



City of Tacoma
Environmental Services Department

May 22nd, 2025

Washington Department of Ecology
Water Quality Program – Industrial Stormwater
PO Box 47696
Olympia, Washington 98504-7696

Re: G25 Bypass Prohibited

To Whom It May Concern:

Central Treatment Plant, Permit Number WAR000711, Industrial SW GP. An unintentional bypass of the City's Aquip stormwater filter was found on May 19, 2025 during routine stormwater sampling. The Aquip filter was installed as part of a level 3 corrective action and was found to have been bypassed during a rain event during the preceding days. The City is not aware, and has no way of knowing, exactly when the bypass occurred or how much stormwater flowed through the bypass. The filter was inspected as part of a monthly stormwater inspection on Thursday May 15th and a bypass condition had not occurred at that time. The bypass event is believed to have occurred during the rain events of May 17th and May 18th 2025. The bypass occurred due to a plugged filter related to pollen and other debris building up on the filter surface and limiting flow through the filter media.

The City has completed maintenance on the filter to remove the buildup that had plugged the filter. This maintenance has been added to the monthly maintenance plan for the filter and will be carried out regularly moving forward. Additionally, the City is investigating the feasibility of adding a visual inspection of the filter to normal operations to ensure abnormal conditions are caught and unintentional bypasses do not occur in the future.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (253) 404-6922.

Sincerely,

Kirk Elliott
Operations Assistant Division Manager
City of Tacoma, Environmental Services

Cc: Hugh Messer, Division Manager; Aaron Pinkston, Operation Supervisor