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Clark County Stormwater Code and Manual Update

Clean Water Commission Briefing

December 3, 2025

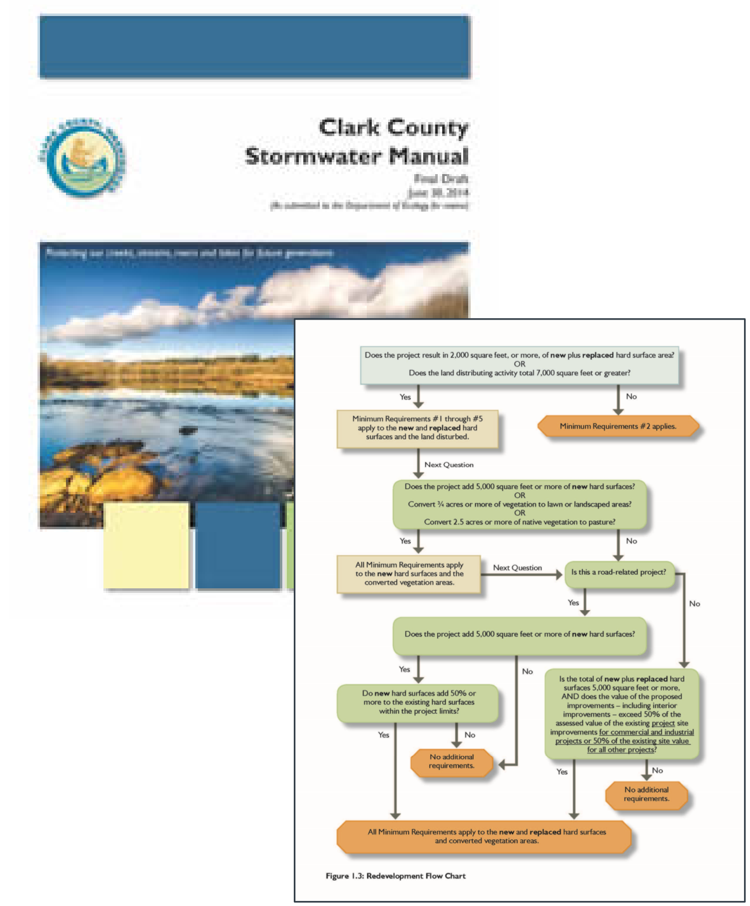
Agenda

- Project Overview
- Ecology Submittal
- Technical and Other Changes Not Submitted to Ecology
- Training & Guidance
- Illicit Discharge Code Updates
- Next Steps

Project Overview

Improving water quality, ensuring compliance

- Department of Ecology issued new stormwater permit (2024) and Stormwater Manual (2024)
  - New requirements for new development and redevelopment (Appendix 10, Appendix 1)
  - Updated technical standards and guidance language (Manual)
- Update Clark County Stormwater Manual (CCSM) & Clark County Code (CCC)
  - Incorporate staff/DEAB suggestions
  - Evaluate infiltration testing requirements
- Training Needs Assessment



Project Overview

Enforceable Documents to be Updated

- Clark County Code
    - 13.26A: Water Quality
    - 40.100: Definitions
    - 40.386: Stormwater and Erosion Control
    - 40.500: Procedures
- Clark County Stormwater Manual
    - Book 1, Book 2, Book 3, Book 4

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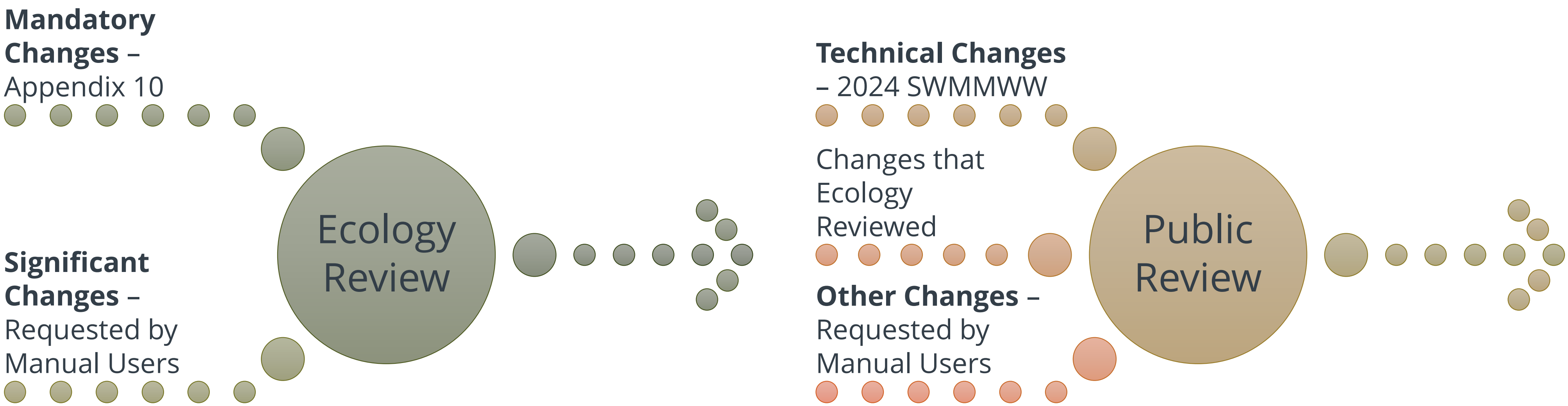
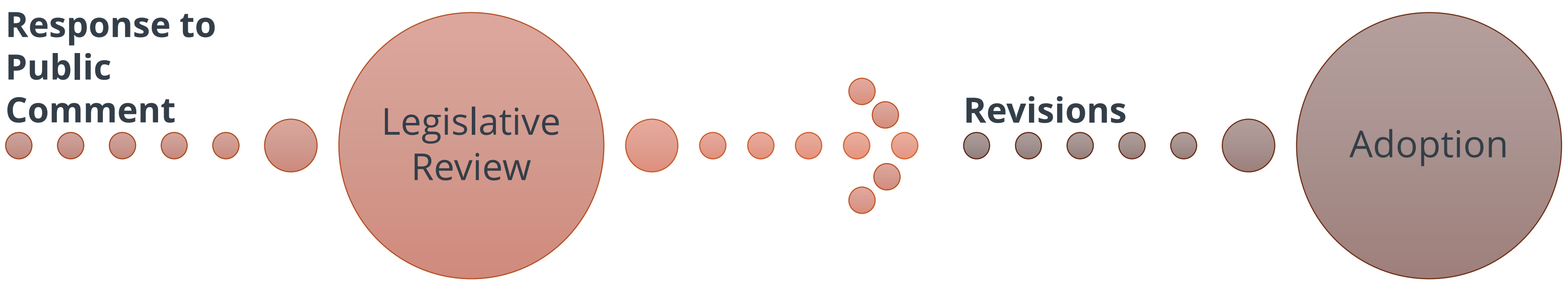
Process, Pt. 1



Process, Pt. 2


Response to Public Comment
Legislative Review
Revisions
Adoption

Schedule

Ecology deadlines drive internal and public timelines

Winter 2024 – Spring 2025

CATS, DEAB

Document “significant” changes

Spring – Fall 2025

Ecology review of all “significant” changes (tables)

Summer 2025

Training needs assessment

Winter 2025-2026

Document other changes not requiring Ecology review

Winter – Summer 2026

CATS, DEAB

Public Information

Planning Commission / Council

July 1, 2026

Effective date of enforceable documents (codes and manual)

Summer – Fall 2026

Training

Changes Submitted to Ecology

Ecology Submittal

- Mandated Changes from Appendix 10
- Requests for manual/code updates collected over time from Manual Users that resulted in a “Significant” change to CCSM or County stormwater code
- Submitted to Ecology in June
- Expecting comments in December

Ecology's Significant Mandated Changes

1. Redevelopment Project Level Thresholds
2. Project Exemptions
3. Definitions Related to Minimum Requirements
4. Wetland Hydroperiod Protection Method 2
5. Runoff Treatment Performance Goal Threshold
6. Source Control BMPs – PCB Edits
7. High Performance Bioretention Soil Mix

Link to Appendix 10

Significant Changes

1. **Redevelopment Project Level Thresholds:** The "Project Level" thresholds for applying the Minimum Requirements to redevelopment projects have been updated.
   - Project Level - Redevelopment Thresholds / Road Related Projects

     The updated threshold for road related projects states that all Minimum Requirements apply to the new and replaced hard surfaces and converted vegetation areas if the project adds 5,000 square feet of new plus replaced hard surfaces AND the new plus replaced hard surfaces total 50% or more of the existing hard surfaces on the Site (underline shows the new language).
   - Project Level - Redevelopment Thresholds / Commercial or Industrial Projects

     The updates include a new threshold for commercial or industrial Sites. The new threshold states that all Minimum Requirements apply to the new and replaced hard surfaces and converted vegetation areas if the Project adds more than 5,000 square feet of new plus replaced hard surfaces AND the new plus replaced hard surfaces total 50% or more of the existing hard surfaces within the Site.

   See **Section 3** of Appendix 1.

Link to Appendix 1

- Threshold 1:
  - the ~~total~~Project adds 5,000 square feet or more of new plus replaced hard surfaces ~~is 5,000 square feet or more~~, and
    - For commercial or industrial projects: the valuation of the proposed improvements, including interior improvements, exceeds 50% of the assessed value of the existing Project Site improvements.
    - For all other projects: the valuation of the proposed improvements, including interior improvements, exceeds 50% of the assessed value of the existing Site improvements.
- Threshold 2 (for commercial or industrial sites only):
  - the Project adds 5,000 square feet or more of new plus replaced hard surfaces, and
  - the new plus replaced hard surfaces total 50% or more of the existing hard surfaces within the Site.

Notable Mandated Changes

- Redevelopment Thresholds (revised Figure 1.3)
  - Road-related redevelopment threshold now calculated on new + replaced hard surfaces, not just new hard surfaces
- Runoff Treatment Performance Goal
  - Require phosphorous control in all of Vancouver Lake/Lake River watershed and all of Lacamas watershed above the dam
- High Performance Bioretention Soil Mix (HPBSM)
  - Allows bioretention to be used near a phosphorous sensitive lake
  - Allows HPBSM as phosphorous treatment
  - Specifications are challenging to meet

Notable Other Significant Updates

- Require soils log to 10-foot depth instead of 4-foot depth where downspout full infiltration is proposed
- State clearly the County policy of preferring infiltration
- Clarification of converted vegetation definition
- Prohibit use of Deep UICs

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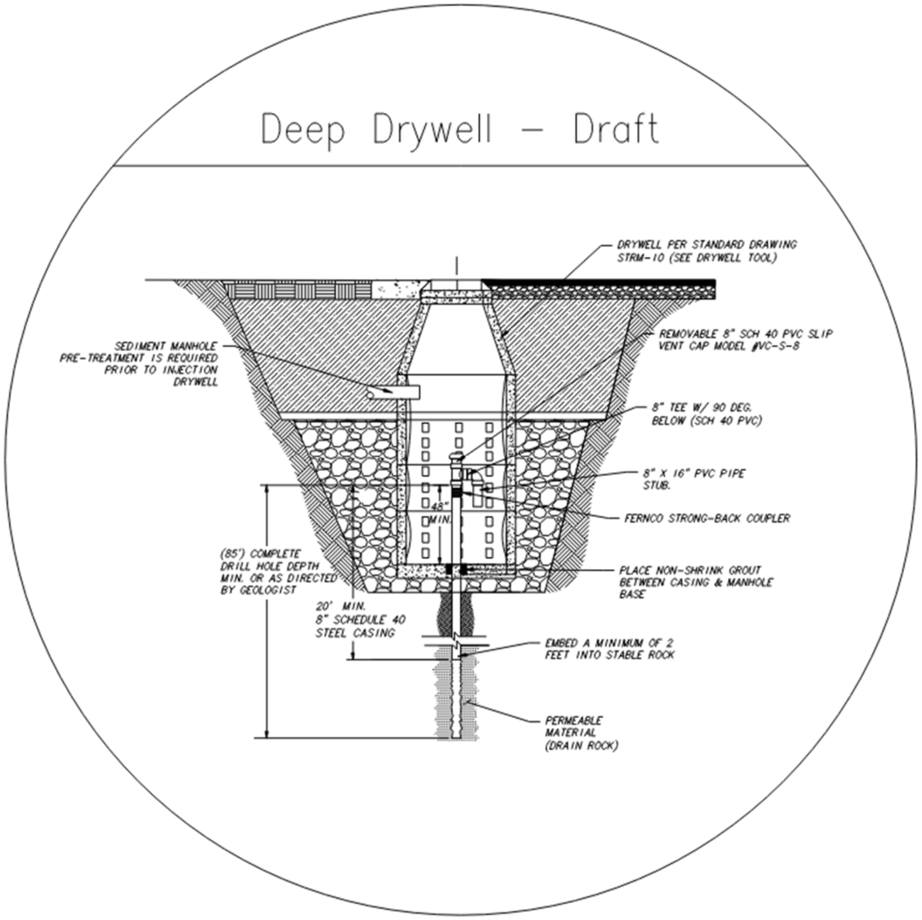
Notable Other Significant Updates

What is a Deep UIC Well?

- Typical drywell structure on top of a deep drilled shaft
- May extend deep underground
- Considered a high threat to groundwater due to lack of a geologic upper confining layer



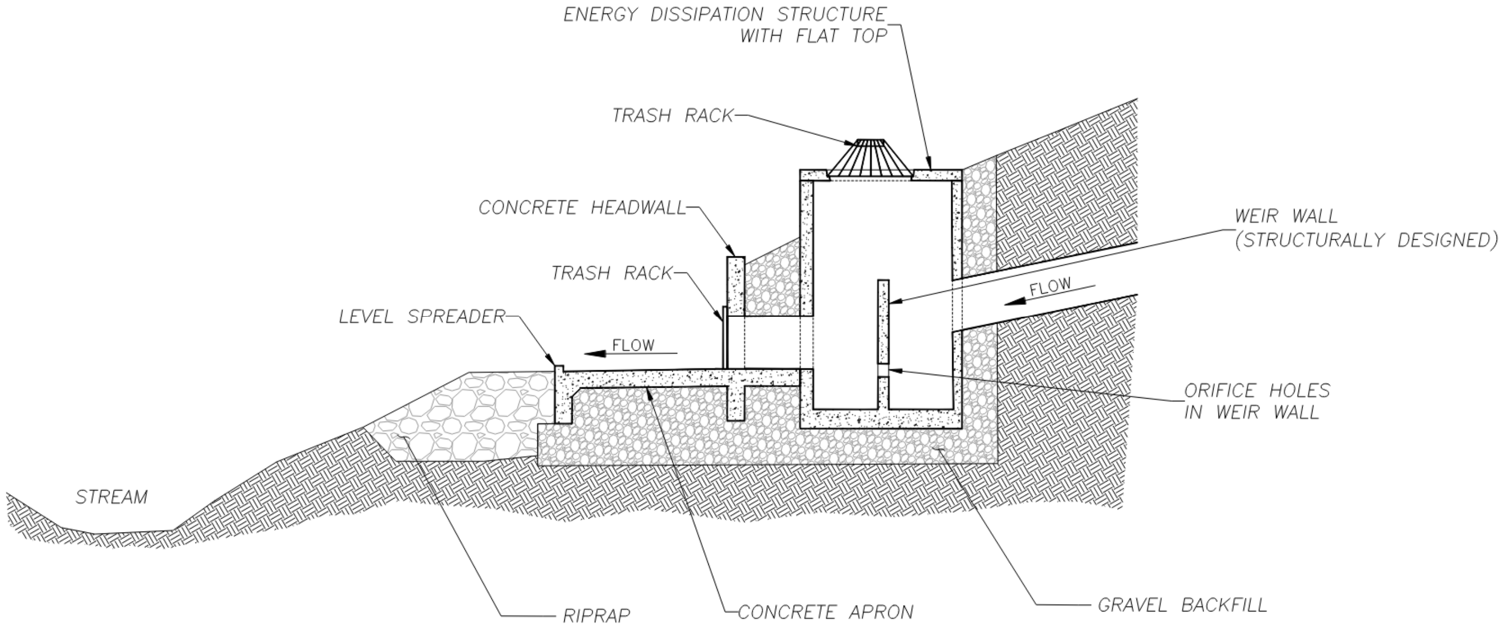
Technical & Other Changes – Not Submitted to Ecology

Notable Technical & Other Changes

- Remove Mill Creek Alternative Flow Control Standard
- New guidance for designing with a ½-inch minimum orifice (appendix)
- Prohibit use of UICs and *underground* infiltration facilities for runoff treatment
- Improve soil and groundwater investigation for infiltration facilities

Notable Technical & Other Changes

- Improved guidance for designing outfalls and energy dissipators



Notable Technical & Other Changes

- Manage placement of stormwater treatment and flow control BMPs / engineered stormwater facilities on private residential lots in subdivisions
  - Clarifying when allowed
  - Strengthen requirements for inspection access for Clark County
- Clarify that Media Filter Drain and Compost Amended Vegetated Filter Strips (CAVFS) cannot be used for Flow Control
- New Infiltration Swale BMP
- New Dispersion BMPs for channelized flows and light rail elevated guideways

Training / Guidance

Training / Guidance

- Infiltration Investigation Checklist
- Post-Construction Soil Quality and Depth Guide
- Identify other training topics
- Provide post-adoption training for staff and/or community

Water Quality Code Update

Illicit Discharge Regulations

Clark County Code, 13.26A Water Quality

- Update 13.26A.025.B, Allowable Discharges
  - Lawn watering using reclaimed water
  - Debromination of swimming pool, spa, and tub water
  - Additional PCB considerations for building washdowns
- Allowable non-stormwater discharges updated in 2024 Permit and changes must be made to the enforceable document by July 1, 2027

Next Steps

- 2-week review period for DEAB, CWS, and County staff in December
- County Council Work Session in January
- Formal Public Review begins in March
- Planning Commission April and May
- County Council May and June
- Adoption in June, Effective July 1
- Training or Guidance

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Questions?

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