



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

Northwest Region Office
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December 22, 2025

Andrew Lee
General Manager & CEO
Seattle Public Utilities
Sent by email only: andrew.lee@seattle.gov
WAR044503

RE: Preliminary Approval of City of Seattle Stormwater Manual and Municipal Code

Dear Andrew Lee:

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) has completed our review of the changes to the *Seattle Municipal Code* and the *Seattle Stormwater Manual*, as effective July 1, 2021, for the purpose of determining equivalency to the required portions of Ecology's *2024 Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington (SWMMWW)*, as outlined in Special Condition S5.C.5.b of the 2019-2024 Phase I Municipal Stormwater Permit (Permit). Ecology limited its review, based on the previous approval of your local program as functionally equivalent to the SWMMWW as amended in 2021, to changes submitted in the format outlined in Appendix 10 of the Permit, and communication that followed. This letter serves as our response as required by S5.C.5.b.iii. Our preliminary determination is that the items reviewed are equivalent, except for the items specified below that will require further communication before they can be deemed equivalent to the *2024 SWMMWW*:

- Table 10.1 - SMC 22.801.040 "C"; SMC 22.805.010 General; SMC 22.807.020 Drainage control review and application requirements – Addition of unabridged definition for Common Plan of Development or Sale.
- Table 10.2 – Volume 1 – 2.1.2 – Common Plan of Development – Addition of unabridged definition for Common Plan of Development or Sale.
- Table 10.2 – Volume 1 – 2.1.3 – Closely Related Projects – List of project aspects which may not be considered when evaluating if multiple projects are closely related.
- Table 10.2 – Volume 3 – 5.4.10 – Infiltrating Structural Soil Cell BMP – Tables 5.30, 5.31, and 5.32 still require completion of missing calculations.
- Table 10.2 – Volume 3 – 5.8.12 – Non-Infiltrating Structural Soil Cell BMP – Incomplete Table 5.52.

Your revised program is required to be adopted and made effective by July 1, 2026. If changes are made to the items listed above during your legislative or administrative adoption processes, those changes will need further Ecology review. Ecology's determination will not become final

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until after Ecology conducts a public review process associated with a future modification of Appendix 10 of the Phase I Permit.

I appreciate the hard work and dedication of your team to develop revised stormwater management regulations and rules.

Please contact me at ccro461@ecy.wa.gov or 425-429-4571 if you have any questions.
Sincerely,



Colleen Griffith
Municipal Stormwater Permit Planner, NWRO
Water Quality Program

ecc: Jessica Huybregts, Seattle Public Utilities
Sherell Ehlers, Seattle Public Utilities
Abbey Stockwell, Washington Department of Ecology
Douglas Howie, Washington Department of Ecology

