



THE CITY OF NEWCASTLE WANTS YOUR PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPING OUR STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) is a federal permit that regulates stormwater and wastewater discharges to waters of the State. The regulatory authority is the Washington State Department of Ecology who issued the NPDES Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit for Western Washington in January 2007.

Acknowledging our growing concerns with stormwater in our daily lives, we are currently drafting the first edition of a Stormwater Management Program (SWMP) document. Our overall goal for the program is to not only meet the requirements of the recently issued municipal stormwater permit by the Department of Ecology (Ecology)*, but to also ensure that our program captures and addresses your concerns.

Over the last six months, Newcastle Public Works staff has been working with other jurisdictions from across the Puget Sound through several regional forums in a collaborative effort to share resources, tools, and methodologies to meet Ecology's SWMP requirements. While the SWMP will be updated and expanded every year for the next five years, this first document will primarily include descriptions of our existing programs and our plan to update these programs to meet the requirements of the permit.

The City plans to post a draft of the SWMP and the first annual report on this website by March 2008 for your review and comment. Future opportunities for you to participate include attending public hearings, working as citizen volunteers to educate other individuals about the program, assisting in program coordination with other pre-existing programs, or participating in volunteer monitoring efforts.

Please contact your Newcastle Public Works department at 425.649.4444 for more information or email us at jedg@ci.newcastle.wa.us.

*Additional information on the municipal stormwater permits can be viewed at the following:
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/pubs/0710092.pdf>
http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/municipal/phase_II_ww/ww_ph_ii-permit.html