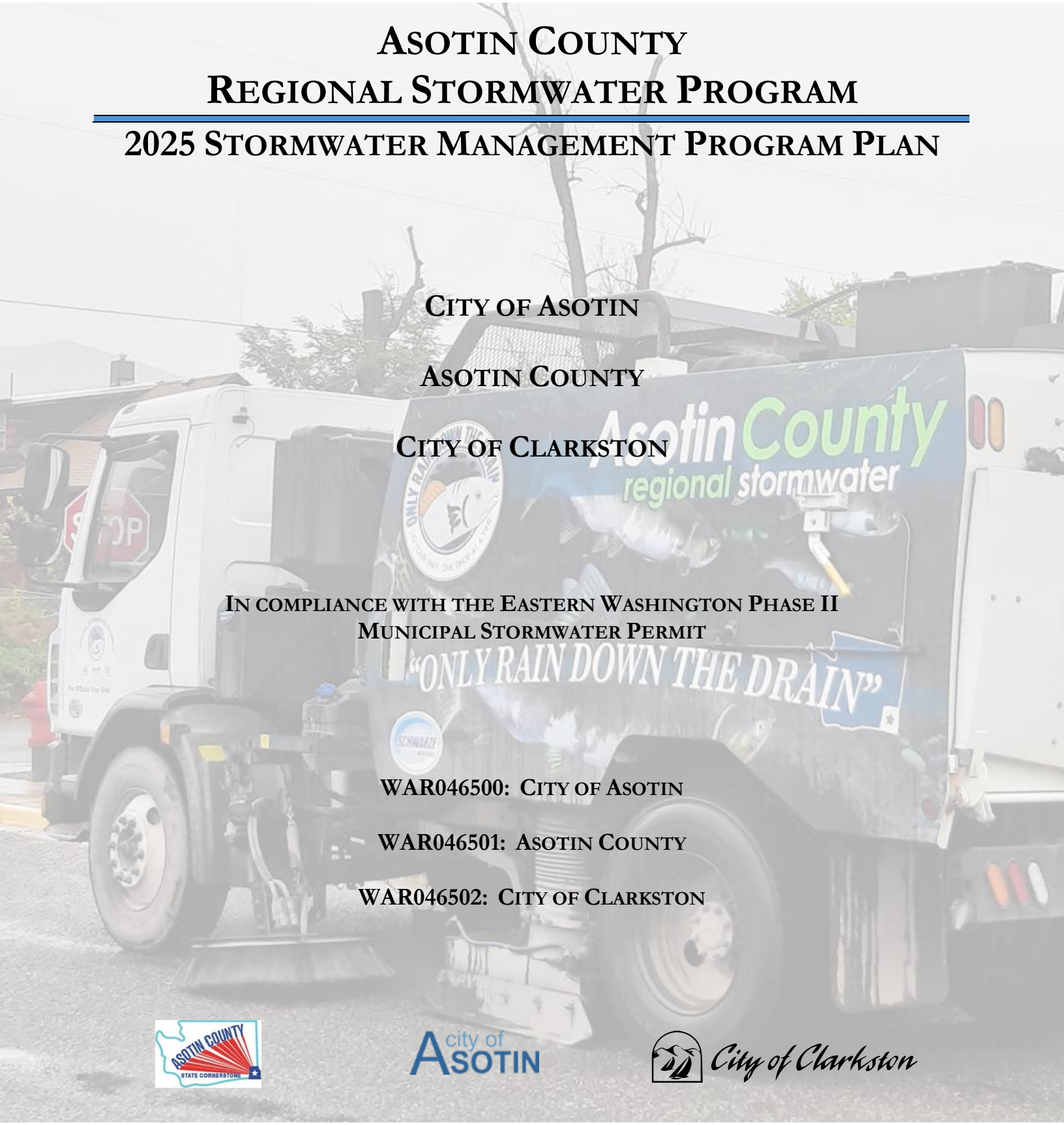
ASOTIN COUNTY
REGIONAL STORMWATER PROGRAM

2025 STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM PLAN



CITY OF ASOTIN

ASOTIN COUNTY

CITY OF CLARKSTON

IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE EASTERN WASHINGTON PHASE II MUNICIPAL STORMWATER PERMIT

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Stormwater Explained

Urban and suburban stormwater is runoff from rain and snowmelt that flows over impervious surfaces, such as roads, rooftops, driveways and sidewalks, parking lots, and compacted soils. As stormwater flows over impervious surfaces, it collects pollutants that include oil, fertilizers, pesticides, trash, animal waste, and sediment. The polluted stormwater then flows into a storm sewer system: catch basins, drywells, infiltration systems, man-made ditches, and other conveyances. From the storm sewer system, untreated stormwater discharges into natural drainages, streams, rivers, lakes, and directly into the ground. Where the storm sewer system is insufficient, stormwater can cause flooding, erosion, and damage to private property, public roads, and utilities.

About 1/3 of Washington state's waters are too polluted to meet state water quality standards, and the number 1 cause of that statistic is urban and suburban stormwater runoff. Pollutants from stormwater can make waterbodies unsafe for swimming, and untreated stormwater discharging into the ground can contaminate aquifers used for drinking water. Flooding caused by stormwater not only causes property damage; it can also have a detrimental impact on fish and wildlife. Mud can cover spawning areas, suffocating fish eggs. Sediment can clog gills, making it impossible for salmon, trout, and other fish to breathe. Urban development also causes significant changes in patterns of stormwater runoff leading to increased flooding during the wet season and decreased stream flows during the dry season.

Regulatory Background

Originally enacted in 1948, the Federal Water Pollution Control Act was Congress's first formal declaration addressing clean water programs across the U.S. In 1972, after significant reorganization and expansion, the Federal Water Pollution Control Act became commonly known as the Clean Water Act (CWA). The CWA authorized two main areas: federal financial assistance for municipal sewage treatment plant construction and regulatory requirements for water quality improvement, namely the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) programs.

The NPDES program prohibited the discharge of any pollutant from a point source to navigable waters unless a permit was obtained. At the time, NPDES permits were required primarily for significant contributors to water pollution. That is, waste discharge by industrial and municipal facilities (such as a municipal wastewater treatment plant). The CWA did not immediately require municipal separate storm sewer systems, known as "MS4s", to have a stormwater discharge permit. However, pollutants in stormwater runoff from MS4s were becoming an increasing health and safety hazard and to address rising concerns, Congress established the Water Quality Act in 1987. The Water Quality Act added to the NDPES stormwater program a staggered two-phase (Phase I and Phase II) permitting and regulation program for stormwater discharge from MS4s.

The federal rule for Phase I was approved in 1990 and established stormwater discharge requirements and NPDES stormwater program permitting processes for MS4s. Permits for Phase I can be issued on a system- or jurisdiction-wide basis, must prohibit non-stormwater discharges into storm sewers, and requires

MS4s to implement controls to reduce the discharge of pollutants to the maximum extent practicable. Controls include management practices, control techniques and system, design, and engineering methods, and other provisions the EPA or State determines appropriate. Phase I permits are issued to MS4s with populations of 100,000 or more, or unincorporated counties with populations of 250,000 or more, and construction sites of five or more acres. The second phase of the NPDES stormwater program, Phase II, was approved by Congress in 1999. Phase II expands the existing Phase I program to include municipalities with populations of 100,000 or less, and construction sites of one to five acres of land. The Phase II permit is known as Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit.

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) issued Asotin County its first Eastern Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit (Phase II permit) in January 17, 2007, with an effective date of February 16, 2007. The Phase II permit covered a five-year period and was reissued in 2014, 2019, and 2024. The current Phase II permit became effective August 1, 2024, and expires July 31, 2029. The Eastern Washington Phase II permit can be found at the following website: https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/ezshare/wq/permits/MS4_2024_Phase%20II%20EWA_FinalPermit.pdf

Stormwater Management Program Plan

The Phase II permit outlines stormwater program activities and implementation milestones that permittees must follow to comply with the CWA. The Phase II permit is a general permit, meaning that the requirements are the same for all entities that are regulated by the permit. All Phase II jurisdictions are expected to develop and implement a Stormwater Management Program (SWMP) Plan that includes the required activities (minimum control measures), implement those activities within the required timeframes outlined in the Phase II permit, and submit annual reports to Ecology each year to document progress towards program implementation.

Development of the Asotin County Regional Stormwater Program

From the beginning of the stormwater program, the City of Asotin, City of Clarkston, and Asotin County knew that implementing the permit in our area would be expensive and time consuming and that there would be an overlap of requirements. The three entities agreed to work together and developed an interlocal agreement to manage the work required to meet permit requirements and to provide a stable funding mechanism to assist in the development of a SWMP.

Development of the SWMP included a gap analysis that identified the requirements of the Phase II permit, the work the three entities were already conducting to meet those requirements, and the additional work that would be needed when the permit was fully implemented. This gap analysis also included a separate cost estimate for each entity.

During the gap analysis, several items were identified that overlapped and could be completed by forming one regional stormwater program for all three entities. These items included hiring one Regional Stormwater Program Coordinator, developing separate outreach, public participation, and illicit discharge detection &

elimination programs, stormwater control inspections for construction and post-construction sites, and program record keeping.

By combining these activities into one office rather than three separate offices, the estimated cost of the program was greatly reduced, and the Asotin County Regional Stormwater Program (Stormwater Program) was established.

Stormwater Utility Fee Development

The requirements of the Phase II permit became more difficult and expensive to meet as the permit matured. The first steps included planning and ordinance development during the first four years. However, in the fifth year of the permit, all of the plans needed to be fully developed and implemented. The cost of these requirements could not be covered with existing budgets or with the grants provided by Ecology; therefore, the Stormwater Program began discussing a stormwater utility fee.

The fee originally was calculated separately for each entity. However, the goal was standard delivery of the Stormwater Program in the Permit Area, regardless of jurisdiction. The ordinances that were required by the permit were nearly identical and the only differences were those required by state law for cities and counties. The Management Team, a committee consisting of staff and elected officials from each of the three entities, discussed how to share the costs and responsibilities of the program. In an atmosphere of cooperation and community, the group proposed using a standard fee throughout the Permit Area. The fee acknowledges the cost of the program in each entity as well as the fiscal contributions each entity makes based on grant awards and population.

This operating reserve was closely monitored and evaluated every year by the Management Team. In 2018, the Management Team recommended the permit fee be reset to the original $5/ERU/month fee. This increase was the result of a reduction in the capacity grant from Ecology and the overall increase in costs related to implementing the Phase II permit. After public hearings were held, elected officials of the three entities approved a resolution for the fee increase to be effective January 1, 2019. This resolution also set a scheduled increase of $0.50/ERU/month that took effect on January 1, 2022, bringing the total to its current $5.50/ERU/month.

Interlocal Cooperation Agreement – Management Team

An interlocal cooperation agreement (ILA) was signed by the City of Clarkston, City of Asotin and Asotin County. The ILA can be found at: http://www.asotincountystormwater.com/Content/Clarkston-ILA-resolution.pdf. This agreement replaces all previous agreements between the parties and outlines how stormwater utility fees that are collected will be handled. The ILA defines the work required of the Stormwater Program, restrictions of the Stormwater Program, and provides accountability to the public on how the funds are spent.

The Management Team was developed as part of the ILA to oversee the day-to-day operations of the Stormwater Program. The Management Team is made up of one elected official and one staff or designee from each of the entities. The Management Team meets at least quarterly to review budget status, approve spending, project development, and to make policy recommendations to the elected officials of the three entities. The meetings are open to the public and the public has the chance to comment about the program at the meetings. For more information about the Management Team, visit https://asotincountystormwater.com/management-team/.

Permit Area

The Phase II permit requirements will be implemented in the Permit Area, which is defined as the geographic areas of the entire incorporated area of the City of Clarkston and the City of Asotin and the urbanized areas and urban growth areas of the cities and the urbanized area under the jurisdictional control of Asotin County. The boundary was changed by Asotin County Commissioners at a public hearing held on October 24, 2011, in response to a petition submitted by residents. The petition included a request to reduce the boundary area to exclude urban-rural interface areas that were previously included in the 20-year planning boundary. The Commissioners determined that the 2000 Census boundary was more appropriate because the urban defined census area is the reason Asotin County, City of Clarkston, and City of Asotin are included in the Phase II permit. The current Permit Area boundary map is located on our website at: https://asotincountystormwater.com/Content/Permits/2012-Stormwater-Permit-Boundary-Map.pdf

SWMP Plan Components

The Phase II permit is broken down into six minimum control measures. The implementation and enforcement of these six components is collectively referred to as the SWMP Plan. The six minimum control measures are:

1. Public Education and Outreach
2. Public Participation and Involvement
3. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
4. Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control
5. Post-Construction Stormwater Management for New Development and Redevelopment
6. Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations

In addition to these six minimum control measures, the Phase II permit also requires the following special conditions:

- Compliance with stormwater provisions of approved Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)
- Monitoring and program evaluation
- Record keeping and annual reporting

Activities identified in the SWMP Plan are designed to reduce the discharge of pollutants from municipalities to the maximum extent practicable, to satisfy the state requirement to apply "All Known, Available, and Reasonable methods of prevention, control and Treatment" (AKART) prior to discharge,

and to protect water quality. The Phase II permit requires that specified activities from each category be completed each year in order to achieve full compliance by the end of the first permit term.

In addition to the Phase II permit, the entities must also address the requirements of the state's Underground Injection Control (UIC) program. This program, as required by the federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), is intended to protect underground sources of drinking water from contamination by waste fluids, including the infiltration of polluted stormwater. The regulatory requirements and planned activities to meet these requirements are outlined in the last section of the SWMP Plan.

The following paragraphs describe the requirements of the Phase II permit. Each section provides a brief overview of the regulatory requirements along with a activities planned for 2025.

1. Public Education and Outreach - Special Condition S5.B.1

Regulatory Requirements

A formal Public Education and Outreach Program aimed at distributing educational materials to the community about the impacts of stormwater discharges to water bodies and the steps that can be taken to reduce pollutants in stormwater must be developed. The following are the minimum requirements, based on land uses and target audiences found within the community:

1. Provide information for the general public about:
    - Improving water quality and protecting beneficial uses of waters of the state
    - Potential impacts from stormwater discharges
    - Methods of avoiding, minimizing, reducing and/or eliminating adverse impacts of stormwater discharges
    - Actions individuals can take to improve water quality, including participation in local environmental stewardship activities
2. Provide information for businesses about:
    - Preventing illicit discharges, including what constitutes illicit discharges
    - The impacts of illicit discharges
    - Promoting the proper management and disposal of toxic materials
    - Management of dumpsters and wash water.
    - The use and storage of automobile chemicals, hazardous cleaning supplies, carwash soaps and other hazardous materials
3. Provide information for engineers, construction contractors, developers, development review staff, and land-use planners about:
    - Technical standards, the development of stormwater site plans, and erosion control plans
    - Infiltration and underground injection control criteria
    - Low Impact Development
    - Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) for reducing adverse impacts from stormwater runoff from development sites
    - Municipal stormwater code requirements

2025 Activities

- Continue to update the Stormwater Program website to provide information to residents about the progress of SWMP development and implementation. New information will be added throughout the year.
- Attend public events to provide information to residents.
- Attend Public Works Day in May of each year in Lewiston, ID with our stormwater model and equipment on display.
- Continued to engage the local media to provide updates to residents about the program.
- Provide outreach materials for schools, businesses, households and other target audiences
- Attend training opportunities whenever possible.
- Work with other Eastern WA permitees to promote www.OnlyRainDownTheDrain.com materials.
- Continue with our current advertising schedule to promote seasonal messages to educate the public on water quality benefits of changed behavior. Utilize local newspaper, TV outlets and social media/internet to promote www.OnlyRainDownTheDrain.com materials.
- Continue the enforcement of the stormwater municipal codes and the stormwater construction permit process.

2. Public Involvement and Participation - Special Condition S5.B.2

Regulatory Requirements

Develop Public Involvement and Participation Program that complies with applicable state, tribal and local public notice requirements and include provisions for consideration of public comments. Opportunities for public and stakeholder participation in the development and implementation of the SWMP may include attending public hearings, participation in the development and adoption of regulatory ordinacnes and other required program elements, participation in volunteer opportunities, or other similar activities.

2025 Activities

- Conduct Management Team meetings.
- Conduct public hearings for ordinances, resolutions, etc.
- Conduct public hearings and notifications about Ecology grant funded projects.
- Provide a public comment period for the SWMP Plan, by public postings and posting a notice to our website: http://asotincountystormwater.com/.
- Post current SWMP Plan to website by May 31, 2024.

3. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination - Special Condition S5.B.3

Regulatory Requirements

Develop, implement, and enforce a program designed to prevent, detect, characterize, trace and eliminate illicit connections and discharges into the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4). This element of the SWMP requires that the Stormwater Program:

1. Maintain and update a map of the MS4
2. Through ordinance or other regulatory mechanism, prohibit non-stormwater discharges into the MS4
3. Implement an ongoing program designed to "Detect" and identify illicit discharges and illicit connections into the MS4
4. Implement an ongoing program designed to "Address" illicit discharges, including spills and illicit connections into the MS4
5. Provide adequate training to municipal staff.
6. Track and Maintain records of all activities pertaining to Section S5.B.3 - Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE).

2025 Activities

- The Stormwater Program will continue to implement the IDDE Program plan to address the inspection of outfalls, tracing sources of illicit discharges, staff training, field assessments, spill response and containment, tracing methods, sampling/analyzing techniques, and removal methods.
- A hotline number for residents to call with information on illicit discharges to the stormwater system was installed. The phone number, 509-243-2071, will continue to be advertised and included in the public education program.
- The Stormwater Program will document all phone call complaints and the follow- up activities that occurred to remediate the situation.
- The Stormwater Program will continue to collect information on the stormwater system and update the digital map of the MS4.
- The Stormwater Program will continue to update any ordinances to help with the enforcement of the IDDE requirements.

4. Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control - Special Condition S5.B.4

Regulatory Requirements

Develop, implement, and enforce a program to reduce pollutants in stormwater runoff to its MS4 from construction activities, including private and public projects. This element of the SWMP requires that Stormwater Program:

1. Develop and adopt an ordinance by February 16, 2010 that requires erosion and sediment controls during construction-phase work, including sanctions to ensure compliance.
2. Implement procedures for site plan review, including review of Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPPs) prior to construction.
3. Implement procedures for site inspection and enforcement of construction stormwater pollution control measures.
4. Provide adequate training for all permitting, planning, review, inspection, and enforcement staff.
5. Maintain records of activities related to site plan review, inspection, and enforcement.

5. Post-Construction Stormwater Management for New Development and Redevelopment - Special Condition S5.B.5

Regulatory Requirements

Develop, implement, and enforce a program to address post-construction stormwater runoff to its MS4 from both private and public new development and redevelopment projects. This element of the SWMP requires that the Stormwater Program:

1. Develop and adopt an ordinance by February 16, 2010 that requires post-construction stormwater controls, including requirements for runoff treatment, flow control, source control, and on-going long-term operation and maintenance of approved BMPs.
2. Implement procedures for site plan review, including review of stormwater site plans prior to construction to ensure that plans include stormwater pollution prevention measures.
3. Implement procedures for site inspection and enforcement of post-construction stormwater control measures.
4. Provide adequate training for staff.
5. Maintain records.
6. The S5.B.5 - Post-Construction activities will be combined with S5.B.4 - Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control S5.B.4.

2025 Activities

- Implement and enforce the construction site stormwater control ordinance to reduce pollutants in stormwater runoff from new development and redevelopment projects by requiring erosion and sediment controls and other construction-phase stormwater pollution controls for runoff treatment, flow control, source control, and on-going long- term operation and maintenance of approved BMPs on both private and public projects.
- The Stormwater Program will continue to provide information to engineers, contractors and developers, city and county plan review and permitting staff about training available on erosion and sediment control BMPs and development of SWPPPs for construction activities through handouts and/or fliers placed on the front desk of the Building and Planning Department. Information is also available on the Stormwater website.
- Attend and promote local training opportunities for contractors, developers, city and county plan review and permitting staff, such as Certified Erosion and Sediment Control Lead (CESCL) training and CESCL recertification.
- Stormwater Program Operation and Maintenance (O&M) staff and inspectors will be CESCL certified.
- The Stormwater Program will continue documenting site plan review, site visits, site inspections, answering complaints, and perform any enforcement action necessary.
- The Stormwater Program will evaluate permit fees to cover the costs of implementing this component.

6. Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations - Special Condition S5.B.6

Regulatory Requirements

Develop and implement an O&M Program Plan (O&M Plan) aimed at preventing or reducing pollutant runoff from municipal facilities and/or activities. The O&M Plan shall include appropriate pollution prevention/good housekeeping practices for various municipal operations (e.g., storm system maintenance, municipal building maintenance, parks and open space maintenance, etc.), and shall include a schedule of inspections and record keeping requirements. In addition, a formal training program must be developed and implemented for all staff whose job functions may impact stormwater quality.

2025 Activities

- Implement the components in the O&M plans.
- Update the O&M Plan as required.
- Provide training for municipal staff.
- Maintain records of all activities in the O&M plans.
- The Stormwater Program has two dedicated full-time O&M employees to conduct street sweeping, catch basin cleaning, stormwater system updates and improvements, stormwater system maintenance and inspections, and reporting for all three entities. All of their tasks are listed in the yearly O&M work calendar. This calendar is updated and modified throughout the year.
- A vactor truck was purchased by Stormwater Program to conduct catch basin and drywell cleaning and pipe jetting and cleaning.
- A vactor waste/decant facility was constructed in 2016 to process street sweepings, vactor waste, and all waste removed from the stormwater systems of the three entities.
- The Stormwater Program operates up to three regenerative sweepers, a 2007 Tymco 600, 2019 Schwarze A7 Tornado, and a 2022 Swartz A7 Tornado to perform all street sweeping activities in all three entities.

Compliance with TMDL Allocations - Special Condition S7

At this time none of the entities have TMDL requirements to meet to comply with the permit.

Monitoring and Assessment - Special Condition S8

Coordinate and participate with other permittees in our urban area to plan future studies for the next NPDES permit cycle.

Continue to participate in the implementation of the Ecology approved effectiveness studies from the 2019-2024 NPDES Phase II requirements

2025 Activities

- Stormwater Program will continue to work with Eastern WA permittees to implement effectiveness monitoring studies for the 2019-2024 Phase II permit. Asotin County, City of Asotin, and City of Clarkston have been participating with other Eastern WA permitees on the Effectiveness Studies Development including meetings, study development, and reporting.

Reporting and Record Keeping Requirements - Special Condition S9

Regulatory Requirements

The three entities are required to prepare and submit annual reports to Ecology. These reports must include the most current version of the SWMP Plan and status of compliance with the various conditions outlined in the permit. The annual reports must include:

1. The status of implementation of each SWMP component
2. An assessment of the progress in meeting the minimum performance standards
3. A description of activities implemented, including the number and type of inspections, enforcement actions, public education and outreach activities, illicit discharges detected and eliminated; and other reporting requirements

2025 Activities

- The Stormwater Program will prepare the SWMP Plan and the Annual Reports. The SWMP Plan will be submitted to Ecology for review by March 31, 2024. The Annual Reports will be prepared and held on file with the Stormwater Program.
- The SWMP Plan and Annual Reports will be posted to the Stormwater Program website for access by the public by May 31, 2024
- The Stormwater Program will gather, record, and maintain information to track the development and implementation of their SWMP as well as costs involved with implementing the permit.

Underground Injection Control Program

In addition to the Phase II permit, the Stormwater Program must also address the requirements of the state's Underground Injection Control (UIC) program. This program, as required by the SDWA, is intended to protect underground sources of drinking water from contamination by waste fluids, including the infiltration of polluted stormwater.

Regulatory Requirements

UIC wells must be either rule-authorized or covered by a state waste discharge permit to operate. If a UIC well is rule-authorized, a permit is not required. Ecology can require corrective action or closure of a UIC well that is not in compliance. A UIC well may be rule-authorized when both of the following requirements are met:

1. A registration form must be submitted and approved by the Department of Ecology before the construction of any UIC wells.
2. Discharge from the UIC must not contaminate ground water. This is the "non-endangerment performance standard".

2025 Activities

- Register dry wells with Ecology before installation.
- Evaluate drywells during the inspections that are conducted by the O&M personnel.