



City of Tacoma

Memorandum

TO: General Government Department Directors
TPU Superintendents

FROM: Eric A. Anderson, City Manager *E.A. Anderson*
William A. Gaines, Director, Tacoma Public Utilities *W.A. Gaines*

SUBJECT: City of Tacoma Compliance with
National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit

DATE: January 28, 2008

On February 16, 2007, the Washington State Department of Ecology issued a Phase I Municipal Stormwater Permit under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). This permit covers discharges from municipalities with separate storm sewer systems and has a term of five years.

The City of Tacoma has been and remains a leader in stormwater management in Western Washington through the cleanup of the Thea Foss Waterway and subsequent efforts to prevent contaminants from discharging into the waterway via the City's stormwater mains. Under this new permit, Tacoma's Stormwater Management program will be updated and expanded city-wide focusing on improving stormwater quality and protecting receiving waters. These efforts have an important role in protecting Tacoma's wetlands, streams, rivers, lakes and Commencement Bay.

On a regional scale, the City of Tacoma is a participant in the Puget Sound Partnership and is committed to do its share as part of a concerted regional effort to clean up the Puget Sound ecosystem by 2020.

Virtually every City department has an important contribution to make to improve the quality and/or reduce the quantity of stormwater discharged to our receiving waters. Accordingly, each department must contribute to this effort for the City to realize its goals with regard to the development and implementation of the program for compliance with the NPDES Phase I Municipal Stormwater permit.

To assist with this effort, we are requesting that you designate a contact person from your department by **February 4, 2008**, and provide that information to the City's coordinator Shauna Hansen, P.E., of the Public Works, Environmental Services, Science and Engineering Division. Shauna can be reached at 502-2119 or via email at shansen@cityoftacoma.org.

Thank you in advance for your support and assistance with this important program!