clarification is needed to better understand the geographic areas that will be regulated for sweeping under the permit.	WSDOT
MS4 Permit: Sweeping	AADT is not currently defined in the permit. Further, the SWMMs use both ADT as well as AADT. WSDOT recommends moving forward with the use of AADT for stormwater management purposes and suggests adding definitions for AADT and high AADT.	WSDOT
MS4 Permit: Sweeping	This section states "Permittees shall annually sweep, on average, 90% of the MS4 drainage area that directly discharges to surface receiving waters." Without having a requirement to have completed mapping of drainage areas, this requirement may not be attainable.	WSDOT
MS4 Permit: Appendix 1 (Phase I and Western Phase II)	Figure 3 - the first box says "Does all stormwater runoff from the Project Site discharge to a Class V UIC Well?" Recommend revising this to, "Does any stormwater runoff from the Project Site discharge to existing or new Class V UIC Wells?" If there is a Yes response, I recommend a next box saying, "For all runoff going to Class V UIC Wells, The UIC Rule (Chapter 173-218 WAC) applies. Refer to I-4 UIC Program Guidelines for UIC Program Requirements." I recommend a third box asking, "Is there any stormwater runoff from the Project Site that doesn't go into Class V UIC Wells?" If a Yes response, have a arrow to the "Does the Site have 35%..." box. If a No response, then that's have a box saying, "No additional requirements".	WSDOT
MS4 Permit: Appendix 1 (Phase I and Western Phase II)	Figure 4 - same comment as above.	WSDOT
MS4 Permit: Appendix 1 (Phase I and Western Phase II)	Figure 3 and Figure 4 versus Section 3.2, 3.3, and 3.4. Recommend sticking with either just the figures or the text. It seems like Sections 3.2, 3.3, and 3.4 just restate what is in Figure 3 and Figure 4. Recommend only adding text in Section 3.2, 3.3, and 3.4 that is not already in Figure 3 and Figure 4.	WSDOT
MS4 Permit: Appendix 1 (Phase I and Western Phase II)	In the 5th bullet under TDA Exemption of Section 4.7 MR#7 Flow Control, the term "properly dispersed" is ambiguous and needs more clarification. Recommend changing the sentence to, "...avoid construction activities in sensitive areas) flow are dispersed to full dispersion standards before reaching the buffer zone of the sensitive or critical area." The term "properly dispersed" is subjective and needs more clarification.	WSDOT
MS4 Permit: Appendix 1 (Phase I and Western Phase II)	In the 5th bullet under TDA Exemption of Section 4.7 MR#7 Flow Control, it says the conveyance system must extend to the ordinary high water line of the exempt receiving water. Recommend adding in some language for the case where the conveyance system goes to Puget Sound or any salt water body. Maybe reference the mean higher high water in these cases?	WSDOT
MS4 Permit: Appendix 1 (Phase I and Western Phase II)	In the 5th bullet under TDA Exemption of Section 4.7 MR#7 Flow Control, recommend clarifying the manmade conveyance elements would not include a newly constructed or reconstructed stream channel.	WSDOT
MS4 Permit: Appendix 1 (Phase I and Western Phase II)	Section 6 is called "EXCEPTIONS/VARIANCES". Recommend renaming this section to either "EXCEPTIONS" OR "VARIANCES" for clarity. The following text in Section 6 doesn't define the difference between an exception versus a variance. If they are the same thing, why not go with just one term so it is clear? Since the rest of Section 6 has the term "exception", recommend changing the title of Section 6 to "EXCEPTION".	WSDOT
MS4 Permit: Appendix 1 (Eastern Phase II)	On Page 2 of 41, there's a reference to limited access control highway. I think Ecology eliminated these references in the western WA updates so suggest deleting that term here as well.	WSDOT