

From: [Sally Perkins](#)
To: [ECY RE WOIA NOI \(WO\)](#); [Tamboer, Noel C. \(ECY\)](#); [Tamboer, Noel C. \(ECY\)](#)
Cc: [Sally Perkins](#)
Subject: Tacoma Bridge Industrial Project/Sierra Construction Stormwater Permit--Do Not Issue
Date: Sunday, May 8, 2022 8:15:29 AM
Attachments: [DOE letter regarding the Bridge Industrial project in Tacoma 5.7.2022.pdf](#)
Importance: High

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Good morning, Noel Tamboer, I am attaching a letter opposing the General Permits for the Tacoma Bridge Industrial Project/Sierra Construction project in South Tacoma, and requesting Individual Permits be required instead, due to the extreme environmental risks associated with this proposed project.

Thank you for your consideration of these concerns.

Sally Perkins

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May 7, 2022

To: Noel Tamboer, Department of Ecology
Water Quality Program, Construction Stormwater

From: Sally Perkins, resident of Tacoma (1419 S. Sheridan Ave, Tacoma 98405)

Re: Bridge Industrial Stormwater Permit and Sierra Construction Company
seeking coverage under Construction Stormwater NPDES and State Waste
Discharge General Permit, in South Tacoma

Dear Department of Ecology (Noel Tamboer):

I write to request your urgent attention to this proposed permit, and ask that you **NOT** issue this permit under general permits such as Construction Stormwater NPDES and State Waste Discharge General Permit. The size and nature of this project are so great that there are potentially significant adverse impacts to the South Tacoma aquifer, wetland, and watershed to downstream creeks.

The project proposes 2.5 million square feet of impermeable surface, 12,000 vehicle trips on each weekday...in a neighborhood that already has high pollution, high morbidity and mortality rates, a racially and ethnically diverse population, and modest incomes.

In 2006, I was the outside professional facilitator for the process that updated the South Tacoma Groundwater Protection District (STGPD) regulations for the City of Tacoma. I came away from that process with a profound respect for the importance of this aquifer and the need to protect it and the ground above it.

Please deny the General Permit, which is inadequate to assess the impacts of this proposed project.

Please require the applicant to apply for these Individual Permits:

- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)
- State Waste Discharge Permits (SWD)

These **Individual Permits** are essential because the South Tacoma aquifer is an important municipal water supply in a time of decreasing water supplies as we experience rapid climate change. This area has unique environmental characteristics that require a thorough permitting process, including that fact that it is a critical aquifer recharge area, a designated environmentally geo-hydrologically sensitive wetland critical area, the watershed to Flett Creek and Chambers-Clover Creek, and a Superfund site in various stages of remediation.

The complete SEPA process should be carried out in its entirety, including a full Environmental Impact Statement, before there is any consideration of allowing this project to move forward. **Please do not issue any permits until the full SEPA process is complete.**

I am dismayed that the City has chosen not to update the STGPD regs since 2006, in light of ongoing pressure on water supplies from decreased annual rainfall, decreased snowpacks, and the increased and denser development that is already being approved by the City of Tacoma. The fact that Tacoma would even consider this project is incomprehensible to me—allowing this intensity of development over the aquifer given what we know in 2022 is a massive risk to our water supply. If a key role of government is to protect its people, why would Tacoma be allowed to take this risk with our aquifer and our people?

And so, because I cannot rely on my City officials to protect the aquifer or the people in the vicinity, I turn to you to insist that this proposed project is studied thoroughly through the completion of the full SEPA process. ALL risks to the aquifer and to the people must be identified and utilized in making the decisions about approving the Individual Permits.

I believe when these more thorough analyses are completed, and the risks to the Aquifer and the people accurately identified, the Individual Permits will not be approvable. The full SEPA process is essential to accomplishing these more thorough analyses.

Thank you for your consideration of these points. I would very much appreciate a response to these concerns.

Sally Perkins
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