

Two Key Requirements You Should Know About 2013-2018 Permit Cycle



Among the many requirements in the updated 2013-2018 Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit are two new components that are impacting Lacey citizens and our Stormwater Utility: Low Impact Development and the Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program.

Low Impact Development (LID)

What is LID?

Low Impact Development (LID) is a stormwater management and site design strategy that strives to mimic natural hydrologic processes by conserving soils and vegetation, limiting impervious surfaces, and infiltrating rainwater near where it falls in drainage features integrated into the site. The City of Lacey has allowed voluntary use of LID practices such as bioretention (“rain gardens”) and permeable pavement as an option on development sites for more than a decade, but has not required their use and has not required full LID site design.

What are the new requirements?

With the 2013-2018 Phase II permit, Ecology is now requiring the use of LID techniques on new development and redevelopment sites, with the goal being to make LID the “preferred and commonly-used approach” to site development, even on sites smaller than one-acre. Use of LID techniques will become mandatory on development sites in Lacey and other western Washington Phase II jurisdictions, except where specific infeasibility conditions exist.

The 2013-2018 Phase II Permit establishes LID standards for development sites and subdivisions, a new LID hydrologic performance standard, and a menu of approved LID Best Management Practices (BMPs).

In addition, the Phase II permit requires Lacey staff to review our local codes, regulations, standards, and other enforceable documents related to development, and revise them to incorporate and require LID site design principles and LID Best Management Practices (BMPs).

What does Lacey need to do?

By December 31, 2016, we must adopt the LID site-scale design standards and update our broader development codes to accommodate LID. This will entail reviewing, revising and updating all local development-related codes and standards to incorporate and require LID principles and practices. This is a big task that will involve broad participation of many personnel representing various City departments. Development projects submitted after adoption of the LID standards will be subject to the new regulations.

Revisions shall be designed to minimize impervious surfaces, native vegetation loss and SW runoff in all types of developments. The intent of the revisions shall be to make LID the preferred and commonly-used approach to site development. We will need to update our 2010 Stormwater Design Manual to be technically equivalent to Ecology’s revised 2012 Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington, and include adjustments for the updated Low Impact Development Technical Guidance Manual for Puget Sound (released December 2012) and the updated version of the Western Washington Hydrology Model (WWHM-2012).

Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program

What are the new requirements?

The 2013-2018 Phase II Permit establishes the Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program (RSMP). The purpose of the RSMP is to answer questions about stormwater impacts and the effectiveness of stormwater management practices. The RSMP has three main components:

1. **Status and Trends Monitoring:** Information will be collected on the status and trends in water quality and habitat in small streams and marine near-shore areas affected by stormwater. Two options are available to permittees. Option 1 is to pay into a collective fund and enter into an agreement with Ecology to implement this monitoring component. Lacey's cost share for this portion of the RSMP will be \$9,799 annually beginning August 15, 2014. Option 2 is to conduct local monitoring per Ecology's criteria. Lacey has participated in similar monitoring that has been conducted for many years in the south sound region under an Interlocal Agreement with Thurston County, Olympia and Tumwater. As a group, we potentially could opt out of this component of the RSMP and continue our local monitoring program, subject to further analysis.
2. **Effectiveness Studies Monitoring:** Studies will be conducted of stormwater management practices, to evaluate the effectiveness of our regional stormwater management programs and advise future permit requirements. Two options are available to permittees. Option 1 is to pay into the collective fund and enter into an agreement with Ecology, as above, for which Lacey's cost share will be \$16,326 annually beginning August 15, 2014. Option 2 is to conduct our own discharge monitoring per Ecology's criteria.
3. **Source Identification and Diagnostic Monitoring:** A Source Identification Information Repository will be created, to aid with local Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination programs. Permittees will be required to pay into the collective fund and enter into an agreement with Ecology to implement this portion of the RSMP. Lacey's cost share will be \$1,514 annually beginning August 15, 2014.

What does Lacey need to do?

Each permittee jurisdiction will have the option of paying-in or opting-out of each of the RSMP's first two main monitoring components, Status and Trends Monitoring and Effectiveness Studies Monitoring. For each of these components, permittee can choose whether to pay-in to the RSMP or conduct a separate monitoring program with specific requirements. By December 1, 2013, the City of Lacey must notify the Department of Ecology in writing regarding which option we choose for each of those two components of the RSMP: pay-in or do our own monitoring. Payments for Source Identification and Diagnostic Monitoring are mandatory, with no options.

Lacey's cost for the pay-in options are \$9,799 for Receiving Water Status & Trends, \$16,326 for Program Effectiveness Monitoring, and \$1,514 for Source Identification. Lacey's total cost for all three RSMP components is \$27,639 per year, with payments to Ecology due annually beginning August 15, 2014.

Questions?

Contact Lacey Water Resources at WaterResources@ci.lacey.wa.us or call (360) 491-5600.