

City of Tacoma 2025 Annual Report

Q70: Attach documentation of alternative catch basin inspection approach, if used. (S5.C.10.d.i.) Maintenance of Catch Basins Owned or Operated by the City on a “Circuit Basis” (S5.C.10.d.i.(b))

The City of Tacoma has elected to obtain compliance with S5.C.10.d.i. by implementing alternative S5.C.10.d.i.(b) “circuit basis” catch basin inspections. The City follows Ecology’s guidance: [Catch Basin Inspection Alternatives for Phase I and II Municipal Stormwater Permittees](#)

ES O&M operates a dedicated catch basin crew that inspects and cleans catch basins during the inspection visit. The City inspects at least 25 percent of catch basins and inlets in each circuit annually, including all structures immediately upstream of MS4 outfalls, discharge points, or connections to other public or private systems. Inspection results are entered into the City’s asset management system, and the system schedules any follow-up cleaning or other maintenance per inspection findings. Inspection data are analyzed, and additional inspection and cleaning within the circuit are conducted as needed. Each year, a different portion of each circuit is addressed, and over the Permit term, all catch basins within a circuits are inspected and cleaned. The City conducts quality control by inspecting additional catch basins outside the 25 percent sample to confirm representativeness. Per the Permit requirement, the catch basins immediately upstream of any MS4 outfall, discharge point, or connection to public or private storm systems are inspected annually.

Catch basins on City-owned or City-operated parcels are inspected annually. Depending on site management, annual inspections are performed either by the responsible department or by the City’s contracted cleaner. For department-led sites, the department conducts the inspections and coordinates any needed cleaning with the City’s contracted cleaner. For contractor-led sites, the department schedules the City’s contracted cleaner to complete both the inspection and any required cleaning. All inspection and cleaning activities are recorded in the City’s asset management system. Cleaning may be completed during the inspection when feasible; otherwise, it is scheduled and completed within six months of the inspection, consistent with City maintenance standards. Repairs and other public works activities are performed by the City and are not part of the citywide catch basin cleaning contract.

If the inspected basins are 60 percent or more full of sediment or when sediment is within six inches of the bottom of the outlet pipe, they will be scheduled for cleaning within six months. However, ES/Operations and Maintenance Division typically cleans the catch basin directly after inspection occurs.

Catch basin inspections are entered into a tracking database by City staff using the City’s ESRI map interface. This electronic data provides a tracking mechanism for inspections and ensures that associated maintenance is completed within the prescribed timelines.