

## 13 - Public Participation

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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 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 several citizen advisory groups that 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.

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](mailto:swmp@seattle.gov)) for citizens to provide comments and ask questions.

***Public Participation during Code and Directors' Rule Update.*** Beginning in January 2013, a series of meetings has been conducted to inform interested stakeholders about proposed updates to the 2009 Stormwater Code. These meetings covered modifications that are being proposed both as part of the "2015 Revision of Stormwater Code" and the "2016 Stormwater Code Update". These meetings included representatives of the business community, development interests, environmental advocacy groups, engineering and consulting firms, community groups, and other local and state regulators. The dates and the name of each group are shown below.

Date	Group
January 24, 2013	Thornton Creek Alliance
March 18, 2013	External User Stakeholders
May 8, 2013	Master Builders Association of King and Snohomish Counties
May 9, 2013	Fauntleroy Watershed Council
June 27, 2013	Seattle Builders Council Master Builders Association
November 7, 2013	Public Open House
November 19, 2013	Thornton Creek Alliance
November 26, 2013	North Seattle Industrial Association
December 17, 2013	King County
June 3, 2014	Public Meeting
June 5, 2014	Seattle Builders Council Master Builders Association
June 11, 2014	American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC)
July 15, 2014	Washington Society of Landscape Architects (WASLA)
July 16, 2014	Master Builders Association (MBA)
July 17, 2014	American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)
July 18, 2014	American Public Works Association (APWA)
August 13, 2014	Urban Forestry Commission
January 26, 2015	Puget Soundkeeper Alliance (PSA)

There will be several opportunities to provide comments over the next year including:

- During the SEPA review process (anticipated for March 2015)
- During the legislative processes and formal public review
- 2015 Stormwater Code Revision to the 2009 Stormwater Code (anticipated for April 2015)
- 2016 Stormwater Code & Manual Update (anticipated for August 2015)
- At the City Council public hearing that will be part of their deliberation
- 2015 Stormwater Code Revision to the 2009 Stormwater Code (anticipated for April 2015)
- 2016 Stormwater Code & Manual Update (anticipated for August 2015)
- During the 2016 Stormwater Manual Directors' Rule administrative process and formal public review period (anticipated for September 2015)

Opportunities for Public Engagement and Public Review can be found on the Stormwater Code and Rules Update webpage:

<http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/codesrules/changestocode/stormwatercode/whatwhy/default.htm>.

Comments on the Stormwater Code and Rules can be emailed to: [stormwatercode@seattle.gov](mailto:stormwatercode@seattle.gov).