Renton Municipal Code
4-6-030 Drainage (Surface Water) Standards

What are Surface Water regulations or codes?
Surface Water regulations protect people, property, and the environment from damage caused by changes in the quantity and quality of surface water runoff resulting from new development, redevelopment, and construction sites.

Our Surface Water Code also satisfies the City’s obligation to comply with our Municipal Stormwater Discharge National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit, issued by the Washington State Department of Ecology.

Our Surface Water Code addresses:
- Drainage control submittal and review requirements
- On-site Best Management Practices
- Erosion control requirements for your project during construction and grading activities
- Flow control and stormwater treatment requirements
- Maintenance requirements and responsibility
- How we enforce the Surface Water Code

What’s included in the 2017 Surface Water Code update?
Ordinance 5828 amended Renton Municipal Code (RMC) 4-6-030 Drainage (Surface Water) Standards to adopt the City of Renton Surface Water Design Manual (2016 King County Surface Water Design Manual as Amended by the City).

When will Ordinance 5828 be in effect?
Ordinance 5828 is effective on January 1, 2017.

Do I need a Drainage Review?
Your project will trigger a drainage review if your project proposal will result in:
- 2,000 square feet of new plus replaced impervious surface; or
- 7,000 square feet of land disturbing activity; or
- Construct or modify a pipe 12-inches or more in size/depth, or
- Is a redevelopment project proposing improvements of more than $100,000 to an existing high-use site.

Which version of the Surface Water Manual applies to my project?
If your project application is submitted on, or after, January 1, 2017, you must comply with the 2017 updated Surface Water Code and Surface Water Design Manual. If we accepted your application for permit review prior to January 1, 2017, you may use the previously adopted 2009 King County Surface Water Design Manual and City Amendments.
The City of Renton 2017 Surface Water Design Manual is based on the 2016 King County Surface Water Design Manual (KCSWDM) with City Amendments.

Where can I find the new 2017 Surface Water Design Manual?

Ordinance 5828 and the 2017 Surface Water Design Manual are now available on the City’s website at rentonwa.gov on the webpage entitled, Surface Water Design Standards.

What’s new in the 2017 Surface Water Design Manual?

Significant changes in the 2017 Surface Water Design Manual from the currently adopted 2009 KCSWDM are:

- New Core Requirement No. 9: Low Impact Development (LID) Best Management Practices are required to the maximum extent feasible. Additional information provided in Chapter 1. Feasibility and infeasibility are listed for each LID under Appendix C.

- Drainage review types: Small Project Drainage Review name has been changed to Simplified Drainage Review. Directed Drainage Review has been added. Additional information provided in Chapter 1.

- Updated methods for sizing water quality facilities. Additional information provided in Chapter 3.

- Flow control sizing credits have been modified. Additional information provided in Chapter 1.

- King County Runoff Time Series modeling software was replaced with the Department of Ecology’s Washington Hydraulic Model 2012 and MGSFlood as approved models. Additional information provided in Chapter 3.

What are the key differences between the 2017 Surface Water Design Manual and the 2016 King County Surface Water Design Manual?

The City amendments to the 2016 KCSWDM reflect the unique requirements in Renton. For instance, the 2016 King County Surface Water Design Manual refers to King County Code sections, departments and divisions. The City amendments to the 2016 KCSWDM will state the relevant Renton Municipal Code sections and will refer to the appropriate departments. The City amendments will also include Renton specific interpretations of definitions and implementation requirements that assist developers, engineers, and plan reviewers by explaining the City revisions to the 2016 King County Surface Water Design Manual.

Additional Questions?

For additional information, please contact:

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