



JEFFERSON COUNTY

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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Stormwater Management Information Sheet

This sheet provides an overview of Jefferson County stormwater management requirements and review process. Additional guidance and application materials include:

- **Stormwater Calculation Worksheet** – required application form for all new development and redevelopment; includes flow charts for determining stormwater minimum requirements
- **Construction Stormwater Pollution Prevention (SWPP) Best Management Practices (BMPs) Packet** – typical sediment and erosion control measures for the construction phase of rural residential development
- **“Low Impact Development” Information Sheet** – describes site design techniques and on-site stormwater management BMPs that will result in projects that have less environmental impact and that meet stormwater minimum requirements in a way that is significantly simpler for the applicant
- **Stormwater Site Plan Instructions and Submittal Template** – supplemental application form for projects requiring a Stormwater Site Plan (i.e., “medium” and “large” projects); includes glossary of stormwater management definitions and narrative template for Construction Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) component

Jefferson County Stormwater Management Standards

In an effort to protect water resources in Jefferson County, all new development and redevelopment must conform to the standards and minimum requirements set by the 2001 edition, as amended, of the Washington Department of Ecology *Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington* (Manual). Section 6.7 of the Unified Development Code (UDC) establishes Jefferson County’s stormwater management standards, with reference to the adopted Manual for definitions, criteria and thresholds for determining stormwater management requirements for a given development proposal. The Manual is comprised of five volumes and can be reviewed at the Department of Community Development (DCD), acquired from the Department of Ecology, or accessed from the Ecology website: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov>.

There are ten (10) Minimum Requirements in the Manual, as described in section 2.5. The applicability of the requirements to a given project is discussed below.

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| 1. Preparation of Stormwater Site Plans (Chapter 3 of Manual) | 6. Runoff Treatment |
| 2. Construction Stormwater Pollution Prevention | 7. Flow Control |
| 3. Source Control of Pollution | 8. Wetlands Protection |
| 4. Preservation of Natural Drainage Systems and Outfalls | 9. Basin/Watershed Planning |
| 5. On-site Stormwater Management | 10. Operation and Maintenance |

What are the Minimum Requirements for my proposal?

The two-page Stormwater Calculation Worksheet is the first form the applicant completes and signs. The general category of the project—“small,” “medium,” or “large”—is determined through the Worksheet and attached flow charts: *Figure 1: Flow Chart for Determining Requirements for New Development* and *Figure 2: Flow Chart for Determining Requirements for Redevelopment*. If the site has 35% or more of existing impervious coverage, then you use the **redevelopment** flow chart. If the site has less than 35% or more of existing impervious coverage, then you use the **new development** flow chart. Upon completion of the Worksheet, the project will be classified as “small,” “medium,” or “large,” which will, in turn, determine which of the Minimum Requirements from the Manual must be satisfied. Following is a synopsis:

- **“SMALL PROJECTS”** must address only Minimum Requirement #2, Construction Stormwater Pollution Prevention. The only submittal required as part of the application is the Stormwater Calculation Worksheet. DCD provides the applicant with a **Construction Stormwater Pollution Prevention (SWPP) Best Management Practices (BMPs) Packet**. The applicant is expected to ensure that the applicable sediment and erosion control measures are implemented during construction.
- **“MEDIUM PROJECTS”** must address only the first five Minimum Requirements. For most rural residential projects, completion of the template in the **Stormwater Site Plan Instructions and Submittal Template** satisfies the stormwater management component of the application.
- **“LARGE PROJECTS”** must address all ten Minimum Requirements. Applicants must submit a Stormwater Site Plan and may need to involve an engineer in addressing runoff treatment and flow control. More information is found in the **Stormwater Site Plan Instructions and Submittal Template**.

Stormwater management standards are applied to all development and redevelopment proposals (unless exempt per UDC). Stormwater review by DCD or by the Department of Public Works occurs either in conjunction with another land use or building permit application or with a stand-alone stormwater management permit. Department staff can help determine what Minimum Requirements apply to your proposal and whether a stand-alone stormwater management permit is required.

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When is a Stormwater Management Permit required?

A stormwater management permit is either a stand-alone permit or incorporated with an associated building permit or other land use approval. If you are *not* applying for a building permit or some other County land use approval for your proposal, a stand-alone stormwater management permit may be required. If you are applying for another permit, stormwater review is incorporated into consistency review of that permit application and the building permit or other land use approval, if and when granted, also functions as an integrated stormwater management permit, complete with any and all conditions of approval related to stormwater management.

Thresholds for determining whether a Jefferson County stormwater management permit is required for a proposed activity are contained in UDC Section 6.7.6. A stand-alone or integrated stormwater management permit is required for the following activities:

- All grading of 500 cubic yards or more; except for those activities exempted under UDC Section 6.6.5.b;
- All clearing and grading activities within or that would adversely affect environmentally sensitive areas—such as Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas, Frequently Flooded Areas, Geologically Hazardous Areas, Fish and Wildlife Habitat Areas, and Regulated Wetlands—as defined in Section 3.6.4 *et al* of the UDC;
- Land-disturbing activities of 7,000 square feet or more; or
- Creation of 2,000 square feet or more of impervious surface.

Class IV-G Forest Practices and mineral extraction proposals: A Jefferson County stormwater management permit is required in conjunction with a Class IV-General (or “conversion”) Forest Practices Application (FPA) reviewed by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources and for a mineral extraction proposal that exceeds the thresholds above. Refer to UDC Sections 4.16 and 4.24, respectively, for regulations specific to forest practices and mineral extraction.

Process

If a stand-alone stormwater management permit is required or an integrated stormwater management permit is required in conjunction with a building permit or other land use approval, the applicant will submit a **Master Land Use Application (MLA)** form in conjunction with the **Stormwater Calculation Worksheet**. For “medium” and “large” projects, a **Stormwater Site Plan** is a required submittal (Minimum Requirement #1). The UDC Administrator will issue the stormwater management permit consistent only upon a finding that the proposed use or activity meets all applicable requirements of UDC Sections 6.6 (Grading and Excavation Standards) and 6.7 (Stormwater Management Standards) and any and all other applicable requirements of the UDC. The Administrator may require additional measures, such as the Optional Guidance conditions of Section 2.6 of the Manual, pursuant to environmental review of the proposal. Adjustments, Exceptions or Variances to the Minimum Requirements shall be considered pursuant to the UDC and Sections 2.7 and 2.8 of the Manual. A *stand-alone stormwater management permit application is reviewed consistent with a Type I (administrative) permit process.*

Exemptions

Grading Activities Exempted from Stormwater Management Permit

UDC Section 6.6 contains Jefferson County Grading and Excavation Standards. Per UDC Section 6.6.5.b, the following activities are exempt from the requirement for obtaining a stormwater management permit (if located outside of environmentally sensitive areas and their buffers), but are not exempt from Minimum Requirement #2 of the Manual, the 12 Elements of Construction Stormwater Pollution Prevention (SWPP), unless exempted per UDC Section 6.7.2:

- Maintenance of gravel roads;
- Construction of a residential driveway categorically exempt from review under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA);
- Construction of a Class I-III logging road (per RCW 76.09.050 and WAC 222);
- Construction of drainage improvements in accordance with UDC Sections 6.6.2 and 6.7; or
- Construction of a pond of one-half acre or less which is not in a regulated wetland.

Activities Exempted from Stormwater Management Standards

Pursuant to UDC Section 6.7.2, the following activities are exempt from meeting the minimum requirements: (1) Commercial agriculture or, (2) Forest practices regulated under WAC 222, except Class IV-General forest practices and Conversion Option Harvest Plans.

Stormwater Disposal Policy Along Marine Shorelines

Pursuant to UDC section 3.6.5.d(2)ii **all new development activity, including single-family residential construction, located on Marrowstone Island, Indian Island, and within ¼ mile of any marine shoreline shall be required to infiltrate all stormwater runoff onsite.** The Administrator will consider requests for exceptions to this policy on a case-by-case basis and may require a geotechnical report. This provision is intended to prevent seawater from intruding into underground aquifers, reduce non-point source pollution to marine waters, and reduce the potential for shoreline erosion due to tightline failure. This provision is interpreted as establishing a hierarchy in which the first and best alternative is on-site infiltration using drywells or other methods, the second best alternative is upland off-site disposal, and the least preferred alternative is direct discharge into marine waters through a stormwater tightline. In order to utilize the least preferred alternative, which is considered an exception to the policy, applicants must demonstrate through a geotechnical or similar report prepared by a licensed professional that both on-site infiltration and upland off-site disposal are not practicable or feasible. The report must include cost figures for comparison.

If based on geotechnical evidence the Administrator grants an exception to this policy, a proposed stormwater runoff tightline that terminates at or near the marine shoreline shall be reviewed under the Jefferson County Shoreline Master Program and SEPA. Other agency approvals, such as Hydraulic Project Approval from the Department of Fish and Wildlife, may be required as well. A Joint Aquatic Resources Permit Application (JARPA) form would need to accompany any permit application that includes a stormwater tightline at or below the ordinary high water mark.