



# Water Quality Program

## Permit Submittal Electronic Certification

**Permittee:** COWLITZ COUNTY

**Permit Number:** WAR045024

**Site Address:** 207 4TH AVE N  
KELSO, WA 98626-4189

**Submittal Name:** MS4 Annual Report Phase II Western

**Version:** 1

**Due Date:** 3/31/2024

### Questionnaire

Number	Permit Section	Question	Answer
1	S5.A	Attach a copy of any annexations, incorporations or boundary changes resulting in an increase or decrease in the Permittee's geographic area of permit coverage during the reporting period per S9.D.6.	Not Applicable
2	S5.A	Attach updated annual Stormwater Management Program Plan (SWMP Plan). (S5.A.2)	SWMP 2024 - final_2_03282024135910
3	S5.A	Implemented an ongoing program to gather, track, and maintain information per S5.A.3, including costs or estimated costs of implementing the SWMP.	Yes
4	S5.A.5.b	Coordinated among departments within the jurisdiction to eliminate barriers to permit compliance. (S5.A.5.b)	Yes
5	S5.C.1.	Have you convened an interdisciplinary team to inform and assist in the development, progress, and influence of the comprehensive stormwater planning program? (S.5.c.1). August 1, 2020	Yes
14	S5.C.1.b	Did you submit a report as described in S5.C.1.b.i(b)? (Required to submit no later than January 1, 2023)	Yes
15	S5.C.1.c	Continue to design and implement local development-related codes, rules, standards, or other enforceable documents to minimize impervious surfaces, native vegetation loss, and stormwater runoff, where feasible? See S5.C.1.c.i. (Required annually)	Yes
16	S5.C.1.c	From the assessment described in S5.C.1.c.i (a), did you identify any administrative or regulatory barriers to implementation of LID Principles or LID BMPs? (Required annually)	No
20	S5.C.2	Did you choose to adopt one or more elements of a regional program? (S5.C.2)	Yes
20a	S5.C.2	If yes, list the elements, and the regional program.	Regional program is called Cowlitz Clean Waters. Cowlitz Clean Waters focused on general awareness, behavior change and stewardship.

21	S5.C.2	Attach a description of general awareness efforts conducted, including your target audiences and subject areas, per S5.C.2.a.i.	Q21-general awarness efforts_21_0328202414 0244
24	S5.C.2	Began implementing strategy outlined in S.5.C.2.a.ii(c) (S5.C.2.a.ii(d) – Required by April 1, 2021)	Yes
25	S5.C.2	Attach the report developed in accordance with S5.C.2.a.ii(e), which evaluated the changes in understanding and adoption of targeted behaviors resulting from the implementation of the strategy and any planned or recommended changes to the program in order to be more effective. (Required no later March 31, 2024)	Cowlitz Clean Waters Pet Waste_25_0328202414 0244
26	S5.C.2	Promoted stewardship opportunities (or partnered with others) to encourage resident participation in activities such as those described in S5.C.2.a.iii.	Yes
26a	S5.C.2	Attach a list of stewardship opportunities provided.	Q26a-stewardship opportunities_26a_0328 2024140245
27	S5.C.3.	Describe in Comments field the opportunities created for the public, including overburdened communities, to participate in the decision-making processes involving the development, implementation, and updates of the Permittee's SWMP and the SMAP. (S5.C.3.a)	The Stormwater Advisory Committee is open for volunteers from across the community and holds open meetings, citizens can make public comments on any issue before the BOCC including but not limited to code updates and the budget, contact the Stormwater Coordinator at any time to discuss concerns or recommendations. Posted the draft SWMP on the website for public comment prior to finalization.
28	S5.C.3.	Posted the updated SWMP Plan and latest annual report on your website no later than May 31. (S5.C.3.b)	Yes
28a	S5.C.3.	List the website address in Comments field.	<a href="https://www.co.cowlitz.wa.us">https://www.co.cowlitz.wa.us</a>
29	S5.C.4.	Maintained a map of the MS4 including the requirements listed in S5.C.4.a.i-vii?	Yes
30	S5.C.4.	Started mapping outfall size and material in accordance with S5.C.4.b.i? (Required no later than January 1, 2020)	Yes
30a	S5.C.4.	Attach a spreadsheet that lists the known outfalls' size and material(s).	Outlet 2024_30a_0328202414 0331
31	S5.C.4.	Completed mapping connections to private storm sewers in accordance with S5.C.4.b.ii? (Required no later than August 1, 2023)	Yes
33	S5.C.5	Informed public employees, businesses, and the general public of hazards associated with illicit discharges and improper disposal of waste? (S5.C.5.b)	Yes

33a	S5.C.5	Actions taken to inform public employees, businesses, and the general public of hazards associated with illicit discharges and improper disposal of waste.	Cowlitz Clean Water Partners calendar, Fox TV ads, stormwater brochure, informal meetings with county departments to recap the hazards and answer questions, answer phone and in person questions from the public regarding various activities.
34	S5.C.5	Implemented an ordinance or other regulatory mechanism to effectively prohibit non-stormwater, illicit discharges as described in S5.C.5.c.	Yes
35	S5.C.5	Implemented procedures for conducting illicit discharge investigations in accordance with S5.C.5.d.i.	Yes
35a	S5.C.5	Cite field screening methodology in Comments field.	Ecology 2020 Illicit Connection and Illicit Discharge Field Screening and Source Tracing Guidance Manual
36	S5.C.5	Percentage of MS4 coverage area screened in the reporting year per S5.C.5.d.i. (Required to screen 12% on average each year.)	65
36a	S5.C.5	Cite field screening techniques used to determine percent of MS4 screened.	We inspected 1008 of 1825 catch basins mapped in Cowlitz County. The MS4 permit area has 943 catch basins. We inspected 882 of these. We also inspected 106 of the 254 outfalls.
37	S5.C.5	Percentage of total MS4 screened from permit effective date through the end of the reporting year. (S5.C.5.d.i.)	100
38	S5.C.5	Describe how you publicized a hotline telephone number for public reporting of spills and other illicit discharges in the Comments field. (S5.C.5.d.ii)	We publicized the hotline telephone number on the county website.
39	S5.C.5	Implemented an ongoing illicit discharge training program for all municipal field staff per S5.C.5.d.iii.	Yes
40	S5.C.5	Implemented an ongoing program to characterize, trace, and eliminate illicit discharges into the MS4 per S5.C.5.e.	Yes
41	S5.C.5	Municipal illicit discharge detection staff are trained to conduct illicit discharge detection and elimination activities as described in S5.C.5.f.	Yes
42	S5.C.5	Attach a report with data describing the actions taken to characterize, trace, and eliminate each illicit discharge reported to, or investigated by, the Permittee as described in S5.C.5.g. The submittal must include all of the applicable information and must follow the instructions, timelines, and format described in Appendix 12.	WAR045024-2023-ImportedIDDEs_03282024140342

43	S5.C.6.	Implemented an ordinance or other enforceable mechanism to effectively address runoff from new development, redevelopment, and construction sites per the requirements of S5.C.6.b.i-iii.	Yes
45	S5.C.6.	Number of adjustments granted to the minimum requirements in Appendix 1. (S5.C.6.b.i. and Section 5 of Appendix 1)	0
46	S5.C.6.	Number of exceptions/variances granted to the minimum requirements in Appendix 1. (S5.C.6.b.i., and Section 6 of Appendix 1)	0
47	S5.C.6.	Reviewed Stormwater Site Plans for all proposed development activities that meet the thresholds adopted pursuant to S5.C.6.b.i. (S5.C.6.c.i)	Yes
47a	S5.C.6.	Number of site plans reviewed during the reporting period.	23
48	S5.C.6.	Inspected, prior to clearing and construction, permitted development sites per S5.C.6.c.ii, that have a high potential for sediment transport as determined through plan review based on definitions and requirements in Appendix 7 – Determining Construction Site Sediment Damage Potential?	No
48a	S5.C.6.	If no, inspected, prior to clearing and construction, all construction sites meeting the minimum thresholds (S5.C.6.c.ii)?	Yes
49	S5.C.6.	Inspected permitted development sites during construction to verify proper installation and maintenance of required erosion and sediment controls per S5.C.6.c.iii.	Yes
49a	S5.C.6.	Number of construction sites inspected per S5.C.6.c.iii.	23
49b	S5.C.6.	Inspected stormwater treatment and flow control BMPs/facilities and catch basins in new residential developments every 6 months per S5.C.6.c.iv?	Yes
50	S5.C.6.	Inspected all permitted development sites upon completion of construction and prior to final approval or occupancy to ensure proper installation of permanent stormwater facilities. (S5.C.6.c.v)	Yes
51	S5.C.6.	Verified a maintenance plan is completed and responsibility for maintenance is assigned for projects prior to final approval and occupancy being granted. (S5.C.6.c.v)	Yes
52	S5.C.6.	Number of enforcement actions taken during the reporting period (based on construction phase inspections at new development and redevelopment projects). (S5.C.6.c.ii-iv) (S5.C.7.c.viii)	0
53	S5.C.6.	Achieved at least 80% of scheduled construction-related inspections. (S5.C.6.c.vi)	Yes
54	S5.C.6.	Made Ecology's Notice of Intent for Construction Activity and Notice of Intent for Industrial Activity available to representatives of proposed new development and redevelopment? (S5.C.6.d)	Yes

55	S5.C.6.	All staff whose primary job duties are implementing the program to control stormwater runoff from new development, redevelopment, and construction sites including permitting, plan review, construction site inspections, and enforcement are trained to conduct these activities? (S5.C.6.e)	Yes
56	S5.C.7.	Implemented maintenance standards that are as protective, or more protective, of facility function than those specified in the Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington or a Phase I program approved by Ecology per S5.C.7.a.?	Yes
58	S5.C.7.	Applied a maintenance standard for a facility or facilities which do not have maintenance standards specified in the Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington? If so, note in the Comments field what kinds of facilities are covered by this alternative standard. (S5.C.7.a)	No
59	S5.C.7.	Verified that maintenance was performed per the schedule in S5.C.7.a.ii when an inspection identified an exceedance of the maintenance standard.	Yes
59a	S5.C.7.	Attach documentation of maintenance time frame exceedances that were beyond the Permittee's control.	Not Applicable
60	S5.C.7.	Implemented an ordinance or other enforceable mechanisms to verify long-term operation and maintenance of stormwater treatment and flow control BMPs/facilities regulated by the permittee per (S5.C.7.b.i (a))?	Yes
61	S5.C.7.	Annually inspected stormwater treatment and flow control BMPs/facilities regulated by the Permittee per S5.C.7.b.i(b)	Yes
61a	S5.C.7.	If using reduced inspection frequency for the first time during this permit cycle, attach documentation per S5.C.7.b.i (b)	Not Applicable
62	S5.C.7.	Achieved at least 80% of scheduled inspections to verify adequate long-term O&M. (S5.C.7.b.ii)	Yes
63	S5.C.7.	Annually inspected all municipally owned or operated permanent stormwater treatment and flow control BMPs/facilities. (S5.C.7.c.i)	Yes
63a	S5.C.7.	Number of known municipally owned or operated stormwater treatment and flow control BMPs/facilities. (S5.C.7.c.i)	3
63b	S5.C.7.	Number of facilities inspected during the reporting period.	3
63c	S5.C.7.	Number of facilities for which maintenance was performed during the reporting period.	3
64	S5.C.7.	If using reduced inspection frequency for the first time during this permit cycle, attach documentation per S5.C.7.c.i.	Not Applicable
65	S5.C.7.	Conducted spot checks and inspections (if necessary) of potentially damaged stormwater facilities after major storms as per S5.C.7.c.ii.	Yes

66	S5.C.7.	Inspected municipally owned or operated catch basins and inlets every two years or used an alternative approach? Cleaned as needed? (S.5.C.7.c.iii)	Yes
66a	S5.C.7.	Number of known catch basins?	943
66b	S5.C.7.	Number of catch basins inspected during the reporting period?	882
66c	S5.C.7.	Number of catch basins cleaned during the reporting period?	117
67	S5.C.7.	Attach documentation of alternative catch basin cleaning approach, if used. (S5.C.7.c.iii.(a)-(c))	Not Applicable
68	S5.C.7.	Implemented practices, policies and procedures to reduce stormwater impacts associated with runoff from all lands owned or maintained by the Permittee, and road maintenance activities under the functional control of the Permittee. (S5.C.7.d)	Yes
70	S5.C.7.	Implemented an ongoing training program for Permittee employees whose primary construction, operations or maintenance job functions may impact stormwater quality. (S5.C.7.e)	Yes
71	S5.C.7.	Implemented a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for all heavy equipment maintenance or storage yards, and material storage facilities owned or operated by the Permittee in areas subject to this Permit that are not required to have coverage under an NPDES permit that covers stormwater discharges associated with the activity. (S5.C.7.f)	Yes
74	S5.C.8	Established an inventory per S5.C.8.b.ii. (Required by August 1, 2022.)	Yes
74a	S5.C.8	Number of total sites identified for the inventory.	120
75	S5.C.8	Implemented an inspection program S5.C.8.b.iii (Required by January 1, 2023).	Yes
76	S5.C.8	Implemented a progressive enforcement policy per S5.C.8.b.iv (Required by January 1, 2023).	Yes
77	S5.C.8	Attach a summary of actions taken to implement the source control program per S5.C.8.b.iii and S5.C.8.b.iv.	Q77-source control program_77_03282024 140528
78	S5.C.8	Attach a list of inspections, per S5.C.8.b.iii, organized by the business category, noting the amount of times each business was inspected, and if enforcement actions were taken.	Q78 -SOURCE CONTROL INSPECTION_78_0328 2024140528
79	S5.C.8	Implemented an ongoing source control training program per S5.C.8.b.v?	Yes
80	S7	Complied with the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)-specific requirements identified in Appendix 2. (S7.A)	Not Applicable
81	S7	For TMDLs listed in Appendix 2: Attach a summary of relevant SWMP and Appendix 2 activities to address the applicable TMDL parameter(s). (S7.A)	Not Applicable

82	S8	Submitted payment for cost-sharing for Stormwater Action Monitoring (SAM) status and trends monitoring no later than December 1, 2019 (S8.A.1); and no later than August 15 of each subsequent year? (S8.A.2.a.)	Yes
84	S8	Submitted payment for cost-sharing for SAM effectiveness and source identification studies no later than December 1, 2019 (S8.B.1); and no later than August 15 of each subsequent year (S8.B.2.a or S8.B.2.c)?	Yes
87	S8	If conducting stormwater discharge monitoring in accordance with S8.C.1, attach a data and analysis report per S8.C.1. and Appendix 9. (Due annually beginning March 31, 2021.)	Not Applicable
88	G3	Notified Ecology in accordance with G3 of any discharge into or from the Permittees MS4 which could constitute a threat to human health, welfare or the environment. (G3)	Not Applicable
89	G3	Took appropriate action to correct or minimize the threat to human health, welfare, and/or the environment per G3.A.	Not Applicable
90	Compliance with standards	Notified Ecology within 30 days of becoming aware that a discharge from the Permittee's MS4 caused or contributed to a known or likely violation of water quality standards in the receiving water. (S4.F.1)	Not Applicable
91	Compliance with standards	If requested, submitted an Adaptive Management Response report in accordance with S4.F.3.a.	Not Applicable
92	Compliance with standards	Attach a summary of the status of implementation of any actions taken pursuant to S4.F.3 and the status of any monitoring, assessment, or evaluation efforts conducted during the reporting period. (S4.F.3.d)	Not Applicable
93	G20	Notified Ecology of the failure to comply with the permit terms and conditions within 30 days of becoming aware of the non-compliance. (G20)	Not Applicable
94	G20	Number of non-compliance notifications (G20) provided in reporting year. List permit conditions described in non-compliance notification(s) in Comments field.	Not Applicable

*I certify under penalty of law, that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system or those persons directly responsible for gathering information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.*

Mike Moss

3/28/2024 3:06:16 PM

Signature

Date