

MS4 Annual Report Phase II Western

Skagit County Stormwater Program, 2025

#	Permit Section	Question	Answer
1	S9.D.6	Attach a map of any annexations, incorporations or boundary changes resulting in an increase or decrease in the Permittee's geographic area of permit coverage during the reporting period per S9.D.6.	NPDES Area Map 2024 wAnnexatio_1_03132025110946
2	S5.A.2; S9.D.1	Attach updated annual Stormwater Management Program Plan (SWMP Plan). (S5.A.2; S9.D.1)	2025_SWMP_PLAN_FINAL_2_03252025082114
3	S5.A	Implemented an ongoing program to gather, track, and maintain information per S5.A.3, including costs or estimated costs of implementing the SWMP.	Yes
4	S5.A.5.b	Continued to coordinate among departments within the jurisdiction to eliminate barriers to permit compliance. (S5.A.5.b)	Yes
5	S9.D.4	If applicable, identify other entities relied on to satisfy any of the obligations under the Permit. (S9.D.4)	The County does have an Interlocal Agreement with the Skagit Conservation District (SCD). The SCD supports some of the outreach and education, public involvement, and stewardship obligations in the Permit.

6	S5.C.1.a	Continue to convene an interdisciplinary team to inform and assist in the development, progress, and influence of the stormwater planning program? (S5.C.1.a.)	Yes
12	S5.C.1.c.i	Continue to design and implement local development-related codes, rules, standards, or other enforceable documents to minimize impervious surfaces, native vegetation loss, and stormwater runoff, where feasible? See S5.C.1.c.i. (Required annually)	Yes
13	S5.C.1.c.i(a)	From the assessment described in S5.C.1.c.i(a), did you identify any administrative or regulatory barriers to implementation of LID Principles or LID BMPs? (Required annually)	No
19	S5.C.2	Did you choose to adopt one or more elements of a regional program? (S5.C.2)	No
20	S5.C.2	Attach a description of general awareness efforts conducted, including your target audiences and subject areas, per S5.C.2.a.i.	Stormwater 2024 Communications_20_03262025144500
24	S5.C.2.a.iii	Provided, partnered, or promoted stewardship opportunities to encourage resident participation in activities such as those described in S5.C.2.a.iii.	Yes

24 a	S5.C.2.a.iii	Attach a list of stewardship opportunities provided.	FINAL_Skagit County Stormwater_24a_02262025095302
25	S5.C.3.a	Describe in Comments field the opportunities created for the public to participate in the decision-making processes involving the development, implementation, and updates of the Permittee's SWMP and the SMAP.	<p>Skagit County utilizes several tools to give the public an opportunity to participate in the decision-making process for actions and projects the SWMP is engaging in. Local radio, newspapers, community groups, and press releases are effective tools we use to communicate public opportunities to support the County's water quality efforts. The County SWMP staff maintain various social media platforms and can fund targeted outreach aimed at geographic areas and population demographics. We also reach out to individuals via mail, email, and telephone to alert them of events and opportunities to review and comment on water quality planning documents. The County's website has also been an effective tool and is used regularly by many in the public as indicated by visit counts from our web publishing software. The SWMP also has developed a list of key identify stakeholders through existing community relationships, numerous community events, and information sign-up opportunities. The SWMP reaches out to these stakeholders early and often during SWMP planning processes such as during the recent development of the SMAP. We aim for our opportunity outreach approach is to be exhaustive by including entities like nonprofit groups, community groups, larger employers, and representatives from the agricultural community.</p>
25 a	S5.C.3.a.i	Describe specific public involvement and participation opportunities provided to overburdened communities and specifically, highly impacted communities. (S5.C.3.a.i)	<p>Skagit County has been actively developing its approach to identifying overburdened communities both in and out of the regulated portion of the County's stormwater utility. The County continues to work with our Public Outreach and Education team to develop strategies to identify and meet any overburdened or highly impacted communities where they are. In Skagit County, staff know that this area has a significant number of folks who speak Spanish as a second language. The SWMP's response has been to utilize fluent Spanish speakers employed by the</p>

			<p>County and outside contracted support to provide educational and technical assistance materials in both English and Spanish. County staff have also reached out to local representatives to improve our abilities to connect with these historically overlooked populations. That has led to the things like the SWMP setting up an outreach table annually at the Mexican Independence Day Celebration at Skagit Valley College known as El Grito. The SWMP has also tabled the Kulshan Street Fair Festival, which showcases food, art, and culture from Mexico and other Central American countries. The County is also aware of other common second languages spoken by our community members including Russian, and Tagalog, and languages indigenous to the land that is Mexico like Zapotec and Mixtec. Skagit County also shares borders with three Federally Recognized Tribal Nations and discharges stormwater to Usual and Accustomed fishing grounds of the tribes and tribal communities who have a signed treaty with the United States government. The Permit qualifies treaty tribes as overburdened communities and respects the tribes as stakeholders in projects that will impact receiving waters that also serve as U&A fishing waters for signers of the Treaty of Point Elliott. The County is also looking at State databases like Puget Sound Watershed Characterization Project and other tools to work on identifying and mapping communities and geographic areas that would qualify as overburdened to ensure this work evolves. This includes looking at economic factors, health disparities, and infant health.</p>
26	S5.C.3.	<p>Posted the updated SWMP Plan and latest annual report on your website no later than May 31. (S5.C.3.b)</p>	Yes
26 a	S5.C.3.	<p>List the website address in Comments field.</p>	<p>https://www.skagitcounty.net/Departments/PublicWorksSurfaceWaterManagement/whatwedo.htm</p>

27	S5.C.4.	Maintained an electronic map of the MS4 including the requirements listed in S5.C.4.?	Yes
32	S5.C.5.b	Informed public employees, businesses, and the general public of hazards associated with illicit discharges and improper disposal of waste. (S5.C.5.b)	Yes
32 a	S5.C.5.b	Describe actions in Comments field. (S5.C.5.b)	Public Works staff whose work is relevant to IDDE/SWMP work or who spend a lot of time out in the field are required to take IDDE training. There are also staff who take various trainings for spill response, sediment and erosion control work, and other trainings covering how to identify and handle illicit discharges and waste. The County's Source Control program is relatively new but has already reached out to dozens of businesses and offered technical assistance both in the form of materials and discussion. General business outreach includes outreach mailings and targeted social media work. Mailings and targeted social media is also how the SWMP reaches the general public. In addition, there are public presentations to the County Commissioners and staff tabling at various outreach events, which include materials and discussions on illicit discharges and how to properly handle waste, typically receiving high public engagement.
33	S5.C.5.c	Implemented an ordinance or other regulatory mechanism to effectively prohibit non-stormwater, illicit discharges as described in S5.C.5.c.	Yes
35	S5.C.5.d.i	Implemented procedures for conducting illicit discharge investigations in accordance with S5.C.5.d.i.	Yes

35 a	S5.C.5.d.i	Cite field screening methodology in Comments field.	All field screening methodology and guidance comes from the Illicit Connection and Illicit Discharge Field Screening and Source Tracing Manual May 2020. https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/_1962/Documents/SAM/2020_ICID_Manual.pdf
36	S5.C.5.d.i(a)	Percentage of MS4 coverage area screened in the reporting year per S5.C.5.d.i. (Required to screen 12% on average each year.)	11
36 a	S5.C.5.d.i(a)	Cite field screening techniques used to determine percent of MS4 screened.	Field screening techniques from the ICID guidance manual cited above were used to conduct Skagit County's IDDE screening. Assets were predominantly catch basins, ditches, and outfalls. Similar techniques were applied to culvert/pipe screenings. Percentage of MS4 screened was calculated by working with the County's GIS Department. Stormwater staff selected drainage areas within the MS4 to screen. Total area screened (in acres) was readily available through the County's mapping software, GeoSkagit. GIS staff provided the total area of Skagit County's MS4 coverage. The percentage screened was simply calculated using both numbers, resulting in approximately 12%." We use the Illicit Connection and Illicit Discharge Field Tracing and Source Tracing Guidance Manual https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/_1962/Documents/SAM/2020_ICID_Manual.pdf https://www.wastormwatercenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2020_ICID_Manual_final_20200507-1.pdf
37	S5.C.5.d.ii	Describe how you publicized a hotline telephone number for public reporting of spills and other illicit discharges in the Comments field. (S5.C.5.d.ii)	The primary location is on our web site at the following address. https://www.skagitcounty.net/Departments/PublicWorksSurfaceWaterManagement/stormwatermain.htm We also share it through social media platforms, during presentations to the public, and on outreach materials.
38	S5.C.5.d.iii	Implemented an ongoing illicit discharge training program for all	Yes

		municipal field staff per S5.C.5.d.iii.	
39	S5.C.5.e	Implemented an ongoing program to characterize, trace, and eliminate illicit discharges into the MS4 per S5.C.5.e.	Yes
40	S5.C.5.f	Implemented an ongoing illicit discharge training program for all staff responsible for implementing the procedures and program described in S5.C.5.f.	Yes
41	S5.C.5.g	Attach a report with data describing the actions taken to characterize, trace, and eliminate each illicit discharge reported to, or investigated by, the Permittee as described in S5.C.5.g. The submittal must include all of the applicable information and must follow the instructions, timelines, and format described in Appendix 13.	IDDE Report_Skagit County_2024_41_03182025080628
42	S5.C.6.b.i-iii	Continued to implement an ordinance or other enforceable mechanism to effectively address runoff from new development, redevelopment, and construction sites per the requirements of S5.C.6.b.i-iii.	Yes
44		Does the ordinance or other enforceable mechanism follow a Phase I program approved by Ecology (S5.C.6.b.i)?	No

45	S5.C.6.b.i. and Section 5 of Appendix 1	Number of adjustments granted to the minimum requirements in Appendix 1. (S5.C.6.b.i. and Section 5 of Appendix 1)	0
46	S5.C.6.b.i., and Section 6 of Appendix 1	Number of exceptions granted to the minimum requirements in Appendix 1. (S5.C.6.b.i., and Section 6 of Appendix 1)	0
47	S5.C.6.c.i	Reviewed Stormwater Site Plans for all proposed development activities that meet the thresholds adopted pursuant to S5.C.6.b.i. (S5.C.6.c.i)	Yes
47 a	S5.C.6.c.i	Number of site plans reviewed during the reporting period.	536
48	S5.C.6.c.ii	Inspected, prior to clearing and construction, permitted development sites per S5.C.6.c.ii?	Yes
49	S5.C.6.c.iii	Inspected permitted development sites during construction to verify proper installation and maintenance of required erosion and sediment controls per S5.C.6.c.iii.	Yes
49 a	S5.C.6.c.iii	Number of construction sites inspected per S5.C.6.c.iii.	1103
49 b	S5.C.6.c.iv	Inspected stormwater treatment and flow control BMPs/facilities	Yes

		and catch basins in new residential developments at least twice per 12-month period with no less than 4 months between inspections, per S5.C.6.c.iv?	
50	S5.C.6.	Inspected all permitted development sites upon completion of construction and prior to final approval or occupancy to ensure proper installation of permanent stormwater facilities. (S5.C.6.c.v)	Yes
51	S5.C.6.	Verified a maintenance plan is completed and responsibility for maintenance is assigned for projects prior to final approval and occupancy being granted. (S5.C.6.c.v)	Yes
52	S5.C.6.c.vi ii	Number of enforcement actions taken during the reporting period (based on construction phase inspections at new development and redevelopment projects, per S5.C.6.c.ii-iv). (S5.C.6.c.viii)	41
53	S5.C.6.c.vi	Achieved at least 80% of scheduled construction-related inspections. (S5.C.6.c.vi)	Yes
54	S5.C.6.d	Made online links to Ecology's Construction Stormwater General Permit Notice of Intent, the Industrial Stormwater General Permit Notice of Intent, and the registration requirements for	Yes

		Underground Injection Control (UIC) available to representatives of proposed new development and redevelopment? (S5.C.6.d)	
55	S5.C.6.e	All staff whose primary job duties are implementing the program to control stormwater runoff from new development, redevelopment, and construction sites including permitting, plan review, construction site inspections, and enforcement are trained to conduct these activities. (S5.C.6.e)	Yes
56	S5.C.7.b	Attach a list of projects that are fully funded, started, completed and/or scheduled for implementation during this permit term for the purpose of meeting S5.C.7.b, with the information and formatting specified in Appendix 12. Attach an updated list annually. (S5.C.7.b,)	FINAL Skagit County Stormwater_56_03262025103010
57	S5.C.8.b	Updated inventory to identify institutional, commercial and industrial properties which have the potential to generate pollutants to the Permittee's MS4 per S5.C.8.b? (Required at least once every five years)	Yes
57 a	S5.C.8.b	Number of total sites identified for the inventory.	175

58	S5.C.8.a-d	Attach a summary of actions taken to implement the source control program, per S5.C.8.a-d.	Development of Skagit County S_58_02182025111028
59	S5.C.8.d	Attach a list of inspections, per S5.C.8.c.v, organized by the business category, noting the number of times each business was inspected and if enforcement actions were taken, per S5.C.8.d.	AR Q59 2024_59_03172025093135
60	S5.C.8.e	Implemented an ongoing source control training program per S5.C.8.e?	Yes
61	S5.C.9.a	Implemented maintenance standards that are as protective, or more protective, of facility function than those specified in the Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington or a Phase I program approved by Ecology per S5.C.9.a?	Yes
63	S5.C.9.a	Applied a maintenance standard for a facility or facilities which do not have maintenance standards specified in the Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington? (S5.C.9.a)	No
64	S5.C.9.a.ii	Verified that maintenance was performed per the schedule in S5.C.9.a.ii when an inspection identified an exceedance of the maintenance standard.	Yes
64 a	S5.C.9.a.ii	Attach documentation of maintenance time frame	Not Applicable

		exceedances that were beyond the Permittee's control.	
65	S.5.C.9.b.i (a)	Implemented an ordinance or other enforceable mechanisms to verify long-term operation and maintenance of stormwater treatment and flow control BMPs/facilities regulated by the permittee per S.5.C.9.b.i(a)?	Yes
66	S5.C.9.b.i(b)	Inspected stormwater treatment and flow control BMPs/facilities regulated by the Permittee per S5.C.9.b.i(b)	Yes
66 a	S5.C.9.b.i(b)	Are you using a reduced stormwater treatment and flow control BMPs/facilities inspection frequency?	No
66 b	S5.C.9.b.i(b)	If using a reduced inspection frequency on stormwater facilities regulated by the Permittee for the first time during this permit cycle, attach documentation per S5.C.9.b.i.(b).	Not Applicable
67	S5.C.9.b.ii	Achieved at least 80% of required inspections to verify adequate long-term O&M. (S5.C.7.b.ii)	Yes
68	S5.C.9.c.i	Annually inspected municipally owned or operated permanent stormwater treatment and flow control BMPs/facilities. (S5.C.9.c.i)	Yes
68 a	S5.C.9.c.i	Number of known municipally owned or operated stormwater	29

		treatment and flow control BMPs/facilities. (S5.C.9.c.i)	
68 b	S5.C.9.c.i	Number of facilities inspected during the reporting period.	29
68 c	S5.C.9.c.i	Number of facilities for which maintenance was performed during the reporting period.	21
69	S5.C.9.c.i	If using reduced inspection frequency for the first time during this permit cycle, attach documentation per S5.C.9.c.i.	Not Applicable
70	S5.C.9.c.ii	Conducted spot checks and inspections (if necessary) of potentially damaged stormwater facilities after major storms as per S5.C.7.c.ii.	Yes
71	S5.C.9.c.iii	Inspected municipally owned or operated catch basins and inlets every two years or used an alternative approach? Cleaned as needed? (S.5.C.9.c.iii)	Yes
71 a	S5.C.9.c.iii	Number of known catch basins and inlets?	1012
71 b	S5.C.9.c.iii	Number of catch basins and inlets inspected during the reporting period?	86
71 c	S5.C.9.c.iii	Number of catch basins and inlets cleaned during the reporting period?	86
72	S5.C.9.c.iii	Attach documentation of alternative catch basin inspection approach for those owned or	Not Applicable

		operated by the Permittee, if used, per S5.C.9.c.iii.	
73	S5.C.9.d	Implemented practices, policies and procedures to reduce stormwater impacts associated with runoff from all lands owned or maintained by the Permittee, and road maintenance activities under the functional control of the Permittee. (S5.C.9.d)	Yes
79	S5.C.9.f	Implemented a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for all heavy equipment maintenance or storage yards, and material storage facilities owned or operated by the Permittee in areas subject to this Permit that are not required to have coverage under an NPDES permit that covers stormwater discharges associated with the activity. (S5.C.9.f)	Yes
80	S5.C.9.g	Implemented an ongoing training program for Permittee employees whose primary construction, operations or maintenance job functions may impact stormwater quality. (S5.C.9.g)	Yes
81	S7.A	Complied with the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)-specific requirements identified in Appendix 2. (S7.A)	Yes

81 a	S7.A	List any requirements that were not met.	"Business inspections: The County has identified one composting facility and one animal processing site in its current inventory. No facilities with facilities with SIC Industry Group No. 074, 075 including NAICS Major Group 1152XX, and NAICS 325315 were inspected in 2024. Public Education and Outreach: The County's existing E&O program includes annual Pet Waste awareness events and materials including coordinating with Whatcom County and Skagit Conservation District on the County's pet waste campaign to meet Community Based Social Marketing (CBSM) Permit requirement, hosting in-person outreach tables at pop-up and planned community events, distributing free dog poop scooping kits with trusted community partners, and partnering with trusted sources for paid advertisements across various media platforms. Operations and Maintenance: The County operates and maintains Pet Waste stations and trash cans at all County parks. Illicit Connection(IC)/IDDE: County continues to manage an on-going two-decade plus old water quality monitoring program that has a monitoring station on each of the 4 freshwater tributaries that drain the watershed and are named in the bacteria TMDL for Padilla Bay. The County continues to implement storm sampling for bacteria by the Pollution Identification and Correction (PIC) program."
82	S7.A	For TMDLs listed in Appendix 2: Attach a summary of relevant SWMP and Appendix 2 activities to address the applicable TMDL parameter(s). (S7.A)	Activities to Address the Pad _82_03262025121430
83	S8.A.1, S8.A.2.a	Submitted payment for cost-sharing for Stormwater Action Monitoring (SAM) status and trends monitoring no later than December 1, 2024 (S8.A.1); and	Yes

		no later than August 15 of each subsequent year? (S8.A.2.a.)	
84	S8.A.2.a, S8.A.2.b	Notified Ecology by December 1, 2024 which option you selected: S8.A.2.a, or S8.A.2.b.	Yes
85	S8.B.1, S5.B.2.a or S8.B.2.c	Submitted payment for cost-sharing for SAM effectiveness and source identification studies no later than December 1, 2024 (S8.B.1); and no later than August 15 of each subsequent year (S8.B.2.a or S8.B.2.c)?	Yes
86	S8.B.2.a, or S8.B.2.b.	Notified Ecology by December 1, 2024 which option you selected: S8.B.2.a, or S8.B.2.b.	Yes
87	S8.C.1.b and Appendix 9	If conducting stormwater discharge monitoring in accordance with S8.C.1, submitted a QAPP to Ecology no later than February 1, 2025? (S8.C.1.b and Appendix 9)	Not Applicable
89	G3	Notified Ecology in accordance with G3 of any discharge into or from the Permittees MS4 which could constitute a threat to human health, welfare or the environment. (G3)	Yes
90	G3	Took appropriate action to correct or minimize the threat to human health, welfare, and/or the environment per G3.A.	Yes

91	Compliance with standards	Notified Ecology within 30 days of becoming aware that a discharge from the Permittee's MS4 caused or contributed to a known or likely violation of water quality standards in the receiving water. (S4.F.1)	Yes
92	Compliance with standards	If requested, submitted an Adaptive Management Response report in accordance with S4.F.3.a.	Not Applicable
93	Compliance with standards	Attach a summary of the status of implementation of any actions taken pursuant to S4.F.3 and the status of any monitoring, assessment, or evaluation efforts conducted during the reporting period. (S4.F.3.d)	Not Applicable
94	G20	Notified Ecology of the failure to comply with the permit terms and conditions within 30 days of becoming aware of the non-compliance. (G20)	Yes
95	G20	Number of non-compliance notifications (G20) provided in reporting year. List permit conditions described in non-compliance notification(s) in Comments field.	1