



MEMORANDUM
Notice to Council of Proposed Rulemaking Action

Date: June 1, 2026

To: County Council (by Email)

Via: Debbie Eco, Clerk of the Council

Via: Elena Lao, Deputy Clerk of the Council

From: Josh Dugan, Director, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Subject: Amendments to the Snohomish County Drainage Manual

Notice Date: June 1, 2026

Request for Comments: Comments on the following proposal are requested from interested parties.

Proposed Rulemaking Action: Pursuant to Snohomish County Code (SCC) 30.82.040 (Rulemaking), the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) is proposing amendments to Volumes I through VI of the Snohomish County Drainage Manual by reason of State of Washington Department of Ecology's 2024 update to the Phase I Municipal Stormwater Permit that regulates systems owned or operated by unincorporated counties. The proposed amendments are generally described below.

Drainage Manual Volume with General Summary of Amendments:

Volume I: Minimum Technical Requirements

- Removal of an exemption from Minimum Requirements for certain paving activities; "replaced hard surfaces" must comply with requirements dictated by the thresholds in SCC 30.63A.310
- Addition of a requirement for commercial/industrial development projects to meet applicable Minimum Requirements when the redevelopment area of a project exceeds 5,000 square feet and either of (1) the valuation of the project improvements exceed 50% of the existing assessed value, or (2) the new plus replaced hard surfaces total 50% or more of the existing hard surfaces.
- Addition of a requirement to implement pollutant-specific Best Management Practices (BMPs) to treat stormwater runoff in project locations likely to have oil pollution (based on traffic counts or industrial activities), phosphorous (in watersheds with receiving waters sensitive to

phosphorous), or heavy metals (for light rail, certain industrial activities, high traffic roads, and areas in close proximity to freshwater aquatic life).

- Addition of High Performance Bioretention Soil Mix (HPBSM) to approved methods for meeting requirements of BMP T7.30 Bioretention.
- Modification of the criteria for meeting Wetland Hydroperiod Protection requirements based on site discharge modeling on a monthly basis. Prior requirements allowed a maximum 15% variance from pre-project volumes. New requirements allow up to 20% during the months of October, November, December (all other months remain at 15%).
- Updated definitions for consistency with EDDS and SCC: Bioretention BMPs; Common plan of development or sale; Critical area; Effective impervious surface; Impervious surface; New hard/impervious surface; On-site stormwater management BMPs; Replaced hard/impervious surface; Site; Source control best management practice; Threshold discharge area; Vehicular use.

Volume II: Construction Stormwater Pollution Prevention BMPs

- Corrected reference to WAC 173-201A-200 (Freshwater Designated Uses and Criteria).

Volume III: Hydrologic Analysis and Flow Control BMPs

- Updated design criteria for roof downspout infiltration trenches to include a minimum spacing between trench centerlines of 6 feet.
- Updated design criteria for roof downspout infiltration drywells to include a minimum spacing between drywells of 10 feet.

Volume IV: Source Control BMPs

- Moved the existing “Recommended BMPs” content from Chapter 4, appending the recommendations into the applicable industry/activity sections of Chapter 3, matching the formatting of analogous BMPs in Ecology’s 2024 Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington (SMMWW). Required BMPs for new development and redevelopment moved from Chapter 5 to Chapter 4.
- Updated Snohomish Health District references to Snohomish County Health Department.
- Added PCB-related pollution prevention requirements for certain activities related to building washing, repair/remodeling, and demolition.
- Added Source Control BMPs related to Light Rail:
 - BMP 3.50 BMPs for Washing Light Rail Elevated Guideways
 - BMP 3.51 BMPs for Washing Light Rail Vehicles

Volume V: Runoff Treatment BMPs

- Added *Pump Systems* to list of Stormwater Facilities with specified maintenance standards.
- Added BMP T5.31 *Light Rail Elevated Guideway Dispersion*.
- Added specifications for *High Performance Bioretention Soil Mix* types 1, 2, and 3.

Volume VI: Stormwater Facility Maintenance

- Corrected various scrivener errors and formatting errors from the 2019 Drainage Manual.
- Minor updates to multiple maintenance standard charts to reflect problems commonly found by inspectors: *No. 1 Catch Basins; No. 2 Conveyance Storm Pipes; No. 6 Energy Dissipators; No. 9 Detention Tanks and Vaults; No. 11 Wetponds; No. 12 Wetvaults; No. 23 Media Cartridge Filters.*
- Added maintenance standards for Pump Systems.
- Added maintenance standards for Light Rail Elevated Guideway Runoff Dispersion Systems.

Comment Period: A twenty-one (21) day public comment period starts on June 1, 2026, and ends at 5:00 p.m. on June 22, 2026.

Contact: All comments must be in writing and sent by email to surfacewater@snoco.org, or by mail at 3000 Rockefeller Ave M/S 303, Everett, WA 98201.

Review Process: Written comments received during the comment period will be considered by the Director who, pursuant to SCC 30.82.040(1), may approve the proposal in whole or in part, with or without changes, or repeal the proposal entirely. Pursuant to SCC 30.82.040(2) notice of the Director's action will be provided to the Clerk of the County Council, published in the County newspaper of record (The Herald), and sent to any person who submitted written comments.

To learn more about the proposed amendments:

- Email surfacewater@snoco.org, or by mail at 3000 Rockefeller Ave M/S 303, Everett, WA 98201.

To Comment on the Proposed Amendments:

- All comments must be in writing (email or letter) and sent to the contact listed above.
- All written comments must contain the commenter's name, mailing address, and email address if applicable.
- Only written comments received on or before 5:00 p.m. on June 23, 2026 will be considered.

ADA Notice: Snohomish County strives to provide accessible facilities and services to all members of the public. Sign language interpreters and communication materials in alternative forms will be provided on request, please contact the County's EEO Officer at 425-388-3511 (for TTY first dial 711).

Attachments:

- Copies of the proposed amended volumes of the Drainage Manual are available under the Proposed Updates section at the following location:
<https://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/1130/Drainage-Manual>