



CITY OF
Tacoma

Stormwater Management Manual 2026 Update

Public Comment Webinar #2

May 6, 2025, 12:00pm PDT

Meeting Question & Answer *(edited for formatting and clarity)*

Question 1, by Rebecca Vader, PE

Can you give an example of substantive changes, if any, that were made from past public comments?
(answered live during webinar, video time stamp 33:30)

Question 2, by Andrew Stephenson

Is the infiltration swale a type of Collect & Convey BMP? Or is this a type of MR #5 BMP that satisfies the infiltration requirement?

(answered live during webinar, video time stamp 35:54)

Question 3, by Andrew Stephenson

Just to confirm, Tacoma's underground drainage system makes all projects conveying to this system flow control exempt because it's a man-made drainage channel - correct? No changes to this in the new update?

(answered live during webinar, video time stamp 39:45)

Meeting Chat *(edited for formatting and clarity)*

12:02:50 From f jacobs to Hosts and panelists :

Attendee Message to Host & Moderator:

Hello, I sent two questions a little before 11:00 today. Did you get them?
(answered live, video time stamp: 5:15)

12:03:10 From Andrew Stephenson to Hosts and panelists :

Attendee Message to Host & Moderator:

Will this meeting also be shared for reference for future viewers?
(answered live, video time stamp: 4:35)

12:06:23 From Mike Goularte to Hosts and panelists :

Attendee Message to Host & Moderator:

Is the webinar chat and Q&A chat the only way to talk/ask questions? No microphones?
(answered live, and responded in chat time stamp: 12:09:34)

12:09:34 From Joy Rodriguez to Mike Goularte And all panelists :

Response:

Yes - just chat and Q&A due to the number of registered attendees today.

You can also send any comments or question directly to us after the meeting if you'd like Mike!
swmupdates@cityoftacoma.org

12:31:22 From kyle murphy to Hosts and panelists :

Attendee Message to Host & Moderator:

what is the definition of a "commercial project"? In particular, as it pertains to home in Tacoma infill projects

(answered live, video time stamp: 39:05)

12:36:01 From Joy Rodriguez :

Attendee Message to Host & Moderator:

1. For narrow and deep lots, can the vegetated dispersion flowpath be located in the 5' side setback with the flowpath being parallel to the side property line? The infeasibility criteria has a limit of not closer than 10' from the property line and the detail shows the flowpath perpendicular to the property line.

2. For narrow and deep lots, can the dispersion trench length of 10 feet be reduced to 2 feet to be centered in a 5' setback?

Response:

1. As of our 2026 draft SWMM, stormwater facilities must be set back from property lines. With the most-recent Zoning Updates, including Unit Lot Subdivision (aka Home In Tacoma), the Stormwater Comprehensive Plan, which is currently in development, will include recommendation for any updates to the infeasibility criteria that may need to be evaluated.

2. How the flows are collected/which BMP is specifically used, would be considered to answer the flowpath orientation question. In general though, for dispersion flowpaths, the questions may be more aligned with the overall geometry of the site: the dispersion trench must be aligned perpendicular to the flowpath.

12:37:18 From Joy Rodriguez :

Attendee Message to Host & Moderator:

For roof and pavement drainage management on compact lots, can site runoff continue to collect and convey offsite routing under the sidewalk to gutter?

Response:

Short answer: Yes.

Longer answer: Collect and convey is still an option for stormwater management if: all MR #5 BMPs are deemed infeasible, the project does not require flow control per MR 7 or Infrastructure Protection, or treatment per MR 6.

As Mieke noted, there may be future updates to the SWMM to address small lot development (ie: Unit Lot Subdivision, Home In Tacoma). The Stormwater Comprehensive Plan, which is currently in development, will include any recommend updates to the infeasibility criteria in consideration of small lots.

12:42:42 From Jennifer Driskill to Hosts and panelists :

Attendee Message to Host & Moderator:

Will you please email out a link to the recorded session? Missed the beginning and would like to review to be sure I didn't miss anything that would apply to us. :)

(answered live, video time stamp: 44:55)

