



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

*Northwest Regional Office • PO Box 330316 • Shoreline, Washington 98133-9716 • (206) 594-0000
711 for Washington Relay Service • Persons with a speech disability can call 877-833-6341*

November 30, 2022

Mr. Josh Baldi
King County Water and Land Resources Division
Division Director
Sent by email only: Josh.Baldi@kingcounty.gov

Re: King County's S4.F Notification (WAR 044501):
Oil Sheen discharge to Spring Lake

Dear Mr. Baldi,

I am responding to the S4.F notification listed above that King County (County) submitted to Ecology on June 10, 2022. Subsequently, Ecology and King County had several exchanges of emails and letter requesting additional information, as well as a meeting on August 25, 2022 to discuss the property identified as the likely source, and the reported observation by residents of a sheen on Spring Lake in March 2022. After initial investigations in March, the County determined on May 16, 2022 that the incident should result in an S4F submittal in an abundance of caution.

Through our correspondence, Ecology is aware that King County responded to Spring Lake after receiving a referral from Ecology per ERTS 713475 with reports of a sheen on the lake surface. Though County staff did not observe a sheen at the time of their field response on March 22, 2022, residents living along the lakeshore stated there had been one. During the initial field visit, County staff observed a private pipe discharging into the County-owned ditch line from 18315 196th Ave SE, Renton, WA. In speaking with a foreman on the property who was removing debris from the property, it was determined that both ends of this pipe should be capped to prevent continued illicit discharges into the County MS4. This was done, however the cap was removed at some point prior to May 23rd visit when County staff collected discharge samples from the private pipe. The County had placed booms in the County-owned/operated roadside ditch that conveys stormwater toward Spring Lake, and since this time no further sheening has been observed in Spring Lake. The booms continue to be monitored and replaced as needed. Additionally, continued investigation of the infrastructure which was discussed with Ecology at our August 25, 2022 meeting, determined that there was in fact no publicly owned outfall to Spring Lake. The County MS4 discharges to a private stormwater system at a 24" drainage pipe that traverses roughly 200 feet down to the lake and thus the outfall of the stormwater system is not publicly owned/operated.

The County's investigation throughout the course of the year has since included the involvement of Ecology's Toxic Cleanup Program (TCP) and coordination with the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding historical contamination on the property at 18315 196th Ave SE, Renton, WA. Investigation will continue through implementation of the County's Illicit Discharge, Detection, and Elimination (IDDE) program, and coordination with Ecology TCP and EPA Region 10 as necessary, but as the outfall to the receiving waterbody is privately owned, an S4.F.1 notification is not required under the MS4 Phase I Permit.

Regardless of the necessity of the S4.F.1 notification in this instance, Ecology has determined that an adaptive management response under condition S4.F.3 is not necessary for this notification because the Phase II Permit's Stormwater Management Program requirements are designed to address illicit discharges into the MS4. The relevant requirement is S5.C.9 of the Phase I MS4 Permit. This determination does not affect any obligation you may have under other laws.

If you or your staff have any questions, please contact me at (425) 649-7041 or by email at ccro461@ecy.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Colleen Griffith". The signature is written in black ink on a light gray rectangular background.

Colleen Griffith
Municipal Stormwater Permit Implementation Planner

cc: Curt Crawford, P.E., Section Manager, Stormwater Services Section (SWSS), Water and Land Resources Division (WLRD), Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)
Bob Bernhard, Source Control Program Manager, SWSS, WLRD, DNRP
Marilyn Guthrie, Assistant NPDES Coordinator, SWSS, WLRD, DNRP
Mike Sibley, Federal On-Scene Coordinator, US Environmental Protection Agency
Donna Musa, Initial Investigation Coordinator, Dept of Ecology NW Region Toxics Cleanup Program
Permit File