

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

The Town of Friday Harbor, San Juan County, located on the eastern side of San Juan Island, is concerned about the control and prevention of flooding, erosion, siltation, and the degradation of water quality in Friday Harbor due to pollutant loads carried by stormwater and the preservation of natural forms of flood control and stormwater storage from alterations to drainage and stream flow patterns. In order to address these needs, the Town wishes to plan and set up a stormwater management program that will provide and maintain a system of storm drainage facilities and controls designed to protect the property and lives of Town residents and maintain and enhance the environment.

The specific areas addressed by the Stormwater Management Plan include:

- Control of the quantity of runoff,
- Regulation of the quality of runoff, and
- Stormwater utility management and operation.

The purpose of the plan is to characterize the drainage basins, identify existing and potential problems, develop alternative solutions for stormwater quantity and quality control, and recommend a stormwater management program and a plan for financing the recommended maintenance and improvement program.

The Town formed a stormwater management utility in 1993 as a means of generating revenue to fund the operation and maintenance of the utility, necessary capital improvements, and the stormwater management plan.

In 1994, the Town hired Gray & Osborne, Inc. to prepare a Stormwater Management Plan. The Plan was adopted by the Town on March 20, 1997, for use as a planning tool for future stormwater needs. On November 20, 1997, the Town adopted a Stormwater Technical Manual for controlling surface water runoff (Ordinance No. 1038). The standards and procedures contained in the Technical Manual are designed to avoid or minimize the adverse consequences of stormwater runoff. As policy, the Town requires all new development in the Town, which meet the threshold for large parcel development to provide detention for stormwater runoff from the site such that post-development runoff from the 10-year, 24-hour and 100-year, 24-hour storm events match the pre-development 10-year, 24-hour and 100-year, 24-hour storm event runoff, respectively. In addition, parcels which are tributary to areas identified in this Stormwater Management Plan, where the existing stormwater conveyance capacity is inadequate to convey the existing 2-year storm event, would also be required to provide detention adequate to match the 2-year, 24-hour pre-developed condition.

The capital improvements, operations and maintenance, and Stormwater Management Plan are financed by the stormwater utility. Capital improvements may be funded through the Public Works Trust Fund, Revenue Bonds, General Obligation Bonds, Local Improvement Districts, a General Facilities Charge, or by developer contribution. Each of the above options and a plan for financing a stormwater management program and capital improvements are summarized in Chapter 7.