



Memorandum

CITY OF MERCER ISLAND, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

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Date: April 5, 2021
To: Utility Board
From: Jason Kintner, Chief of Operations/Public Works Director
Re: April 13 Utility Board Meeting

In preparation for our meeting, here is some background information for our discussions:

SUSTAINABILITY WORK PLAN UPDATE

On March 2, 2021, the City Council approved the 2021-2022 Sustainability Work Plan (see [AB5822](#)). The City's sustainability program will build on past community-wide program successes and bring a renewed focus on areas for sustainability improvement within the City's own operations. Major functions of the program include:

- Efficiency
- Waste & Toxics
- Energy
- GHG Emissions
- Transportation
- CIP & Operations
- Outreach & Education

The sustainability program will expand existing internal initiatives (such as additional LED lighting retrofits, continued green fleet purchases), but also take a more visionary and holistic approach, such as applying an energy efficiency lens to CIP projects, revising the City's procurement policies, adding sustainability considerations to building maintenance, and focusing on the collective stormwater impacts to Lake Washington across all City operations. In addition, the work plan includes catching up on the past few years of GHG tracking and performance data and preparing a recommendation on a climate action plan.

On Tuesday night, staff will provide an update on the Sustainability Work Plan with an emphasis on opportunities within the City's utilities.

NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) ANNUAL REPORT

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program was established under the Federal Clean Water Act to regulate sources of pollution into waters of the United States. The Clean Water Act was amended in 1987 to address stormwater dischargers, creating a new requirement for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to issue Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permits. This authority in the State of Washington has been delegated to the Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE).

The City's current NPDES MS4 permit is valid August 1, 2019 Through July 31, 2024. The permit is administered by DOE and status reports are due annually by March 31st.

The NPDES permit is composed of eight components:

1. Stormwater Planning
2. Public Education & Outreach
3. Public Involvement & Participation
4. Mapping & Documentation
5. Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination
6. Controlling Runoff from Development
7. Municipal Operations and Maintenance
8. Source Control Program for Existing Development

Public Works staff will present information about the components of the permit. The permit requirements impact the City's stormwater operations/maintenance, capital improvement projects, and private development permitting. Staff will also provide the Utility Board with information regarding the recent NPDES Annual Report submittal and a lookahead to future requirements.