

13 - PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Permit (Section S5.C.4) requires the City to provide ongoing opportunities for public involvement in the SWMP and input on implementation priorities. The minimum performance measures include:

- Creating opportunities for the public to participate in the decision-making process involving development, implementation and update of the SWMP.
- Making the SWMP and the required annual report available to the public on the City's web site. All other Permit-required submittals shall be available to the public upon request.

Public Participation Program

The City provides a variety of opportunities for public involvement in the stormwater management program. Public comments on budget, Stormwater Codes and the SWMP also help to refine ongoing development of stormwater management activities. SPU is the lead City department responsible for implementing the public involvement and participation program for the SWMP and Permit-related activities. The City Council provides opportunities for public participation in public hearings. The public has several means of participating in the SWMP development process and associated activities, as described below.

City Budget Process. The City budget process provides opportunities for public input on how monies are allocated for implementation of NPDES-related stormwater management. Adoption of the City Budget - one of the most important products of the work of City Council - always requires public hearings to be scheduled on two or more days. All meetings are held in Council Chambers unless otherwise noted. The public is encouraged to attend Council meetings, hear the debate, and offer public comment on issues. The City Council meeting schedule and methods for providing comments are listed on the City Council's web site: <http://www.seattle.gov/council/default.htm>.

Public Participation during SWMP Development. SPU facilitates the Creeks, Drainage and Wastewater Citizens Advisor Group and the Strategic Business Plan Customer Review Panel which provide an on-going opportunity for citizens to participate in planning and development of policies and programs and to advise SPU and other pertinent City entities of its findings and recommendations. SPU will continue to engage citizen advisory groups to provide a diversity of viewpoints on implementation of stormwater management activities. Information about the Creeks, Drainage and Wastewater Advisory Committee and the Customer Review Panel can be found on the SPU webpage: <http://www.seattle.gov/util/AboutUs/SPUandtheCommunity/CommunityAdvisoryCommitees/CreekDrainageWastewater/index.htm> , <http://www.seattle.gov/util/AboutUs/StrategicBusinessPlan/CustomerReviewPanel/index.htm>

To provide for additional public input beyond that provided by the stakeholder groups, SPU has created a stormwater management web site to host an electronic version of the SWMP and other related stormwater management information and documents (<http://www.seattle.gov/util/MyServices/DrainageSewer/AbouttheDrainageSewerSystem/StormwaterManagementPlan/index.htm>). In addition, the web site provides contact information (swmp@seattle.gov) for citizens to provide comments and ask questions. Comments provided will be evaluated and considered as appropriate. The SWMP may be updated based on comments provided and an updated SWMP will be posted on the webpage.