

MS4 Annual Report Phase II Western

Skagit County Stormwater Program, 2025

The table below shows Skagit County Stormwater Program's responses to the questions that the Washington State Department of Ecology uses to determine whether the County's stormwater management program and annual implementation meet the Phase II permit requirements.

Number	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.	2026-SWMP-Map-NPDES-area-updat_1_03312026082030
2	S5.A.2; S9.D.1	Attach updated annual Stormwater Management Program Plan (SWMP Plan). (S5.A.2; S9.D.1)	SWMP 2026_BC_033026_DraftFinal_2_033120 26074448
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

Number	Permit Section	Question	Answer
4a	S5.A.5.b	Attach a written description of internal coordination mechanisms. (S5.A.5.b) no later than March 31, 2026.	2025-SWMP-ARQ-Q4a-internal-coo_4a_03312026074449
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) and Skagit Marine Resources Committee for 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

Number	Permit Section	Question	Answer
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.	2025-SWMP-ARQ-Q20-general-awar_20_03312026075047
21	S5.C.2.a.ii(b)	Developed a behavior change campaign that is tailored to the community in accordance with S5.C.2.a.ii(b)? (Required no later than July 1, 2025)	Yes
21a	S5.C.2.a.ii(b)	Attach the strategy and schedule developed in accordance with S5.C.2.a.ii.(b).	2025-SWMP-Supp-CBSM-strategy-s_21a_03312026075048
22	S5.C.2.a.ii(c)	Began implementing strategy outlined in S.5.C.2.a.ii(b). (S5.C.2.a.ii(c)) – Required by September 1, 2025)	Yes
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
24a	S5.C.2.a.iii	Attach a list of stewardship opportunities provided.	2025-SWMP-ARQ-Q24a-Supp-stewar_24a_03312026075048
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.	Skagit County employs a broad range of tools and outreach methods to ensure the public has meaningful opportunities to participate in decision-making processes related to the development, implementation, and updates of the Stormwater Management Program (SWMP) and the Stormwater Management Action Plan (SMAP).

Number	Permit Section	Question	Answer
			<p>Public notice and engagement tools include local radio, newspapers, community group networks, and press releases to communicate upcoming opportunities for public involvement. County SWMP staff actively maintain multiple social media platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, Nextdoor, and YouTube. This allows our O&E program staff to deploy targeted digital advertising aimed at specific geographic areas and population demographics to reach residents who may not engage through traditional channels. The County also conducts direct outreach to individuals via mail, email, and telephone to notify them of events and opportunities to review and comment on water quality planning documents. The County's public website serves as a consistent and accessible resource for program information and is regularly used by members of the public, as reflected in visit counts tracked through the County's web publishing software. Over time, the SWMP has developed and maintains a list of key identified stakeholders, built through existing community relationships, participation at numerous public events, and information sign-up</p>

Number	Permit Section	Question	Answer
			<p>opportunities. SWMP staff engages these stakeholders early and proactively during stormwater planning processes to ensure that feedback is gathered before decisions are finalized. The County's stakeholder outreach approach is intentionally broad and aims to be exhaustive, reaching entities such as nonprofit organizations, community groups, larger employers, HOAs, and representatives from the agricultural community, consistent with the diverse character of Skagit County and its watersheds.</p>
25a	S5.C.3.a.i	<p>Describe specific public involvement and participation opportunities provided to overburdened communities and specifically, highly impacted communities. (S5.C.3.a.i)</p>	<p>"Skagit County is improving how it identifies overburdened and highly impacted communities and works to ensure these groups can meaningfully participate in SWMP planning and public involvement. Outreach to Spanish-speaking residents is a priority, with bilingual materials, community partnerships, and participation in local events. Some 2025 events were canceled due to federal enforcement concerns, so the County pursued alternative outreach methods and continues long-term trust-building. In 2025, the Skagit Conservation District hired a Spanish-speaking Cultural</p>

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			Liaison to support engagement with historically underserved communities. The County also recognizes the need to reach other language communities, including Russian, Tagalog, Zapotec, and Mixtec speakers, using targeted outreach and partnerships where possible. Skagit County coordinates with four federally recognized Tribal Nations and recognizes treaty tribes as overburdened communities and key stakeholders in stormwater planning affecting Usual and Accustomed fishing grounds. State and regional tools are used to identify and map overburdened communities, considering economic, health, and environmental factors to meet permit requirements."
26	S5.C.3.	Posted the updated SWMP Plan and latest annual report on your website no later than May 31. (S5.C.3.b)	Yes
26a	S5.C.3.	List the website address in Comments field.	https://www.skagitcounty.net/Departments/PublicWorksSurfaceWaterManagement/whatwedo.htm
27	S5.C.4.	Maintained an electronic map of the MS4 including the requirements listed in S5.C.4.?	Yes
28	S5.C.4.b.i	Attach file that lists all known outfall locations, sizes, and materials no later than March 31,	2025-SWMP-Map-outfall-prelim-v_28_03312026120241

Number	Permit Section	Question	Answer
		<p>2026. The data shall be in one of the following formats, per S5.B.3.a.viii: • ESRI file geodatabase template (feature class in a .gdb): https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/ezshare/wq/permits/MS4GP.Mapoutfall.prelim.gdb.zip • Shapefile template: https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/ezshare/wq/permits/MS4GP.Mapoutfall.prelim.shape.zip • ArcGIS Online template (sharing template a or b via ArcGIS Online). • Excel template: https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/ezshare/wq/permits/MS4GP.Mapoutfall.prelim.excel.xlsx</p>	
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
32a	S5.C.5.b	Describe actions in Comments field. (S5.C.5.b)	<p>Skagit County informs public employees, businesses, and the general public about the hazards associated with illicit discharges and improper disposal of waste through a layered outreach approach targeting each audience. County staff whose work is relevant to IDDE or SWMP activities, or who spend significant time in the field, are required to complete IDDE training. Staff also participate in trainings covering spill response, TESC, and the identification</p>

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			<p>and proper handling of illicit discharges and waste materials. These trainings ensure field staff are equipped to recognize and respond to potential illicit discharge situations they may encounter in the course of their work. As for the local business community, the County's Source Control Inspection program continues to grow and has reached out to dozens of businesses to offer technical assistance in the form of educational materials, site-specific guidance, and direct discussion on proper waste handling and pollution prevention practices. General business outreach is also conducted through targeted mailings and digital advertising aimed at business audiences, reinforcing key messages about the hazards of illicit discharges and the importance of proper waste disposal. The SWMP reaches the general public through outreach mailings, targeted social media campaigns, and digital advertising on platforms including Facebook, Instagram, Nextdoor, and Spotify. Staff present to the County Board of Commissioners and table at a variety of community events throughout the year, where materials and direct conversations</p>

Number	Permit Section	Question	Answer
			on illicit discharges, spill reporting, and proper waste disposal consistently generate strong public engagement. The County's website and "See It: Report It" spill reporting tool also serve as year-round public resources for identifying and reporting potential illicit discharges.
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
35a	S5.C.5.d.i	Cite field screening methodology in Comments field.	Illicit Connection and Illicit Discharge Field Screening and Source Tracing Guidance Manual. 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.)	23
36a	S5.C.5.d.i(a)	Cite field screening techniques used to determine percent of MS4 screened.	Field screening techniques from the Illicit Connection and Illicit Discharge (ICID) guidance manual cited above were used to conduct Skagit County's IDDE

Number	Permit Section	Question	Answer
			<p>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 23%. 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</p>
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)	<p>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</p>

Number	Permit Section	Question	Answer
			presentations to the public, and on outreach materials.
38	S5.C.5.d.iii	Implemented an ongoing illicit discharge training program for all municipal field staff per S5.C.5.d.iii.	Yes
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.	2025-SWMP-ARQ-Q41-IDDE-annual-_41_03312026075430
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

Number	Permit Section	Question	Answer
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)	Not Applicable
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)	Not Applicable
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)	No
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
49a	S5.C.6.c.iii	Number of construction sites inspected per S5.C.6.c.iii.	320
49b	S5.C.6.c.iv	Inspected stormwater treatment and flow control BMPs/facilities 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?	Yes

Number	Permit Section	Question	Answer
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.viii	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)	240
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 Underground Injection Control (UIC) available to representatives of proposed new development and redevelopment? (S5.C.6.d)	Yes
55	S5.C.6.e	All staff whose primary job duties are implementing the program to control stormwater runoff from new development,	Yes

Number	Permit Section	Question	Answer
		redevelopment, and construction sites including permitting, plan review, construction site inspections, and enforcement are trained to conduct these activities. (S5.C.6.e)	
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,)	2025-SWMP-ARQ-Q56-stormwater-m_56_03312026075643
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
57a	S5.C.8.b	Number of total sites identified for the inventory.	176
58	S5.C.8.a-d	Attach a summary of actions taken to implement the source control program, per S5.C.8.a-d.	2025-SC-ARQ-Q58-regional-SC-pr_58_03312026075836
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.	2025-SC-ARQ-Q59-business-inspe_59_03312026075836

Number	Permit Section	Question	Answer
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.	Not Applicable
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

Number	Permit Section	Question	Answer
66a	S5.C.9.b.i(b)	Are you using a reduced stormwater treatment and flow control BMPs/facilities inspection frequency?	No
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
68a	S5.C.9.c.i	Number of known municipally owned or operated stormwater treatment and flow control BMPs/facilities. (S5.C.9.c.i)	23
68b	S5.C.9.c.i	Number of facilities inspected during the reporting period.	23
68c	S5.C.9.c.i	Number of facilities for which maintenance was performed during the reporting period.	13
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

Number	Permit Section	Question	Answer
71a	S5.C.9.c.iii	Number of known catch basins and inlets?	1273
71b	S5.C.9.c.iii	Number of catch basins and inlets inspected during the reporting period?	993
71c	S5.C.9.c.iii	Number of catch basins and inlets cleaned during the reporting period?	890
72	S5.C.9.c.iii	Attach documentation of alternative catch basin inspection approach for those owned or operated by the Permittee, if used, per S5.C.9.c.iii.	Not Applicable
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	Yes

Number	Permit Section	Question	Answer
		functions may impact stormwater quality. (S5.C.9.g)	
81	S7.A	Complied with the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)-specific requirements identified in Appendix 2. (S7.A)	Yes
81a	S7.A	List any requirements that were not met.	Not Applicable
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)	2026-SWMP-ARQ-Q82-response-v1-_82_03312026080547
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 no later than August 15 of each subsequent year? (S8.A.2.a.)	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
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
88	S8	If conducting stormwater discharge monitoring in accordance with S8.C.1, attach a data and	Not Applicable

Number	Permit Section	Question	Answer
		analysis report per S8.C.1. and Appendix 9. (Due annually beginning March 31, 2026.)	
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

Number	Permit Section	Question	Answer
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