

The City of Longview Washington

P.O. Box 128
Longview, WA 98632-7080
www.ci.longview.wa.us

June 2, 2009

RE: Stormwater Discharge Ordinance

Dear Business Owner/Operator,

Your business may be impacted by new state-mandated regulations this summer.

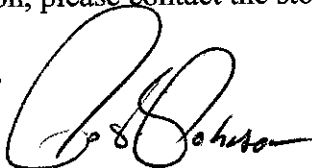
The Cities of Kelso and Longview and the Consolidated Diking Improvement District #1 (CDID #1) are among dozens of Washington jurisdictions to receive a Municipal Stormwater Permit from the Department of Ecology. To comply, jurisdictions must prohibit "non-stormwater" discharges and dumping (such as trash and debris) into their public storm sewer systems by August 2009.

Most private drainage discharging into the public system will *not* be affected; however, please think about potential impacts to your business, which may include, but are not limited to:

- ❖ Vehicle washing. See attached summary of Ecology Guidance WQ-95-056 (next page).
- ❖ Process discharges. If your business needs to discharge waste or liquids to a storm drain or ditch, or has certain operations in an uncovered area, then an industrial stormwater NPDES permit may allow you to continue these practices legally. Visit Ecology's website at www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/industrial or call Ecology at 360-407-6858.
- ❖ Illicit connections. Some shop floor, process, and sanitary drains are cross-connected to the storm sewer and must be disconnected. If you are unsure about your system, please check.

Each jurisdiction is committed to helping its business community sort through any potential impacts of the State-mandated regulation. If you have questions or concerns, please attend public meetings on 6/16/9 from 3-5PM and 6:30-7:30PM at the Longview City's Training Room, and at 7PM on 6/1/9 and 7/6/9 in Kelso's City Council Chambers. For more dates and information, please contact the stormwater coordinator in your jurisdiction (provided below).

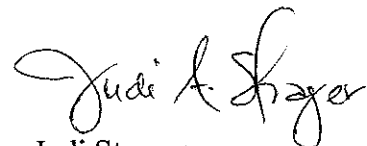
Sincerely,



Josh Johnson, PE
Street/Storm Mngr
City of Longview
442-5209
www.cleanstormwater.org



Van McKay, PE
Sr. Engr/Storm Mngr
City of Kelso
423-6590
<http://stormwater.kelso.gov>



Judi Strayer
District Manager
CDID #1
423-2493
www.cdid1.org



CDID#1

**SUMMARY OF ECOLOGY GUIDANCE WQ-95-056
VEHICLE AND EQUIPMENT WASHWATER DISCHARGES
(See full text for details: www.ecy.wa.gov/pubs/95056.pdf)**

In general, discharges from vehicle and equipment washing must be conducted at a wash-rack meeting several criteria. They must be a roofed, impervious area draining to a pre-treatment system (for grit, oil, and grease) then to the sanitary sewer, or (less common) to systems that fully treat and recycle their wash-water. Infiltration may be allowed under certain circumstances through an approved and engineered system.

The table below summarizes exceptions to this guidance:

	Pre-Treatment for Grit and Oil/Water Separation (Catch Basin with spill guard)	Detergents, Soap, and Cleaners	Pressure Wash (Cold water only)	Steam Clean	Infiltration (to grass and soils)	Storm Sewer or Surface Waters
Mobile Carwash	Sanitary Sewer OK, but Consult Utility for terms	OK	OK	OK	NO	NO
New & Used Auto Dealerships*	Required if discharging to the storm drain or surface water (has specific design criteria)	NO	OK, (exteriors only)	NO	OK	OK with pretreatment (catch basin)
Construction Sites and Farms	Required if over an impervious surface	NO	OK	NO	OK	NO
Small Discharges*	Not Required	No harsh cleaners	OK	NO	OK	NO
Charity Car Wash	Not Required	No harsh cleaners	OK	N/A	OK	NO

* Applicability for this category could arguably be extended to other processes rinsing similar, clean surfaces.

* **Small Dischargers**

- 1 or 2 pieces of equipment and/or vehicles per day, not exceeding eight during any week; and/or
- Discharging <100 gallons of washwater each day [note: about 10-minutes on a garden hose]; and
- Washing of the vehicle/equipment is not the primary business activity of the discharges. For example, mobile washers are not small dischargers.

What about residential and charity car washing?

At the time of this letter, local communities were not authorized to allow wash waters into their storm drain system. However, the local approach, which is supported by Ecology, will be to address this pollution source through education and outreach. The message is:

- Go to a commercial carwash if you can; or
- Direct wash water to unpaved areas (grass, gravel, soils). Minimize detergent use, and consider phosphate-free products.
- If you are planning a charity carwash, contact the City or County for assistance with disposal of your wash water. Public works will loan (no-charge) kits for plugging storm drains and pumping to a sanitary sewer or grassy area. Two other options are to partner with a local commercial carwash to sell coupons or "rent-a-bay-for-the-day."