



City of  
SeaTac

# Stormwater Rate Study Response to Questions

October 22, 2013  
Council Study Session

Presented By:  
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# Overview

## Rate study presented at October 8 CSS

- ❑ Drivers for study – Surface Water Plan (regulatory requirements & asset management program)
- ❑ Primary cost – asset management (evaluate, repair and replace)
- ❑ Four scenarios presented
  - Current rates (No Change)
  - Current rates plus emergency repair fund
  - **Limited Plan Implementation (Recommended)**
    - Meets minimum regulatory and capital needs
  - Full Plan Implementation
- ❑ Recommended phased rate increase over 5 years

# Questions & Requests from Council

What are the relative amounts of impervious surfaces as they relate to stormwater fees?

Rate Category	Percent of Acreage in City	Percent of Total Impervious in City	Percent of Utility Funding 2012
<b>Residential *</b>	40.37%	25.06%	25.85%
Very Light (VL)	4.13%	0.60%	0.46%
Light (L)	2.11%	0.96%	1.47%
Moderate (M)	35.58%	36.41%	30.40%
Moderate Heavy (MH)	4.99%	7.67%	8.44%
Heavy (H)	5.87%	12.21%	12.70%
Very Heavy (VH)	6.94%	17.09%	20.67%

## Explore a tiered approach for residential property rates.

### **SMC 12.10 .220C**

“...The variance between residential parcels in impervious surface coverage is found to be minor and to reflect only minor differences in increased runoff contributions. The administrative cost of calculating the service charge individually for each residential parcel and maintaining accurate information would be very high.”

- ❑ Code language still holds true
  - Not great enough difference in impervious surfaces to justify tiered approach
    - Little benefit to property owners
    - Too costly to administer

## Explore establishing a flat rate for undeveloped properties.

- 31 undeveloped properties in City
  - 16 port owned
- Minimal benefit to overall revenue
  - Approximately 0.07% increase
- Legal issues – Fee vs. tax

## Explore establishing a rebate for properties that infiltrate 100% of stormwater.

- ❑ If implemented infiltration rebate would:
  - Encourage use of Low Impact Development and other infiltration BMPs
  - Reduce impacts to City storm system and natural waterways
  - Have minimal net impact to Utility budget
  
- ❑ **Recommended by staff and FCS Group**
  
- ❑ 20% rebate recommended
  - Consistent with King County
  - Applies to commercial properties
  - Must demonstrate maintenance and function annually
  - Additive to existing 25% maintenance rebate

## What other funds benefited from staff reconciliation analysis?

- Approximately \$60,000 benefit to General Fund
- Approximately \$15,500 benefit to Street Fund

Ensure all stormwater fees are going towards Utility expenses?

- Staff has reviewed budget and confirmed



## Next Steps

- Integrate Council feedback from 10/22/13 CSS
- Present ordinance and agenda bill – 11/12/13 CSS
- Ordinance and agenda bill – 11/26/13 RCM
- Deadline for rate changes December 2nd

# Questions