

# Protecting Seattle's Waterways



# Background

- Why do we have a Stormwater Code?
  - Protect life, property, surface waters from harm
  - Meet requirements of state and federal law
  - Required under the federal Clean Water Act / National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Stormwater Permit

# Background

- Who administers?
  - DPD (private property development)
  - SPU (right-of-way development & other provisions)
  - SDOT responsible for construction erosion control enforcement for right-of-way permits
- Who is affected by the code?
  - Private developers and city projects
  - Businesses
  - Residents

# Background

- What is in our current rules?
  - Pollution source control for on-going practices
  - Construction site pollution prevention
  - Green stormwater infrastructure, flow control & water quality treatment for development projects



# Background

- Why are we changing now?
  - Achieve equivalency with Ecology 2014 Stormwater Manual & 2013 – 2018 Stormwater NPDES Permit
  - Revisit some thresholds
  - Use the revision process as an opportunity to:
    - Address shortcomings
    - Streamline requirements
    - Reorganize manual based on feedback
    - Simplify and limit text

# Background

- Who is involved in this project?
  - Stakeholders and general public
    - Spring 2013: Outreach to Frequent Users
    - Summer 2013 - Winter 2015: Public Outreach
    - Spring 2014: Initial drafts available for public comment
  - City departments including SPU, DPD & SDOT
  - Washington State Department of Ecology

# Code & Rulemaking Schedule

	2015										2016
	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
<b>2015 Stormwater Code Revision</b>	Legislative Process		<b>Effective</b>								

<b>2016 Stormwater Code &amp; Manual Update</b>	Seattle / Ecology Discussions		Legislative Process	→			<b>Effective</b>
				Directors' Rule (Stormwater Manual) Process	→		

# 2015 Stormwater Code Revision

## What:

1. Utility Project exemption – add SPU Capital Improvement Drinking Water Utility Projects

## Why:

- a. Utility projects exempt per NPDES Stormwater Permit
- b. High complexities and costs added to drinking water projects that do not touch the drainage and wastewater system
- c. Drainage and wastewater utility projects still required to provide green stormwater infrastructure, flow control, and water  
8 quality treatment



# 2015 Stormwater Code Revision

## What:

2. Add authority for Director of SPU to designate some public combined sewer areas as not required to provide flow control

## Why:

- a. Flow control unnecessary or could be negative to the performance of combined sewer system in certain areas

# 2015 Stormwater Code Revision

## What:

3. Water quality treatment threshold changes for roadway projects

## Why:

- a. Equivalent to Ecology NPDES Stormwater Permit
- b. Limited stormwater treatment technologies suitable for the right-of-way
- c. City can more significantly and cost-effectively address pollutants from roadways through the City's Street Sweeping for Water Quality program

# Questions?



# Stay Connected

- Join the Stormwater Code Listserv
- Visit the Stormwater Code Update Website  
<http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/codesrules/changestocode/stormwatercode/getinvolved/default.htm>

**Sherell Ehlers, P.E.**

Stormwater Policy Advisor

Drainage & Wastewater Line of Business

[Sherell.Ehlers@Seattle.gov](mailto:Sherell.Ehlers@Seattle.gov), 206-386-4576

# Estimated Annual TSS Load Reduction (kg/yr)

