

City of Marysville

Issue

"Projects that have started construction on or after June 30, 2023 and projects not yet started but fully funded by June 30, 2029 can be included to meet this requirement."

Justification

The date range does not acknowledge cities that have been proactive and initiated retrofits projects prior to the new permit issuance. The City of Marysville has invested significant dollars and effort to improve water quality. In the last 2 years the City has constructed, or is in the process of constructing, \$18,000,000 worth of retrofit projects. The Downtown retrofit project currently under construction will treat 460 acres. This project has a total cost of about 14 million dollars for design and construction. The City has also recently completed construction on retrofits at Cedar LID (1.5 Million construction) and the 2nd St LID (3.5 million construction). These have all been accomplished with Department of Ecology grant funding.

The date range provided discourages larger projects from being pursued. The Downtown retrofit site had historical industrial use that left the site polluted. The City began the process of remediation nearly 15 years ago. Then conducted a project feasibility and alternatives analysis to determine the scope of the stormwater facility. Finally, design and construction work could begin. In order to secure funding for the full build out scenario, two Department of Ecology Grants were required. This project required significant planning efforts spanning multiple departments.

The level of effort may need to be adjusted (down) over time. Cities must consider a multitude of factors when attempting to achieve large capital projects. Economic factors, staff capacity, uncertainty of State grant funding and overall willingness of Councils to expend funds. Marysville has a successful retrofit program because grant funding was available and City Elected officials have approved these endeavors for the sake of water quality. The project timing was also important as the financial capacity was present to support such endeavors. Furthermore as we have seen over the last two years, delays have resulted in significant construction cost inflation. If the City had waited to initiate these projects, it very well could have taken another 15 years to be completed. During a downturn, or during times of strong inflation, approval for new projects might not be readily achieved. Other unforeseen utility funding calamities could also occur in aging utility infrastructure that require significant utility upgrades. In the future, the City may not be able to fund large projects like we have in the past.

Proposed Solution

Facilities do not provide stormwater benefit until constructed. Allow projects that started design or construction in the current permit term to be counted toward this requirement. If construction started between 2019-2024 stormwater benefit begins in the new permit term. Below are our preferred options ranked.

- 1) Include all retrofit projects completed during the current permit cycle.
- 2) Include all retrofit projects completed in the last two years of the current permit cycle.
- 3) Include all retrofit projects that are completed on or after Jan 1st 2023.