

SSWAB's Stormwater Utility Performance Metrics

2021 Calendar Year

A. Report on the percentage of all County-owned outfalls, catch basins, and stormwater treatment and flow control facilities inspected annually, with a goal of achieving the following annual inspection rates:

- Outfalls: annually inspect 100%

Number of Municipal Outfalls	Percent Inspected
143	100%

- Catch basins: annually inspect 50% within the Permit-regulated area (consistent with Permit requirement¹); 25% outside the Permit-regulated area (achieving target dependent on staff availability and workload).

Inspection Area	Number of Assets	Percent Inspected
Permit-regulated area	6131	49%
Rural areas	710	72%

- Stormwater treatment and flow control facilities: annually inspect 100%

Number of Facilities	Percent inspected
320	100%

B. Report on the number of untreated (i.e., no runoff treatment BMPs) County-owned outfalls, and document progress toward a goal of reducing the number of untreated outfalls.

Outfall Discharge	Number of Outfalls	Percent of Total
Untreated	56	39%
Treated per standards	23	16%
Treated via vegetated conveyance ditches	64	45%

C. Report on the number of deficiencies identified/corrective actions taken in the course of conducting inspections listed above.

Deficiency by Asset Type	Identified	Corrected
Outfalls	17	11
Catch basins	1459	1188
Treatment & Flow Control Facilities	37	34
Total	1504	1227

¹ Permit requires inspecting all catch basins within the Permit's geographic scope every two years. While inspection areas do not have an even 50/50 asset split, the County has achieved the Permit's 100% target every two years with approximately 50% inspected annually.

- D. Measure the number of flood-related road closures, with a goal of zero (0) for up to a 10-year event.

Developing new workflows in VUEWorks to enable capturing of this information.

- E. Measure the increase in pollution identification and correction program (PIC) funding directed at County-owned municipal stormwater discharge locations where pollution poses risks to shellfish.

PIC Program – Current Funding Outlook

On July 1, 2021, the Washington State Department of Health made available foundational public health funds to local public health departments after the funding was passed by the 2021 Washington State Legislature. This was a “watershed” moment in funding for local public health which has been struggling to replace dollars that were formally made available by the Legislature through a percentage of the motor vehicle excise tax, which was eliminated by initiative.

Environmental Public Health work is eligible for this funding and the Thurston Board of County Commissioners decided to allocate \$1,000,000 of the dollars received by the County to fund PIC and Onsite Sewage (OSS) compliance work between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2023. As a result, we now have a fulltime OSS compliance staff person, we have filled an Environmental Health Specialist 2 (PIC Lead) position, hired a new Environmental Health Specialist 1 (PIC staff) who starts on June 1, 2022, and we’re close to offering another Environmental Health Specialist 1 (PIC staff) who will hopefully start on June 16th, 2022. Once this position is hired, we will five (5) full time staff dedicated to PIC work (includes the Environmental Health Manager) in Thurston County.

In addition to the foundational public health funds, we are set to be awarded a \$250,000 grant from the Washington State Department of Ecology to conduct a large-scale PIC project that targets homes in the Black Lake watershed. That project will be initiated in late 2022 or early 2023 and will extend through 2024. The local match requirement for this project (\$83,333) will be met with the foundational public health funds described above.

And finally, we have approximately \$228,000 remaining in a PIC grant that we received from the Washington State Department of Health (pass through dollars from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) National Estuary Program – Puget Sound Restoration) on January 1, 2019. This grant expires on 9/30/2022.

PIC Program – Future Funding Outlook

The funding outlook for PIC is good through June of 2023, assuming that there are no changes to the 2023 budget related to foundational public health funding. We are also currently evaluating whether to apply for additional EPA National Estuary Program –

Puget Sound Restoration grant funds, which should be available for Request for Proposals (RFP) late this year.

While the outlook is good, the foundational public health funds are only allocated to PIC through June 2023. A more secure long-term funding approach would be explore adopting the Clean Water Kitsap model that directs a portion of the stormwater utility fees collected by the County to the PIC Program for priority water quality restoration and protection. These funds would become foundational and then we could supplement those resources with specific grants for specific projects.