

Stormwater Work Group



Stormwater Work Group for Puget Sound

March 19, 2025

Annette Hoffmann, Environmental Assessment Program Manager
300 Desmond Dr SE
Lacey, WA 98503

Dear Annette Hoffmann, Environmental Assessment Program Manager:

The Stormwater Work Group (SWG) would like to take a moment to recognize and appreciate the ongoing work and achievements of the Department of Ecology's Lab Accreditation Unit (LAU) in accrediting laboratories in Washington State. The efforts of LAU have been crucial as we navigate the complexities of emerging chemicals of concern, particularly 6PPD-quinone (6PPDQ), in stormwater management.

We also recognize LAU's continued work on 6PPDQ and the vital role this unit plays in advancing analytical methods for this chemical. We understand that the work being done by the LAU is challenging and resource-intensive, and we greatly appreciate the ongoing commitment to ensuring that laboratories can be accredited to analyze this important chemical. We also commend LAU's work in communicating transparently with affected communities, such as when Rebecca Wood gave a presentation on 6PPDQ lab accreditation at our SWG 6PPD Subgroup February meeting.

Despite the challenges of limited staff capacity and the complexity of new chemical accreditation, LAU's commitment to building capacity, including hiring new staff members through Ecology's Legislative budget request, is a significant objective of the SWG. This move demonstrates LAU's dedication to addressing the critical needs of our communities and stormwater management programs. The SWG would like to support LAU with this request as possible.

Although lab accreditation for 6PPDQ in aqueous samples has progressed, delays in future lab accreditation is causing uncertainty for stormwater permit managers trying to meet their stormwater management program goals. Without accredited labs, it is difficult to proceed with necessary studies. Notably, the SWG oversees the [Stormwater Action Monitoring \(SAM\) Collective](#), which uses permit fees to conduct stormwater monitoring and effectiveness studies. Several SAM projects were provided additional funding from Ecology to monitor for 6PPDQ and have been significantly impacted by delays in lab accreditation in the past. Recent lab accreditations have improved this situation, and the SWG is hopeful that ongoing

communication with LAU will continue to support the efficient and effective use of permittee funds.

Additionally, WA State is requiring 6PPDQ monitoring for transportation, waste management, and hazardous waste facilities covered under the Industrial Stormwater General Permit (ISGP) starting in 2028. This will be a requirement for over 200 facilities, and these facilities will need to work with labs who can accept samples from private entities. Expanding the availability of accredited labs, including public and private labs, is crucial to meeting permit requirements and advancing knowledge about 6PPDQ.

The SWG values our partnership with Ecology, and we want to extend our appreciation for the progress made so far. We look forward to continued collaboration and support as we work together to address this critical issue.

Sincerely,
Stormwater Work Group

Current Voting Members:

Don McQuilliams, SWG Chair, City of Bellevue
Abby Barnes, SWG Vice Chair, WA Department of Natural Resources
Jessica Atkinson, City of Redmond
Jess Huybregts, City of Seattle
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Nick Hehemann, WA Department of Transportation
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Katrina Radach, Puget Sound Partnership
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Lori Blair, Boeing
Gary Bahr, WA Department of Agriculture
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