



Environmental Services Commission

City of Tacoma | Environmental Services Department

Thursday, April 8, 2021





Agenda

- Welcome
- Impacts of COVID-19 on Budget: Christina Curran
- TMC 12.08 Updates: Kurt Fremont
- Stormwater Management Manual: Mieke Hoppin
- Other Items of Interest
- Adjournment



2021 Work Plan

Meeting Date	Draft Topics
February 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Election of chair & vice-chair• Meeting schedule for 2021 & work plan• Five Utilities in Tacoma video
March 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Canceled
April 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Impacts of COVID-19 on Budget• TMC 12.08 Updates• Stormwater Management Manual Update
May 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Canceled <p>Note: ES attends GPFC (Gov. Performance & Finance) meeting to provide an overview of ESC</p>
June 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2020 ES Financial Update• Tours: Central Treatment Plant (tentative)
July 15: <i>Special Meeting Date</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tours: Solid Waste (tentative)
August 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Canceled
September 16: <i>Special Meeting Date</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tour: Stormwater (tentative)
October 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ES Strategic Plan Update – Bee Team Update
November 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agenda for upcoming Rate & Budget Year
December 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Canceled



Impacts of COVID-19 on Environmental Services' Budget

Presenter:

Christina Curran, Budget, Rates, & Strategic Planning

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COVID Impact Areas

- 2021-2022 Rates and Budget
- Revenues
 - Customer and Usage Trends
 - Unpaid Bills
 - Federal Funding
 - Assistance Update

COVID Impacts: 21-22 Budget



Prior 2019 Six-Year Revenue Plan

Year	Solid Waste	Wastewater	Surface Water
2019	3.0%	4.0%	3.5%
2020	3.0%	4.0%	3.5%
2021	3.0%	3.5%	3.0%
2022	3.0%	3.5%	3.0%
2023	3.0%	3.0%	2.5%
2024	3.0%	3.0%	2.5%



COVID Impacts: 21-22 Budget

2021-2024 Revenue Differences

Year	Solid Waste	Wastewater	Surface Water
2021	-1.5%	-2.0%	-1.0%
2022	-1.0%	-1.5%	-1.0%
2023	1.0%	1.0%	0.5%
2024	1.0%	1.0%	0.5%

COVID Impacts: 21-22 Budget



2021-2026 Six-Year Revenue Plan

Year	Solid Waste	Wastewater	Surface Water
2021	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%
2022	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%
2023	4.0%	4.0%	3.0%
2024	4.0%	4.0%	3.0%
2025	3.5%	4.0%	3.0%
2026	3.5%	4.0%	3.0%

*To help offset rate increases in out years, added \$15M in debt to Solid Waste and decreased Wastewater and Surface Water capital spending by \$26M.

COVID Impacts: 2020 Revenue



Solid Waste

- Biennial revenues were 3% above plan (across the board)
 - Commercial revenues trended above plan by 3% throughout biennium
 - Residential revenues within 1% of plan
 - Surcharges collecting less than planned revenues
 - Disposal revenues above plan in 2019 (14%), but 0% variance in 2020
 - Represents a decline in revenue in 2020
 - 7% overall positive variance for biennium
- 2020 customers in line with 2019 amounts
 - Slight increase in residential (+1 to 2%), slight decrease in commercial (-2 to 3%)
 - Increase in CSBS customers



COVID Impacts: 2020 Revenue



Wastewater

- Biennial revenues were on plan (less than 1% variance)
 - Downward trend as 2019 revenues were above plan, but 2020 was below
 - Commercial revenues dropped significantly in 2020 (-15%)
 - Residential revenues also below plan, but less significantly
 - Interlocal revenues on plan for biennium, but decline from 2019 to 2020
- 2020 customers in line with 2019 amounts, but usage is decreasing
 - Residential 2% decrease in units billed
 - Commercial 20% decrease in units billed

Surface Water

- Biennial revenues were above plan (+7% variance)
 - Commercial and Residential revenues both 2% above plan for the biennium
- 2020 customers in line with 2019 amounts (less than 1% change)





COVID Impacts: Unpaid Bills

	Bad Debt Expense Ratio		Total 30 Days or Older Debt Outstanding		
	2019	2020	Feb. 2020	Feb. 2021	% Change
Solid Waste	0.3%	1.6%	\$428,814	\$2,004,589	367%
Surface Water	0.2%	1.0%	\$561,934	\$1,057,504	88%
Wastewater	0.3%	1.4%	\$720,459	\$2,471,720	123%

- Federal Funding
 - 2020 Utility Bill Assistance for Small Businesses (CARES)
 - 2021 Federal Utility Assistance for Outstanding Balances of Residential Customers
 - Ongoing legislative efforts for federal dollars for capital projects



COVID Impacts: EAP Program

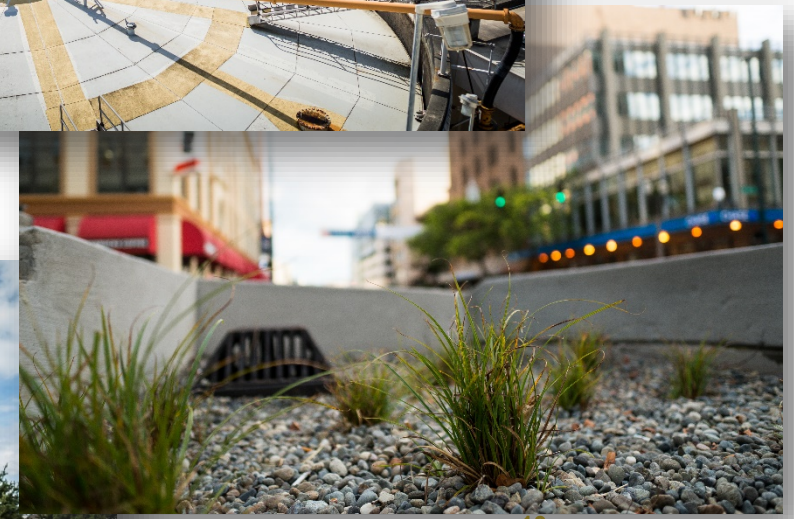
Budget as of 12/31/2020 – All utilities (ES and TPU partnership)

Utility Service	Original FY19/20 BCAP Budget	Original BCAP Budget Allocated to EAP	Increased Emergency Assistance Program Budget	Emergency Assistance Program Expenditures (12/31/2020)	Remaining Emergency Assistance Program Budget	Number of Households Assisted
Power	\$2,500,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,700,000	\$1,682,053	\$17,947	12,481
Water	\$325,000	\$238,248	\$300,000	\$228,934	\$71,066	5,723
Wastewater	\$156,000	\$72,784	\$160,000	\$144,090	\$15,910	4,803
Surface Water	\$73,000	\$33,400	\$45,000	\$46,050	\$-1,050	4,605
Solid Waste	\$197,000	\$122,052	\$195,000	\$198,161	\$-3,161	4,954
TOTALS	\$3,251,000	\$1,466,484	\$2,400,000	\$2,299,289	\$100,711	12



COVID Impacts: Summary

- All ES utilities met revenue requirement for 2019-2020 biennium
 - 2020 revenues declined from 2019 levels
- Unpaid utility bills continue to be an area for concern
 - Hopeful that federal support will help mitigate
- Continued financial monitoring through 2021-2022 biennium necessary
- Operations adapted; despite new challenges presented by COVID, all operational key metrics were met





Presentation: TMC 12.08



TMC 12.08 Updates

Presenter:

Kurt Fremont, ES Assistant Division Manager,
Environmental Compliance

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OVERVIEW



- Tacoma Municipal Code (TMC) 12.08 gives the City the authority to enforce regulations to protect our stormwater and wastewater conveyance systems, wastewater treatment plants, and receiving waters.
- We are updating TMC 12.08.
- The existing TMC 12.08 is confusing for our customers to navigate.
- The overall objective of this project is to formally adopt revised TMC 12.08 chapters and a rates ordinance that meets Ecology recommendations, an independent auditor's recommendations, and Puget Soundkeeper Alliance's consent decree requirements.

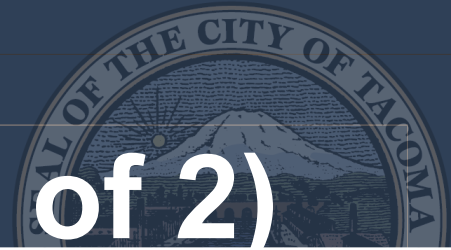


BACKGROUND



- In 2017, Environmental Services (ES) and Puget Soundkeeper Alliance (PSA) entered into a consent decree that required ES to comply with an independent audit and Ecology recommendations.
- TMC 12.08 industrial wastewater pretreatment regulations needed to be updated and revised.
- ES separated the existing code into four new chapters and a new rate and fee ordinance to replace the existing TMC 12.08
- In 2019 Ecology issued the new Stormwater General Permit.

PROPOSED REVISIONS (1 of 2)



City Code Chapter 12.08

Wastewater and Surface Water Management – Regulation and Rates

- Revise TMC 12.08 to Four Chapters and Rates/Fees Ordinance:
- TMC 12.08A Administration language applicable to stormwater, general wastewater, and industrial wastewater regulations. No substantive changes to regulations.
- TMC 12.08B General wastewater regulations. No substantive changes to regulations.
- ***TMC 12.08C Industrial wastewater pretreatment program regulations. Updated to reflect PSA consent decree, Department of Ecology, and independent audit recommendations.***
- TMC 12.08D Stormwater regulations. Minor, non-substantive changes to regulations for Ecology permit compliance.
- Rates/Fees Ord. Table for the various rates and fees applicable to wastewater, industrial wastewater and stormwater services and regulations.



PROPOSED REVISIONS (2 of 2)

What will be different in TMC 12.08C?

- Adds a new federal requirement for Dental Dischargers to install amalgam separation and self-certify compliance with the new requirements by October 2020.
- Adds an August 2019 federal requirement that prohibits the discharge of hazardous waste pharmaceuticals.
- Local Limits will be revised in accordance with EPA guidance.
- Raises maximum civil enforcement penalties for violations of TMC 12.08C from \$5,000 to \$10,000 to be consistent with state law. Follows Uniform Enforcement Code adopted by City Council in 2018.

OUTREACH



- Process for Policy or Code Development:
 - Department of Ecology – program audit recommendations 3/23/2015
 - Puget Soundkeeper Alliance Consent Decree – approved by City Council 2/9/2017
 - Independent auditor findings (revise 12.08) – 3/23/2017
 - ES, City Attorney’s Office and outside counsel revise 12.08
 - Ecology review and comment
 - Auditor review and comment
 - ES submit final draft to Ecology for approval – 3/17/2020
 - Ecology approve draft ordinance & request Council adoption – 7/28/2020

OUTREACH



- Process for Outreach and Education:
 - PSA quarterly reports 3/2017 – 3/2019
 - Pierce County Dental Society Board of Trustees – 5/01/2018
 - Environmental Services Commission – 3/17/19
 - Industrial wastewater discharge permittees (~40) – 10/07/2019
 - City Council Study Session – 10/15/2019
 - Infrastructure, Planning and Sustainability Committee – 2/10/21



NEXT STEPS



- City Council Consideration – May 2021
- Ordinance Effective Date - June 2021
- Additional Education & Outreach
 - Immediate and ongoing to industrial dischargers.



Presentation: SWMM

Stormwater Management Manual (SWMM)

Presenter:

Mieke Hoppin, Engineer, ES S&E Division

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OVERVIEW



- Tacoma's Stormwater Management Manual (SWMM) contains the information needed to regulate stormwater management associated with new development, redevelopment and construction sites in Tacoma. It also contains source control Best Management Practices (BMPs) for existing sites.
- The City's NPDES Municipal Stormwater Permit requires the City to update the SWMM to incorporate NPDES SW Permit required changes.
- The NPDES SW Permit requires implementation of the updated SWMM on or before July 1, 2021.
- The updated Tacoma Municipal Code Ch.12.08D requires Council approval of the SWMM because SWMM compliance is mandatory and enforced as part of the TMC.



BACKGROUND



- August 1, 2019 Ecology issued the new NPDES Municipal Stormwater Permit to all Phase I Permittees including Tacoma.
- The NPDES SW Permit regulates the discharge of stormwater to surface waters and groundwaters of the state from Tacoma's municipal stormwater system.
- The NPDES SW Permit is designed to protect and improve the water quality of receiving waters by requiring the City to implement a variety of stormwater management activities.



PROJECT OBJECTIVES



- Ensure compliance with NPDES SW Permit Section S5.C.5 that requires Permittees to have a local program to prevent and control impacts from new development, redevelopment and construction activities.
- Make Ecology mandated changes as outlined in Appendix 10 of the 2019 NPDES SW Permit.
- Update the SWMM for clarity.
- Changes to meet Ecology intent.
- Changes based upon internal/external comments.



● ● ● ECOLOGY MANDATED SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

1. Continuous Simulation Modeling
2. Replaced Hard Surfaces Redevelopment Thresholds
3. Equivalent Areas
4. Minimum Requirement #2 – Construction Stormwater Pollution Prevention
5. Minimum Requirement #5 – On-Site SW Management
6. Minimum Requirement #7 – Flow Control
7. Concrete Washout BMP
8. Source Control BMPs Added
9. Wetlands Guidance



SWMM CHANGES



- Who do changes affect?
 - All new development and redevelopment projects in the City of Tacoma.
- Who is most affected?
 - “Larger” projects such as commercial development and construction of multiple homes (short plats/plats).



OUTREACH



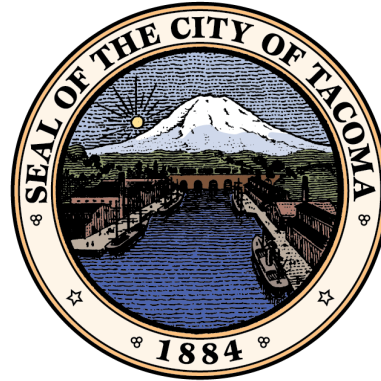
- Internal and Public Comment Period – July 2020.
- Two virtual meetings to outline proposed changes were held July 15th and July 16th, 2020. Approximately 80 people attended the trainings.
- Focused meetings with Puyallup Tribal Staff and MBA to discuss a specific change in the First Creek Contributory Basin in early 2021.
- Focused meetings with specific internal staff groups.
- Public comments (from comment period only) received (about 50) addressed and posted on website.
- Training for internal staff and external users will be scheduled for May through July 2021.
 - There will be general training and focused training based on each audience and how that audience uses the SWMM.



NEXT STEPS



- Council IPS Committee Review: March 10, 2021 (Complete)
- City Council Consideration: May 2021
- Ordinance Effective Date: May to June 2021
- Additional Education & Outreach:
 - Training for internal staff and external users will be scheduled for May through July 2021.



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**Next ESC Meeting:
May 13, 2021 @ 4 p.m.**

