

**Snohomish County
CY 2021 Annual Report
Attachment for Question 11
Description of Public Involvement Process for SWMP and SMAP**

Special Condition S5.A of the 2019 Phase I Permit, effective August 1, 2019, defines the SWMP as “a set of actions and activities comprising the components listed in S5, and additional actions necessary, to meet the requirements of applicable TMDLs pursuant to S7 Compliance with TMDL Requirements, and S8 Monitoring and Assessment.” The SWMP Plan is the document that describes these actions.

Special Condition S5.C.4.a of the 2019 Phase I Permit states: Permittees shall create opportunities for the public, including overburdened communities, to participate in the decision-making processes involving the development, implementation, and update of the Permittee’s SWMP and SMAP (SMAP applies to counties).” The “SMAP” is the Stormwater Management Action Plan required by Special Condition S5.C.6.d of the 2019 permit.

In 2021, opportunities for the public to participate in decision-making processes involving the development, implementation, and update of the actions composing the County’s SWMP included:

- ◆ Publishing the 2021 County SWMP Plan on the County’s NPDES website and requesting comments via phone or e-mail.
- ◆ Public meetings and hearings on the County’s 2021 budget.
- ◆ Opportunities for public comment on any amendments to the Snohomish County Code relevant to Phase I Permit requirements, such as the County’s 2021 update to its drainage regulations, and opportunities for public comment on any amendments to the Snohomish County Drainage Manual, also modified in 2021.
- ◆ Public notice and comment process for County capital projects and private development projects for which the County issues development permits.

In 2021, County staff completed development of a spreadsheet and a GIS-based interactive map tool utilizing Washington State Department of Health, Environmental Health Disparities (EHD) Data, which is available at a census tract-level. An objective of the spreadsheet and map tool is to help the County identify and engage overburdened communities that may be impacted by SWMP actions. The spreadsheet is an Excel workbook and provides an easy-to-use platform to view the EHD dataset. The spreadsheet also includes the Limited English Proficiency (LEP) dataset, consisting of the top five languages spoken per census tract along with the percentage of the population speaking each language. The map tool can spatially depict the EDH datasets, along with the County’s drainage inventory, subbasins, and other data layers that may be helpful to County staff. The spreadsheet, map tool, and an instructional document have been made available to County staff.

The tools were tested in the SMAP project and found for that project to have limitations in both data and approach. This has been found by other municipalities in the Puget Sound region, some of whom have started developing other tools. This issue is discussed further in the final report from the 2024 NPDES MS4 Permit Ad Hoc Committee on Equity and Environmental Justice in the MS4 Permit.

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The following actions were performed in 2021 in the SMAP project:

- OBC analysis to identify potential OBC
- Coordinated internally with the Executive Office on a long term strategy for OBC outreach
- Developed website updates to inform the public about an early action SMAP project (Cutthroat Creek Habitat Project) planned for 2022.