



# Clark County Clean Water Program Department of Environmental Services Stormwater Manual Update

March 11, 2014

## SUMMARY OF CHANGES - 2014

### Background

Clark County's *Stormwater Manual (CCSWM)* describes how to plan, design and implement stormwater management practices for new development and redevelopment projects. The manual is required meet conditions of Washington's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase 1 municipal stormwater permit effective from August 2013 through July 2018. The manual update is required to be completed and adopted by June 2015.

### Summary of proposed changes to the Clark County Stormwater Manual:

- **Stand-alone document** – The previous Clark County Stormwater Manual (2009) was a companion document that required users to also utilize several other documents to meet all requirements of stormwater management for development and redevelopment projects. The goal with this update is to create one stand-alone manual that is equivalent to the Department of Ecology's Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington (2012) (SWMMWW). The new stormwater manual will provide users a one-stop shop for all necessary regulatory information, along with design and maintenance standards and information tailored to Clark County conditions.
- **Formatting** – The 2015 stormwater manual is designed to include four (4) books that outline all the necessary information:
  - **Book 1** – Applicability, Submittals and BMP selection
  - **Book 2** – BMP Design
  - **Book 3** – Pollution Source Control
  - **Book 4** – Operations and Maintenance
- **Content intent** – The new stormwater manual will contain the necessary technical information for the users. Much of the educational and general guidance information in the Ecology manual has been eliminated but is referenced for informational purposes where applicable. The goal is to provide all of the necessary information to have an equivalent manual to the Ecology manual without excessive verbiage.
- **Updated definition from "impervious surface" to "hard surface"** – The new thresholds have clarified the development projects that will trigger the minimum requirements based on amount of "hard surfaces," such as permeable pavement.
- **Implementation of on-site stormwater treatment utilizing Low Impact Development** – One of the most significant changes in the new stormwater manual is the requirement to utilize Low Impact Development (LID) practices where feasible. While Clark County has allowed the use of LID in the past several years, such as bioretention and permeable pavement, LID will now be required where feasible. Book 1 Chapter 3 walks the user through the use of LID practices and provides new LID BMPs.
- **Updated submittal requirements** – Book 1 Chapter 1 lays out all of the submittal requirements for the project applicants. This section has been updated to eliminate unnecessary materials and to clarify which submittals are required throughout the various project phases.
- **Updated infiltration testing requirements** – A group of local geotechnical experts have reviewed and updated Book 1 Chapter 4 on the "Infiltration Analysis and Design" section. This chapter provides technical guidance that is focused on Clark County conditions.

## Outreach and Education

**Input from stakeholders** – Input on the update was received from numerous groups and individuals to date:

- **Clark County Stormwater Technical Advisory Committee** – a group of local engineers and technical experts working with county staff on the technical aspects of the manual.
- **Clark County Stormwater Stakeholder Advisory Committee** – a broad group of citizens representing a spectrum of interests including school districts, builders, neighborhood leaders, environmental non-profits, developers, business leaders and citizens.
- **Clark County staff** – various departments have provided review and feedback on all aspects of the manual. Departments include Public Work Design Engineers, Public Works Development Review engineers, Public Works construction and inspection leads, Public Works maintenance and operation, Community Development permit staff, Community Development building leads, Community Planning code experts and Environmental Services specialists (habitat, permitting, clean water leads, and staff support).

**Outreach to stakeholders** – Information was provided to the general public in a variety of formats throughout the update process (Fall 2013-Spring 2014):

- **Web page updates** – numerous updates were posted throughout the process to inform citizens of meetings and information.
- **Monthly e-newsletters** – short fact sheets were created to provide updates throughout the project including identifying key milestones, major topics of interest, upcoming trainings and general information.
- **Email updates** – an email list was generated from various groups, including stakeholder committees, partner agencies, and local businesses that may be impacted by this work (i.e. local engineering firms, design consultants, landscape and maintenance businesses, etc.).

## Upcoming Schedule

The input from stakeholders and citizens is key to ensuring that the final products meet the requirements of the state while creating usable tools to meet our community's needs. Additional input and feedback will be as follows:

- **April 2014 –Public Comment Period** - 4 weeks- The “Review Draft” of the municipal code and stormwater manual updates will be available for public review and comment.
- **May 2014 – Board of County Commissioners Work Session** – The BOCC will review the updates via a presentation from staff at public work session.
- **June 2014 – Draft submittal to Department of Ecology** – The DOE will conduct a 90-day review of the proposed updates.
- **Additional outreach and feedback – Fall 2014 – Winter 2015** – Clark County staff will conduct numerous outreach activities to ensure that the proposed language is applicable to our community. The county will also identify opportunities for public education on the proposed changes to the various audiences that may be affected by the changes including home builders, developers, realtors, operation and maintenance businesses, etc.
- **Spring 2015** – The final edits will be made to the Final Manual as the documents prepare to be approved and adopted for use by the BOCC.
- **July 1, 2015** – all new codes and manuals go into effect.