



TO: Public Works Division Managers and
Surface Water Management Staff

FROM: Michael P. Slevin III, P.E. *M. Slevin*
Interim Public Works Director

SUBJECT: City of Tacoma Policy Regarding
Proprietary Stormwater Treatment Devices

DATE: October 7, 2008

The City of Tacoma Environmental Services recognizes that there are situations where the conventional stormwater treatment options outlined in the Surface Water Management Manual (SWMM) are not feasible. Therefore, Environmental Services may approve specific proprietary stormwater treatment devices on a case-by-case basis.

Environmental Services will typically accept devices with a general use level designation (GULD) in the City of Tacoma for private stormwater treatment. Devices with the GULD designation may be accepted for use in the right of way with pre-approval.

Devices with conditional use level designation (CULD) or pilot use level designation (PULD) from Ecology may be accepted for use in the right of way or private installations with pre-approval. Environmental Services will typically limit the total number of a particular device installed within the City until the general use level designation is obtained from Ecology. Due to uncertain performance, maintenance requirements and costs for some of the proprietary devices, Environmental Services may, at any time, elect not to allow certain devices for use in either private or public installations.

Ecology has recently suspended acceptance of devices into the Technology Assessment Protocol Ecology (TAPE) program for evaluation and approval. Until the program is reopened, the City of Tacoma may accept requests for approval of proprietary devices that have not been accepted into the TAPE program. In that case, the applicant would be required to submit documentation of performance of the device to the City of Tacoma in conformance with the TAPE protocol.

Pre-Approval Requests

Applicants shall submit requests for pre-approval of proprietary devices to Merita Trohimovich-Pollard / Environmental Services Plan Review Lead / 2201 Portland Avenue / Tacoma, WA 98421-2711. The request for pre-approval of proprietary water quality devices may be submitted prior to or with permit application. If the request for pre-approval is submitted with the permit application, the applicant is solely responsible for any re-design that may be necessary if the request is denied.

Requests for pre-approval shall include the following information:

- Parcel number, address, and name of the proposed project;
- any applicable permit numbers;
- an explanation of why one of the stormwater treatment options in the SWMM can not be utilized on the site;
- the trade name and manufacturer of the proprietary device proposed;
- the type of current Ecology designation (general, conditional, or pilot);
- the type of treatment that the device is installed for (for example, basic or enhanced);
- the proposed number of installations;
- the approximate size of each proposed proprietary device (i.e. the number of stormfilter cartridges or the approximate Filterra™ unit size);
- a proposed site plan delineating the approximate surface area contributing flow to the proprietary device; and
- a general sketch or GOVME map with the site location shown.

Environmental Services may require additional information for approval of any proprietary device. Environmental Services may also require more stringent installation or sizing criteria than Ecology for permit approval. Bonds may be required to ensure maintenance and/or replacement of proprietary devices.