




**TO:** City of Tacoma Staff and City of Tacoma Website  
**FROM:** Michael P. Slevin III, P.E., Environmental Services Director   
**SUBJECT:** City of Tacoma 2021 Stormwater Management Manual – Separation of Public and Private Stormwater  
**DATE:** April 19, 2022

**BACKGROUND:**

In response to the August 1, 2019 Phase I Municipal Stormwater General Permit, the City of Tacoma updated its Stormwater Management Manual (SWMM). The new manual went into effect on July 1, 2021.

Volume 4, Section 3.7 addresses the separation of public and private stormwater. The section specifically mentions the separation of public and private stormwater for stormwater treatment purposes.

This section is meant to apply to the separation of public and private stormwater for both stormwater treatment and flow control purposes, maintaining the intent of the preceding 2016 SWMM (Volume 1, Section 3.3.6) and 2012 SWMM (Volume 1, Section 3.3.7). The City’s intent to separate stormwater for treatment and flow control is to ensure that entities responsible for creating the stormwater impacts maintain responsibility for the continuous management of that impact.

The words about flow control were inadvertently left out in error. The City of Tacoma intends to update this language in the formal adopted SWMM at a future date.

The intended language is shown below:

**3.7 Separation of Public and Private Stormwater for Stormwater Treatment and Flow Control**

Typically, private and public stormwater are separated for purposes of stormwater treatment and flow control. However, the City recognizes that this is not always practical. Therefore, the City has developed the following guidance: (Note, that this guidance does not supersede requirements to apply Minimum Requirement #5) – Onsite Management, it is meant to provide standards for when separate public and private stormwater treatment and flow control facilities should be installed.

- For commercial new development and redevelopment, public and private stormwater shall be separated. The City may allow incidental amounts of private stormwater to directly enter City of Tacoma stormwater treatment and/or flow control systems with written approval from Environmental Services/Site Development Group per Joint Administrative Policy and Procedure Directive No. 2021-02-001.
- Under certain circumstances, incidental amounts of public stormwater may be allowed to discharge to private stormwater treatment and/or flow control systems with written approval from Environmental Services/Site Development Group per Joint Administrative Policy and Procedure Directive No. 2021-02-001. A written agreement between the City and owner and Notice to Title may be required.
- For residential new development and redevelopment, for areas adjacent to public roads, such as driveways, the City will typically allow driveway runoff to drain to the street if onsite management is not feasible and the amount of driveway area is small compared to the public road area. All new and replaced hard surfaces and land conversions required to provide stormwater treatment and/or flow control must do so. Private access way runoff shall be handled in separate private stormwater treatment and/or flow control facilities.