



DEPARTMENT OF  
**ECOLOGY**  
State of Washington

# 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:** 3/31/2025

### Questionnaire

Number	Permit Section	Question	Answer
1	S9.D.6	Attach a map 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.2; S9.D.1	Attach updated annual Stormwater Management Program Plan (SWMP Plan). (S5.A.2; S9.D.1)	Final SWMP_2_03312025064 101
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	Continued to coordinate among departments within the jurisdiction to eliminate barriers to permit compliance. (S5.A.5.b)	Yes
5	S9.D.4	If applicable, identify other entities relied on to satisfy any of the obligations under the Permit. (S9.D.4)	Regional program called Cowlitz Clean Waters to promote public education and outreach.
6	S5.C.1.a	Continue to convene an interdisciplinary team to inform and assist in the development, progress, and influence of the stormwater planning program? (S5.C.1.a.)	Yes
12	S5.C.1.c.i	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
13	S5.C.1.c.i(a)	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
19	S5.C.2	Did you choose to adopt one or more elements of a regional program? (S5.C.2)	Yes

19a	S5.C.2	If yes, list the elements, and the regional program.	<p>Cowlitz Clean Waters is a collaborative initiative of the City of Kelso, City of Longview, Cowlitz County, Consolidated Diking Improvement District #1 (CDID#1), Kelso School District, Longview School District, Washington State University (WSU) Cowlitz County Extension and the Lower Columbia College.</p> <p>This partnership is committed to supporting a multifaceted public information and education campaign to help inform the Lower Columbia region about the impacts of stormwater runoff on our local waterways and to affect behavior changes and water quality improvements in our communities.</p>
20	S5.C.2	Attach a description of general awareness efforts conducted, including your target audiences and subject areas, per S5.C.2.a.i.	Q20-general awarness efforts_20_03302025151253
24	S5.C.2.a.iii	Provided, partnered, or promoted stewardship opportunities to encourage resident participation in activities such as those described in S5.C.2.a.iii.	Yes
24a	S5.C.2.a.iii	Attach a list of stewardship opportunities provided.	Q24a-stewardship opportunities_24a_03302025151253
25	S5.C.3.a	Describe in Comments field the opportunities created for the public to participate in the decision-making processes involving the development, implementation, and updates of the Permittee's SWMP and the SMAP.	The SWMP and SMAP were both discussed at a Stormwater Advisory meeting(SAC) the SWMP was posted on the website in DRAFT format for Public comment prior to approving them.

25a	S5.C.3.a.i	Describe specific public involvement and participation opportunities provided to overburdened communities and specifically, highly impacted communities. (S5.C.3.a.i)	According the to the DOH map for Environmental Health Disparities there is no specific individual area that is overburdened. The entire county is considered overburdened. So we continue to offer the same opportunities for public involvement and participation to the entire county. 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.
26	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
26a	S5.C.3.	List the website address in Comments field.	<a href="https://www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/1355/Stormwater-Reports">https://www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/1355/Stormwater-Reports</a>
27	S5.C.4.	Maintained an electronic map of the MS4 including the requirements listed in S5.C.4.?	Yes
32	S5.C.5.b	Informed public employees, businesses, and the general public of hazards associated with illicit discharges and improper disposal of waste. (S5.C.5.b)	Yes
32a	S5.C.5.b	Describe actions in Comments field. (S5.C.5.b)	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.
33	S5.C.5.c	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.d.i	Implemented procedures for conducting illicit discharge investigations in accordance with S5.C.5.d.i.	Yes
35a	S5.C.5.d.i	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.d.i(a)	Percentage of MS4 coverage area screened in the reporting year per S5.C.5.d.i. (Required to screen 12% on average each year.)	82
36a	S5.C.5.d.i(a)	Cite field screening techniques used to determine percent of MS4 screened.	928 / 1133 = 82% We have 2167 catch basins mapped in ArcGIS. 1604 that are county owned or maintained. Only 1133 of these are in the permit area. We inspected 1233 catch basins. We inspected 967 catch basins that were owned or maintained by the County. 928 were in the permit area. We also inspected 20 Outfalls. This covered most of west half of our permit area. So we should have exceeded the 12% requirement.
37	S5.C.5.d.ii	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. We also provided a form and links to Ecology's website for reporting incidents.
38	S5.C.5.d.iii	Implemented an ongoing illicit discharge training program for all municipal field staff per S5.C.5.d.iii.	Yes
39	S5.C.5.e	Implemented an ongoing program to characterize, trace, and eliminate illicit discharges into the MS4 per S5.C.5.e.	Yes
40	S5.C.5.f	Implemented an ongoing illicit discharge training program for all staff responsible for implementing the procedures and program described in S5.C.5.f.	Yes
41	S5.C.5.g	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 13.	WAR045024-2024-ImportedIDDEs_03312025064633

42	S5.C.6.b.i-iii	Continued to implement 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
44		Does the ordinance or other enforceable mechanism follow a Phase I program approved by Ecology (S5.C.6.b.i)?	No Comment: We followed the minimum requirements in Appendix 1
45	S5.C.6.b.i. and Section 5 of Appendix 1	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.b.i., and Section 6 of Appendix 1	Number of exceptions granted to the minimum requirements in Appendix 1. (S5.C.6.b.i., and Section 6 of Appendix 1)	0
47	S5.C.6.c.i	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.c.i	Number of site plans reviewed during the reporting period.	13
48	S5.C.6.c.ii	Inspected, prior to clearing and construction, permitted development sites per S5.C.6.c.ii?	Yes
49	S5.C.6.c.iii	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.c.iii	Number of construction sites inspected per S5.C.6.c.iii.	13
49b	S5.C.6.c.iv	Inspected stormwater treatment and flow control BMPs/facilities and catch basins in new residential developments at least twice per 12-month period with no less than 4 months between inspections, 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.c.viii	Number of enforcement actions taken during the reporting period (based on construction phase inspections at new development and redevelopment projects, per S5.C.6.c.ii-iv). (S5.C.6.c.viii)	0
53	S5.C.6.c.vi	Achieved at least 80% of scheduled construction-related inspections. (S5.C.6.c.vi)	Yes
54	S5.C.6.d	Made online links to Ecology's Construction Stormwater General Permit Notice of Intent, the Industrial Stormwater General Permit Notice of Intent, and the registration requirements for Underground Injection Control (UIC) available to representatives of proposed new development and redevelopment? (S5.C.6.d)	Yes

55	S5.C.6.e	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.b	Attach a list of projects that are fully funded, started, completed and/or scheduled for implementation during this permit term for the purpose of meeting S5.C.7.b, with the information and formatting specified in Appendix 12. Attach an updated list annually. (S5.C.7.b,)	Q56-Stormwater Management for _56_03302025151732
57	S5.C.8.b	Updated inventory to identify institutional, commercial and industrial properties which have the potential to generate pollutants to the Permittee's MS4 per S5.C.8.b? (Required at least once every five years)	Not Applicable Comment: Just recently started this process. Requested a new list of businesses in Cowlitz County from DOR.
58	S5.C.8.a-d	Attach a summary of actions taken to implement the source control program, per S5.C.8.a-d.	Q58-source control program_58_03302025152344
59	S5.C.8.d	Attach a list of inspections, per S5.C.8.c.v, organized by the business category, noting the number of times each business was inspected and if enforcement actions were taken, per S5.C.8.d.	Q59-Source Control Inspections_59_03302025152345
60	S5.C.8.e	Implemented an ongoing source control training program per S5.C.8.e?	Yes
61	S5.C.9.a	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.9.a?	Yes
63	S5.C.9.a	Applied a maintenance standard for a facility or facilities which do not have maintenance standards specified in the Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington? (S5.C.9.a)	No
64	S5.C.9.a.ii	Verified that maintenance was performed per the schedule in S5.C.9.a.ii when an inspection identified an exceedance of the maintenance standard.	Yes
64a	S5.C.9.a.ii	Attach documentation of maintenance time frame exceedances that were beyond the Permittee's control.	Not Applicable
65	S.5.C.9.b.i(a)	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 S.5.C.9.b.i(a)?	Yes
66	S5.C.9.b.i(b)	Inspected stormwater treatment and flow control BMPs/facilities regulated by the Permittee per S5.C.9.b.i(b)	Yes
66a	S5.C.9.b.i(b)	Are you using a reduced stormwater treatment and flow control BMPs/facilities inspection frequency?	No

66b	S5.C.9.b.i(b)	If using a reduced inspection frequency on stormwater facilities regulated by the Permittee for the first time during this permit cycle, attach documentation per S5.C.9.b.i.(b).	Not Applicable
67	S5.C.9.b.ii	Achieved at least 80% of required inspections to verify adequate long-term O&M. (S5.C.7.b.ii)	Yes
68	S5.C.9.c.i	Annually inspected municipally owned or operated permanent stormwater treatment and flow control BMPs/facilities. (S5.C.9.c.i)	Yes
68a	S5.C.9.c.i	Number of known municipally owned or operated stormwater treatment and flow control BMPs/facilities. (S5.C.9.c.i)	3
68b	S5.C.9.c.i	Number of facilities inspected during the reporting period.	3
68c	S5.C.9.c.i	Number of facilities for which maintenance was performed during the reporting period.	3
69	S5.C.9.c.i	If using reduced inspection frequency for the first time during this permit cycle, attach documentation per S5.C.9.c.i.	Not Applicable
70	S5.C.9.c.ii	Conducted spot checks and inspections (if necessary) of potentially damaged stormwater facilities after major storms as per S5.C.7.c.ii.	Yes
71	S5.C.9.c.iii	Inspected municipally owned or operated catch basins and inlets every two years or used an alternative approach? Cleaned as needed? (S.5.C.9.c.iii)	Yes
71a	S5.C.9.c.iii	Number of known catch basins and inlets?	1133 Comment: We have 2167 catch basins mapped in ArcGIS. 1604 that are county owned or maintained. Only 1133 of these are in the permit area. We inspected 1233 catch basins. We inspected 967 catch basins that were owned or maintained by the County. 928 were in the permit area.
71b	S5.C.9.c.iii	Number of catch basins and inlets inspected during the reporting period?	928
71c	S5.C.9.c.iii	Number of catch basins and inlets cleaned during the reporting period?	72
72	S5.C.9.c.iii	Attach documentation of alternative catch basin inspection approach for those owned or operated by the Permittee, if used, per S5.C.9.c.iii.	Not Applicable
73	S5.C.9.d	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.9.d)	Yes

79	S5.C.9.f	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.9.f)	Yes
80	S5.C.9.g	Implemented an ongoing training program for Permittee employees whose primary construction, operations or maintenance job functions may impact stormwater quality. (S5.C.9.g)	Yes
81	S7.A	Complied with the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)-specific requirements identified in Appendix 2. (S7.A)	Not Applicable
82	S7.A	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
83	S8.A.1, S8.A.2.a	Submitted payment for cost-sharing for Stormwater Action Monitoring (SAM) status and trends monitoring no later than December 1, 2024 (S8.A.1); and no later than August 15 of each subsequent year? (S8.A.2.a.)	Yes
84	S8.A.2.a, S8.A.2.b	Notified Ecology by December 1, 2024 which option you selected: S8.A.2.a, or S8.A.2.b.	Yes
85	S8.B.1, S5.B.2.a or S8.B.2.c	Submitted payment for cost-sharing for SAM effectiveness and source identification studies no later than December 1, 2024 (S8.B.1); and no later than August 15 of each subsequent year (S8.B.2.a or S8.B.2.c)?	Yes
86	S8.B.2.a, or S8.B.2.b.	Notified Ecology by December 1, 2024 which option you selected: S8.B.2.a, or S8.B.2.b.	Yes
87	S8.C.1.b and Appendix 9	If conducting stormwater discharge monitoring in accordance with S8.C.1, submitted a QAPP to Ecology no later than February 1, 2025? (S8.C.1.b and Appendix 9)	Not Applicable
89	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
90	G3	Took appropriate action to correct or minimize the threat to human health, welfare, and/or the environment per G3.A.	Not Applicable
91	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
92	Compliance with standards	If requested, submitted an Adaptive Management Response report in accordance with S4.F.3.a.	Not Applicable
93	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

94	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
95	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

3/31/2025 9:57:38 AM

---

Signature

---

Date