



City of Tacoma
Public Works Department

Memorandum

TO: Public Works Division Managers, Surface Water Management Staff, and City of Tacoma Website

FROM: Geoffrey M. Smyth, P.E.
Division Manager/Science and Engineering

SUBJECT: Use of Filterra Water Quality Devices - Update

DATE: October 6, 2009

The City of Tacoma allows proprietary stormwater treatment devices with a Department of Ecology designated general use level designation (GULD) for private installation, and may allow the use of devices with GULD in the right of way with preapproval. Devices with a conditional use level designation or pilot use level designation may also be accepted for use in the right of way or private installation with preapproval.

The Filterra system has a conditional use level designation for basic and phosphorus treatment, and a pilot use level designation for enhanced and oil treatment.

Currently, the City is allowing the installation of Filterra devices on a limited basis because of uncertainty concerning maintenance and system performance. The previous policy "Use of Filterra Water Quality Devices" dated October 7, 2008, allowed the City to accept up to 30 total Filterra devices to be installed in the City. The total included both private and right of way installations. At this time, the City has decided to allow additional Filterra units (beyond the 30 stipulated in the October 7, 2008 policy document) to be installed at the City's discretion. All Filterra units will continue to require pre-approval by Environmental Services. Environmental Services Surface Water Section shall make the determination to approve Filterra devices on a case-by-case basis based upon the suitability of the proposed installation.

Applicants shall be required to post a bond for potential replacement of the units should they become unacceptable to the City of Tacoma. The minimum bond amount will be \$9,000 per Filterra device. Actual bond amount will be based on the area served by the Filterra unit(s) and expected replacement cost with a proprietary water quality device with a GULD.

Applicants who wish to install Filterra units shall follow the pre-approval process for proprietary stormwater devices outlined in the policy document, "Policy Regarding Proprietary Stormwater Devices" available on-line at <http://www.cityoftacoma.org/stormwater> on the Permits & Manuals page. Requests for installations of Filterra devices will be granted on the basis of the date the request is submitted and a determination that the technology is appropriate for the application. If a project receives approval to use a Filterra but elects to not install the Filterra, the pre-approval is forfeited back to the City to be granted to the next requestor with an appropriate project.

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