

MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 12, 2022

TO: Thurston County Drainage Manual Users *TW*

FROM: Tim Wilson, Thurston County Drainage Manual Administrator

SUBJECT: Abbreviated Construction Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan for Small Residential Projects

Attachment: Abbreviated Construction Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) Narrative for Small Residential Projects

SUMMARY

Effective immediately, the Thurston County Drainage Design and Erosion Control Manual (DDECM) Administrator modifies DDECM Volume I, Section 2.4.3 to allow small residential projects with land disturbing activities of less than one acre to submit an abbreviated Construction Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) in place of a full Construction SWPPP.

BACKGROUND

All new development and redevelopment projects are responsible for preventing erosion and discharge of sediment and other pollutants into receiving waters. The DDECM requires all new development and redevelopment projects exceeding the thresholds of Volume I, Chapter 2 to submit a full Construction SWPPP. The objective of the Construction SWPPP is to control erosion and prevent sediment and other pollutants from leaving the site during the construction phase of a project, and to have fully functional stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) for the developed site upon completion of construction.

The Washington State Department of Ecology's 2019 *Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington* (SWMMWW) allows for the County, as the Plan Approval Authority, to develop an abbreviated Construction SWPPP format for project sites that will disturb less than one acre. This was an option provided in the 2016 DDECM through a *Short Form Construction SWPPP*, but was excluded from the 2022 edition of the DDECM.

The Drainage Manual Administrator has consulted with staff in the Storm and Surface Water Utility and the Development Review Division of the Public Works Department, and has concluded requiring a full Construction SWPPP for residential projects less than one acre places an undue financial and administrative burden on applicants and does not result in greater protection of water quality than the previously instated *Short Form Construction SWPPP* allowed by the 2016 DDECM.

CONCLUSIONS

Commencing immediately, new development and redevelopment residential projects, as defined by the Thurston County Building Development Center, which result in land disturbance of less than one acre may submit an *Abbreviated Construction SWPPP Narrative for Small Residential Projects* in place of a full Construction SWPPP. The Drainage Manual Administrator reserves the right to require a full Construction SWPPP or impose additional

controls for projects expected to have a significant impact on sensitive natural resources, projects that could exacerbate existing flooding or water quality problems, or other reasons based on the Administrator's reasonable, best professional judgement based on available information.