

Summary of Proposed Amendments to Article IV. STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Background

In 2017, the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District began development of amendments to the *Model Ordinance for Post Construction Stormwater Management for New Development and Redevelopment*. The amendments focused on ensuring compatibility with the NPDES Georgia Municipal Separate Storm Sewer (MS4) Permit and the Georgia Stormwater Management Manual. Development of the amendments included a two-year stakeholder process, which culminated in a 30-day public comment period and final adoption by the District in late 2019. Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) requires local jurisdictions with Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permits to incorporate these amendments into their local ordinances in order to maintain compliance with their MS4 permit.

Additionally, as the County's MS4 Permit calls for the consideration of green infrastructure best management practices in the design of stormwater management systems, these amendments incorporate a requirement that green infrastructure/low impact development best management practices be considered when feasible.

Amendment Overview

These amendments modify stormwater related requirements for development and redevelopment in unincorporated Fulton County and ensure compliance with the County's MS4 Permit. Highlights of the revisions to the Fulton County Code Article IV – Stormwater Management include:

- The incorporation of additional provisions that protect water quality, including storm water pretreatment, stream channel and overbank flood protection;
- The requirement that the first 1.0 inch of rainfall be retained, to the extent practicable;
- The requirement that green infrastructure best management practices be considered as a part of stormwater management plans for new development;
- Removal of the exemption for single family and duplex lots (very few residential properties exist within unincorporated Fulton);
- More clearly defined requirements for concept plans and stormwater management plans;
- The incorporation of a sequencing plan that defines the timing for installation of stormwater measures during the course of construction;
- More clearly defined stormwater facility maintenance requirements including post construction stormwater management and associated measures that will be used on a permanent basis to control and treat runoff once construction is complete; and
- Numerous edits that provide consistency in the language, such as citing the Public Works Department as the County department responsible for administration of the ordinance.

It is anticipated that these amendments will not only improve water quality, but they will also provide downstream property owners enhanced protection from increased stormwater and/or flooding resulting from development and redevelopment. The amendments also provide greater clarity regarding stormwater requirements and therefore are expected to improve the development design, permitting and construction process.

Two versions of the proposed amendments follow. The first version shows deletions to the document with ~~strikeout~~ and additions to the document as underlined. The second version of the document provides the proposed amendments with the deletions removed and the additions incorporated, with no underlining.