

AN ACT

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IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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*Codification  
District of  
Columbia  
Official Code*

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Publisher**

To amend the District Department of the Environment Establishment Act of 2005 to establish stormwater management programs to reduce the amount of stormwater pollutants that are discharged into District rivers and streams and to collect scientific data on the effects of low impact development on reducing stormwater runoff and the potential for aggressive use of low impact development technologies to reduce the cost and size of any large-scale civil engineering solutions to reducing stormwater pollution of the area’s waterways, to expand the authority and responsibilities of the Director of the District Department of the Environment relating to Stormwater Permit compliance and activities, to elevate the Stormwater Permit Compliance Enterprise Fund to the program level and to include fund activities in the Mayor’s annual budget, to establish a Stormwater User Fee Discount Program to offer incentives to encourage the installation of innovative stormwater management controls, to provide for the reduction of impervious surfaces in public space, to institutionalize progressive stormwater management practices for District agencies, to expand the membership of the Stormwater Advisory Panel to improve stormwater management coordination between District agencies, and to create limitations on the usage and sale of coal tar pavement product; to amend the Water and Sewer Authority Establishment and Department of Public Works Reorganization Act of 1996 to modify the stormwater user fee structure using a city-wide impervious area methodology, and thereby establish a more accurate and equitable assessment of stormwater runoff generated from properties, and the costs associated with managing that runoff, to provide adequate and stable funding for MS4 permit implementation, to permit owners of properties charged stormwater user fees to contest stormwater user fee bills,, and to require the Mayor to offer financial assistance programs to mitigate the impact of increases in stormwater user fees on low-income residents of the District.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “Comprehensive Stormwater Management Enhancement Amendment Act of 2008”.

Sec. 2. The District Department of the Environment Establishment Act of 2005, effective February 15, 2006 (D.C. Law 16-51; D.C. Official Code § 8-151.01 *et seq.*), is amended as follows:

(a) Section 101 (D.C. Official Code § 8-151.01) is amended to read as follows:

Amend  
§ 8-151.01

“Sec. 101. Definitions.

“For the purposes of this act, the term:

“(1) “CapStat” means an accountability program that examines performance data to improve government services to make the District of Columbia government run more efficiently, using a methodical process for focusing the attention of government representatives on improving performance in priority issues that cross agency boundaries.

“(2) “DDOE” means the District Department of the Environment.

“(3) “Director” means the Director of the District Department of the Environment.

“(4) “Environment” means the physical conditions and natural resources of the District, including the land, air, water, minerals, flora, and fauna in the District, and the waters adjacent to the District.

“(5) “Environmental Management System” or “EMS” means an interagency data system to inventory, track, and report on progress towards performance standards and activities. The term “EMS” includes an adaptive management approach that incorporates planning, implementing, monitoring, evaluating, and adjusting the interagency data system.

“(6) “Impervious area stormwater user fee” or “stormwater user fee” means a fee that attributes the cost of conveying stormwater run-off via a sewer from a given property, to the quantity of stormwater run-off generated from that same property, by use of impervious surface as a surrogate metric.

“(7) “Impervious surface” means a surface area that either prevents or retards the entry of water into the ground as occurring under natural conditions, or that causes water to run off the surface in greater quantities or at an increased rate of flow, relative to the flow present under natural conditions.

“(8) “Low Impact Development” or “LID” means stormwater management practices that mimic site hydrology under natural conditions, by using design techniques in construction and development that store, infiltrate, evaporate, detain, or reuse and recycle runoff.

“(9) “MS4” means the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System serving approximately two-thirds of the District, and comprised of 2 independent piping systems: one system for sewage from homes and businesses, and one system for stormwater.

“(10) “Natural conditions” means the state of the environment prior to anthropogenic intervention.

“(11) “Primacy” means the grant or delegation of authority under certain federal environmental laws that allows states and the District to assume primary authority to enforce and implement the environmental laws and promulgate regulations pursuant to those laws.

“(12) “SDWA” means the Safe Drinking Water Act, approved December 16, 1974 (88 Stat. 1660; 42 U.S.C. § 300f *et seq.*).

“(13) “Sewer” shall have the same meaning as provided in section 201(9) of the Water and Sewer Authority Establishment and Department of Public Work Reorganization Act of 1996, effective April 18, 1996 (D.C. Law 11-111; D.C. Official Code § 34-2202.01(9)).”

“(14) “Stormwater best management practice” means a structure used to reduce the volume or the pollutant content of a stormwater discharge.

“(15) “Stormwater Permit” or “MS4 Permit” means NPDES No. DC0000221, issued April 20, 2000 to the District of Columbia by the Environmental Protection Agency.”

(b) A new Title I-A is added to read as follows:

“TITLE I-A. STORMWATER MANAGEMENT.

“Sec. 151. Stormwater Administration.

“(a) There is established within the District Department of the Environment a Stormwater Administration (“Administration”), pursuant to section 103(b)(2). The Administration shall be responsible for monitoring and coordinating the activities of all District agencies, including the activities of the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (“DC WASA”), which are required to maintain compliance with the Stormwater Permit. The Director shall designate a Stormwater Administrator to manage the Administration.

“(b) The expenses of the Administration shall be disbursed from the Stormwater Permit Compliance Enterprise Fund established pursuant to section 152.

“(c) The District Department of Transportation, the Department of Public Works, the Office of Planning, the Office of Public Education Facilities Modernization, the Office of Property Management, the Department of Parks and Recreation, and DC WASA, and any other District agency identified by the Director (“Stormwater Agencies”), shall comply with all requests made by the Director relating to stormwater related requests, compliance measures, and activities, including the adoption of specific standards, and the submission of information, plans, proposed budgets, or supplemental budgets related to stormwater activities. In coordination with the submission of the report required by subsection (f) of this section, the Stormwater Agencies shall submit annual reports of steps implemented to fulfill or exceed their MS4 Permit obligations, as defined by the Director.

“(d) At least once each fiscal year in a CapStat or comparable session, the Mayor shall review the compliance of the Stormwater Agencies with the requests made by the Director relating to MS4 Permit compliance and activities.

“(e) All budgets submitted by the Mayor to the Council shall include a written determination by the Director of whether the budget adequately funds MS4 Permit compliance and activities. The Director shall inform the Council of any deficiency, and indicate the revisions that shall be made to correct the deficiency.

“(f) The Director shall provide to the Mayor, the Council, and the public, the annual report submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) under the terms of the Stormwater Permit.

“(g) Within one year of the effective date of this section, the Director shall institute an Environmental Management System to inventory, track, and report on pollution prevention and stormwater management activities, and to hold the Stormwater Agencies accountable for progress toward meeting the performance standards and obligations required to meet the stormwater management plan of the Stormwater Permit.

“Sec. 152. Stormwater Permit Compliance Enterprise Fund.

“(a) There is established within the District Department of the Environment a Stormwater Permit Compliance Enterprise Fund (“Enterprise Fund”), pursuant to section 103(b)(2). The Director shall allocate the Fund resources to carry out the MS4 Permit activities that have the greatest impact on reducing stormwater pollution.

“(b) Beginning in fiscal year 2010 and each year thereafter, the Mayor shall propose the Fund with an agency level budget. The Mayor shall submit to the Council, as part of the annual budget, proposed budgets that include expenditures of the Enterprise Fund for stormwater programs, including intra-District funds sufficient to fulfill the MS4 Permit obligations of the Stormwater Agencies. The proposed budgets may include funding for large-scale, multiyear projects. The Mayor shall establish benchmark and performance-measure outcomes that connect stormwater programs with funding levels.

“(c) All revenues, proceeds, and moneys collected from the stormwater user fee or from grants made for stormwater activities that are collected or received, shall be credited to the Enterprise Fund and shall not, at any time, be transferred to, lapse into, or be commingled with the General Fund of the District of Columbia, the Water and Sewer Authority General Fund, the Cash Management Pool, or any other funds or accounts of the District of Columbia.

“(d) Monies from the Enterprise Fund shall only be used to fund the costs of complying with the MS4 Permit, including grants for stormwater activities, all administrative, operating, and capital costs of DC WASA and the agencies identified by the Director as having specific responsibilities under the, MS4 Permit and the Stormwater Administration established pursuant to section 151. The Enterprise Fund shall also be used for DC WASA’s costs of billing and collecting the stormwater user fee, as authorized by District of Columbia Public Works Act of 1954, approved May 18, 1954 (68 Stat. 104; D.C. Official Code § 34-2101.01 *et seq.*).

“(e) Monies shall not be disbursed from the Enterprise Fund for costs associated with:

“(1) Stormwater management activities carried out prior to April 20, 2000, except to the extent those costs increased to comply with the terms of the Stormwater Permit; or

“(2) Stormwater management activities otherwise required by law or regulation, unless specifically permitted by the Director.

“(f) Within 90 days of the effective date of this section, the Office of the Chief Financial Officer shall convene quarterly meetings to coordinate with the fiscal officers of the Stormwater Agencies to ensure that each agency can access the Enterprise Fund to implement its activities in a timely manner.

“Sec. 153. Stormwater User Fee Discount Program.

“(a) Within one year of the enactment of an impervious area stormwater user fee by DC

WASA, the Mayor shall establish a Stormwater User Fee Discount Program to be coordinated between DC WASA and the Administration.

“(b) The program shall allow property owners who implement measures to manage stormwater runoff from their properties to receive a discount on the stormwater user fee assessed to them under section 216 of the Water and Sewer Authority Establishment and Department of Public Works Reorganization Act of 1996, effective April 18, 1996 (D.C. Law 11-111; D.C. Official Code § 34-2202.16).

“(c) Stormwater user fee discounts approved by the Mayor shall be retroactive to no earlier than the date of the implementation of the impervious area stormwater fee. A property owner may not qualify for a stormwater user fee discount until the stormwater management measures for which they seek a discount are demonstrated to be fully functional.

“(d) Any discount earned under this section will be revocable upon a finding by the Mayor of non-performance. Upon a finding of non-performance, the Mayor may require reimbursement of any portion of fees discounted to date.

“(e) Findings of non-performance by the Mayor may be appealed by an applicant pursuant to rules established by the Mayor.

“(f) Failure to reimburse may result in a lien being placed upon the property without further notice to the owner. The Mayor may enforce the lien in the same manner as in District of Columbia Public Works Act of 1954, approved May 18, 1954 (68 Stat. 102; D.C. Official Code § 34-2407.02).

“Sec. 154. Stormwater management and Low Impact Development grants.

“(a) The Mayor, in coordination with DC WASA, shall establish a grant program to provide Enterprise Funds for grants and direct services to property owners in the District to employ LID or stormwater best management practices.

“(b) Funding for such grants will be contingent on maintaining adequate Enterprise Funds to address District obligations pursuant to the MS4 Permit.

“(c) Within one year of the effective date of this section, the Director of the Department of Transportation (“DDOT”) shall submit to the Director an action plan recommending policies and measures to reduce impervious surfaces and promote LID projects in the public space. The action plan shall incorporate:

“(1) New DDOT policies to reduce impervious surface and employ other LID measures in right-of-way construction projects and retrofit projects;

“(2) A revised DDOT public space permitting process and the development of a mechanism to minimize stormwater runoff from the public right-of-way;

“(3) Requirements and incentives for private developers to reduce impervious surface and employ LID measures when their projects extend into the public right-of-way;

“(4) Policies, including fees, for the use of public space to manage stormwater runoff from private property;

“(5) Policies to address ongoing maintenance of LID or stormwater best management practices installed in public right-of-way areas adjacent to private property;

“(6) Strategies to remove impediments to LID projects on residential properties relating to public space; and

“(7) Costs for each recommendation and a recommended timeline for funding in the Mayor’s proposed budget. The Mayor shall incorporate these recommendations in the next and subsequent proposed annual budgets.

“(d)(1) Within one year of the effective date of this section, the Director, together with the Stormwater Agencies, shall prepare a study recommending policies and measures developed to implement LID and stormwater best management practices on District properties. The Mayor shall incorporate these recommendations in the next and subsequent proposed annual budgets.

“(2) For each LID or stormwater best management practice installed, the Mayor shall require a maintenance agreement by District agencies to provide for their ongoing operation and maintenance to ensure installed practices continue to function as designed and installed to provide stormwater pollution reductions.

“(e) The Director shall include among DDOE’s public educational efforts a campaign to inform the public on the benefits of preventing pollution from stormwater runoff, and to provide recommendations on how the general public can help keep the District’s waterways free of pollution. The Director shall also initiate outreach actions with upstream jurisdictions to encourage their implementation of similar stormwater reduction activities.

“(f) The Director shall work with DC WASA to collect and evaluate scientific data on the effects of low impact development on reducing stormwater runoff to develop a plan for aggressive use of low impact development technologies to reduce the cost and size of any large-scale civil engineering solutions to reducing stormwater pollution of the area’s waterways. The Director shall inform the Stormwater Advisory Panel, and representatives of upstream jurisdictions, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, and the federal government of the scientific data and analyses drawn from the data.

“Sec. 155. Stormwater Advisory Panel.

“(a) There is established within the District Department of the Environment a Stormwater Advisory Panel (“Panel”), pursuant to section 103(b)(2). The Panel shall coordinate the responsibilities of the agencies and DC WASA, and shall prepare comprehensive recommendations to the Council that identify the best means by which the District can meet or exceed all present and future federal regulatory and permit requirements, pertaining to the discharge of stormwater into receiving waters.

“(b) The Panel shall be comprised of the executive officers with responsibilities pursuant to the MS4 Permit, with oversight responsibility for the administrative and financial aspects of stormwater management, or that engage in activities that impact the District’s stormwater discharge:

“(1) The members of the Panel shall be:

“(A) The City Administrator;

“(B) The Chief Financial Officer;

“(C) The Director, who will serve as the Panel’s Chair;

- “(D) The Stormwater Administrator;
- “(E) The Director of the Department of Transportation;
- “(F) The Director of the Department of Public Works;
- “(G) The Director of the Office of Planning;
- “(H) The Director of the Office of Public Education Facilities

Modernization;

- “(I) The Director of the Office of Property Management;
- “(J) The Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation; and
- “(K) The General Manager of DC WASA.

“(2) The Director may designate additional members from other agencies whose activities impact the District’s stormwater runoff.

“(3) The Director shall engage and encourage participation from representatives of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority and the federal government, including the U.S. General Services Administration and the National Parks Service.

“(c) The Panel shall hold its first meeting within 90 days of the effective date of this section. The Panel shall hold at least one public hearing to receive testimony from citizens with respect to the issues stated in subsection (e)(1) and (2) of this section.

“(d) The Panel shall meet at least 2 times each year.

“(e) The Panel shall provide its recommendations in the annual report required to be submitted to EPA Region III under the MS4 Permit. The report shall make specific findings on:

“(1) Whether the existing allocation of stormwater management responsibilities among District agencies are capable of fulfilling or exceeding present and future regulatory requirements for stormwater discharge, and if not, what changes need to be made or new government entities created;

“(2) Comprehensive recommendations, specific standards adopted, and steps implemented by the respective agency to fulfill or exceed its obligation to meet its share of federal regulatory and MS4 Permit requirements pertaining to the discharge of stormwater into receiving waters; and

“(3) Whether the existing stormwater user fee structure and rates are equitable and sufficient for the District to fulfill or exceed its present and future regulatory requirements for stormwater discharge, and, if not, what changes in fee structure and rate would be required to fulfill these responsibilities.

“(f) Within one year of the effective date of this section, the Panel shall provide to the Council and the Mayor a study of the needs for achieving water quality compliance from the District’s stormwater runoff.

“(g) Panel members shall ensure that their agencies participate in the Environmental Management System to track compliance with the District’s MS4 Permit obligations and other stormwater management responsibilities required to reduce pollution to the District’s waters.

“(h) Within 120 days after the effective date of this act, the Panel shall establish a Technical Working Group (“TWG”) of agency technical staff.

“(1) The TWG shall consist of the following 14 members:

“(A) Each Panel member shall appoint one member of the TWG.

“(B) The Mayor, the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, and the Chairman of the Council committee with oversight over the District Department of the Environment shall each appoint one member; provided, that the appointees shall be non-agency stakeholders who are geographically diverse, and shall have expertise in stormwater management, land development, hydrology, natural resources conservation, environmental protection, environmental law, or other similar stormwater management expertise.

“(2) TWG members shall serve a 2-year term, and without compensation.

“(3) The Chairperson of the TWG shall be the Stormwater Administrator.

“(4) The TWG shall attend monthly meetings with the Stormwater Administrator and coordinate tracking and reporting of stormwater management activities of their agencies’ efforts. The TWG shall also:

“(A) Advise the Panel on technical matters and respective agency MS4 Permit compliance requirements;

“(B) Make recommendations to the Panel regarding existing District agency rules, regulations, and policies that might create barriers to the implementation of LID or stormwater best management practices in the District; and

“(C) Suggest programmatic incentives for best management practices which were successfully implemented in other jurisdictions to promote the implementation of these stormwater management practices on new and existing properties in the District.

“(5) DDOE shall provide staff assistance to the TWG.”.

(c) A new Title I-B is added to read as follows:

“TITLE I-B. PRODUCT LIMITATION OF STORMWATER MANAGEMENT.

“Sec. 181. Coal tar limitations.

“(a) For the purposes of this section, the term “coal tar pavement product” means a material that contains coal tar and is for use on an asphalt or concrete surface, including a driveway or parking lot.

“(b) No person shall sell, offer for sale, use, or permit to be used, on property he or she owns, a coal tar pavement product.

“(c)(1) Any person who violates this section shall be liable to the District for a civil penalty in an amount not to exceed \$ 2,500 for each violation.

“(2) For any violation, each day of the violation shall constitute a separate offense and the penalties prescribed shall apply separately to each offense.

“(3) Adjudication of any infraction of this section shall be pursuant to the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs Civil Infractions Act of 1985, effective October 5, 1985 (D.C. Law 6-42; D.C. Official Code § 2-1801.01 *et seq.*).

“(d) This section shall apply as of July 1, 2009.”.

**ENROLLED ORIGINAL**

Sec. 3. The Water and Sewer Authority Establishment and Department of Public Works Reorganization Act of 1996, effective April 18, 1996 (D.C. Law 11-111; D.C. Official Code § 34-2201.01 *et seq.*), is amended as follows:

(a) Section 201(9A) and (9B) (D.C. Official Code § 34-2202.01(9A) and (9B)) are repealed.

Amend  
§ 34-2202.01

(b) Sections 206a, 206b, and 206c (D.C. Official Code §§ 34-2202.06a, 34-2202.06b, and 34-2202.06c) are repealed.

Repeal  
§§ 34-  
2202.06a,  
34-2202.06b,  
34-2202.06c

(c) Section 216 (D.C. Official Code § 34-2202.16) is amended as follows:

(1) Subsections (d-1) through (d-3) are amended to read as follows:

“(d-1) The Authority shall collect a stormwater user fee established by the Director of the District Department of the Environment (“Director”), which charge the Director shall establish by rule and may from time to time amend.

Amend  
§ 34-2202.16

“(d-2) The fee shall be collected from each property in the District of Columbia, and shall be based on an impervious area assessment of the property.

“(d-3) The Mayor shall coordinate the development and implementation of the MS4 stormwater user fee with DC WASA’s impervious area surface charge, to ensure that both fee systems employ consistent methodologies.”.

(2) New subsections (d-4), (d-5), (d-6), and (d-7) are added to read as follows:

“(d-4) The Mayor shall offer financial assistance programs to mitigate the impact of any increases in stormwater user fees on low-income residents of the District, and shall evaluate the applicability of similar existing District low-income assistance programs to the stormwater user fee.

“(d-5) A landlord shall not pass a stormwater user fee charge to a tenant which is more than the stormwater user fee charge prescribed by the Director

“(d-6) The stormwater user fee shall be the obligation of the property owner. Failure to pay the stormwater user fee shall result in a lien being placed upon the property without further notice to the owner. The Mayor may enforce the lien in the same manner as in section 104 of the District of Columbia Public Works Acts of 1954, approved May 18, 1954 (68 Stat.102; D.C. Official Code § 34-2407).

“(d-7) Any owner or occupant of a property that is charged a stormwater user fee may contest a stormwater user fee bill rendered for managing stormwater runoff, according to the same procedures provided to owners or occupants of properties that receive water and sewer services, under section 1805 of the District of Columbia Public Works Act of 1954, effective June 13, 1990 (D.C. Law 8-136; D.C. Official Code § 34-2305).”.

Sec. 4. Rules.

Within 180 days of the effective date of this act, the Mayor, pursuant to Title I of the District of Columbia Administrative Procedure Act, approved October 21, 1968 (82 Stat. 1204; D.C. Official Code § 2-501 *et seq.*), shall issue rules to implement the provisions of this act. The proposed rules shall be submitted to the Council for a 45-day period of review, excluding

Saturdays, Sundays, legal holidays, and days of Council recess. If the Council does not approve or disapprove the proposed rules, in whole or in part, by resolution within this 45-day review period, the proposed rules shall be deemed approved.

**Sec. 5. Fiscal impact statement.**

The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement of the Chief Financial Officer, dated December 15, 2008, as the fiscal impact statement required by section 602(c)(3) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(3)).

**Sec. 6. Effective date.**

This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of Congressional review as provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of Columbia Register.

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Chairman  
Council of the District of Columbia

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Mayor  
District of Columbia