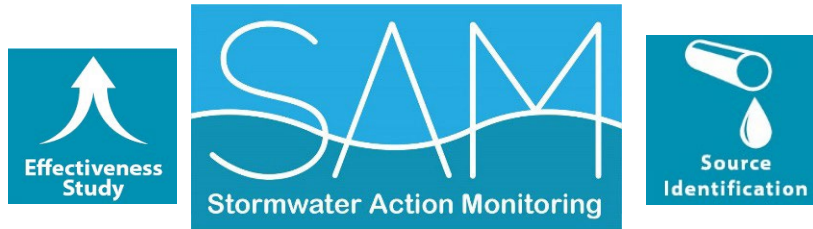


Stormwater Action Monitoring (SAM)
Effectiveness Study and Source Identification Projects
Round 4 Request for Proposals
January 2023



Introduction

Stormwater Action Monitoring (SAM) is soliciting proposals for effectiveness and source identification studies or projects that support the implementation of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) general permits.

This is the fourth round of SAM study solicitations since SAM was launched in 2014. Three Washington State issued MS4 permits include SAM funding options to satisfy monitoring:

- Phase I Municipal Stormwater,
- Western Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater, and
- Washington State Department of Transportation Municipal Stormwater.

There are three Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued MS4 permits with SAM funding options for monitoring:

- United States Naval Base Kitsap,
- United States Naval Station Everett, and
- United States Naval Air Station Whidbey Island.

SAM is coordinated by the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) and overseen by the [Stormwater Work Group \(SWG\)](#). This current request for proposals is SAM's fourth round since SAM was launched in 2014. All active and completed SAM projects can be found on the SAM website; www.ecology.wa.gov/SAM.

Successful stormwater management approaches prevent and reduce water quality and habitat impacts. SAM's effectiveness and source identification projects advance our collective understanding and successful implementation of stormwater management permit requirements and programmatic approaches to permit compliance. This adaptive management feedback is used by permittees, Ecology, SWG and interested stakeholders about improving municipal stormwater programs and best management practices.

The available funding for this Round 4 solicitation is approximately \$3.6M, the remaining SAM funds collected from permittees' contributions for the 2019-2024 permit term for SAM projects.

SAM's funding comes from contributions paid by municipal stormwater permittees. The SWG will determine which proposals will receive SAM funds based on the multistep proposal evaluation and selection process outlined in this request. Successful proposals will have a broad base of support from permitted cities and counties. Other entities also contribute to SAM studies by in-kind services,

matching funds, or unique sampling support.

This document outlines the multi-step proposal evaluation and selection process determining which proposals SAM will fund. SAM funds come from monies paid by municipal stormwater permittees; however other entities also contribute to SAM studies in the form of in-kind services, matching funds, or unique sampling support.

Please contact SAM Coordinator Brandi Lubliner with questions about this process at Brandi.Lubliner@ecy.wa.gov or (360) 407-7140.

Eligibility

To be considered for this program, proposals shall:

- Address the preferred topics for Round 4 (Appendix A), and
- Advance regional implementation of stormwater management programs, and
- Contain a purpose, objective, study design, anticipated methods, and anticipated outcomes, and
- Articulate how the study or project will inform future permit requirements or permittees' implementation of current permit requirements, and
- Be relevant to multiple permitted jurisdictions.

Qualified Applicant

This is a competitive funding program, open to any "public agency" that may legally enter into an inter-agency agreement with the Washington State Department of Ecology. This includes cities, counties, state and federal agencies, tribes, the Washington Stormwater Center, public ports, public universities, conservation districts and agency consortiums. Consulting firms and non-profits are not eligible to apply directly for this funding program, but they may partner with a public agency.

Partnerships

Project proponents are strongly encouraged to form partnerships to address issues of common concern. Eligible partners include, but are not limited to, all eligible applicants listed above, non-profit organizations, and for-profit companies.

Project Ceiling

There are no ceiling or match requirements for SAM projects within available funding for Round 4. One hundred percent of eligible costs are fundable based on a negotiated contract with Ecology and the SWG Pooled Resources Oversight Committee.

Ineligible Project Components

Ineligible projects or project components include but are not limited to:

- Grant application preparation.
- Capital construction projects.
- Projects that do not support Municipal Stormwater NPDES Permit implementation.
- Give-a-ways or incentives that do not directly inform the proposed study.
- Journal publications and travel to out-of-state conferences.
- TAP-E review process for proprietary treatment systems. However, using a TAP-E approved proprietary system for a study that meets the interests of multiple parties is an eligible project component.

Project Selection Process and Timeline

There are distinct stages to proposal submittal, evaluation, and project selection process.

Project Selection Stage	Description	Completed
Stage 0	Request for study proposals advertised	Late January 2023
Stage 1	Letter of intent (LOI) from project proponent due to SAM Coordinator	February 28, 2023
	SAM Coordinator provides feedback to all project proponents and each proponent as to whether their project will move to Stage 2	March 31, 2023
Stage 2	Full proposal from project proponent due to SAM Coordinator	May 31, 2023
Stage 3	SAM Staff coordinate for scoring and technical reviews and send back to project proponents	July 31, 2023
Stage 4	SAM Round 4 Project Selection Workshop with presentations by proponents and stakeholder voting in week after the workshop	Late August 2023
Stage 5	SWG approves project list for SAM funding	November 15, 2023

The pace of new projects is dependent upon funding and capacity of SAM staff at Ecology to manage projects. SAM has funding and capacity to start approximately five successful proposals each year. For this RFP, the SWG expects to begin about four to six new projects in winter of 2023.

Stage 1. Letter of Intent (LOI) to Submit a Proposal

Interested parties should fill out the Letter of Intent (LOI) Google Form, [2023 Letter of interest \(LOI\) Application - Google Forms](#), on or before February 28, 2023 for each individual proposal idea. SAM Staff will send the project proponent a confirmation email upon receipt of the LOI. The following information is requested in the LOI form:

- Applicant Contact Information.
- Proposed Study Title.
- Which topic(s) from the SAM Topics Priority List (Appendix A) list do you propose to address?
- Type of project being proposed: survey, literature review, sampling study, other.
- Short Description of the Proposed Study (250 word limit): describe how results will assess effectiveness and advance regional understanding and permittees' implementation of specific stormwater management approaches).
- What type information will be collected or analyzed for this proposed study? (If existing permittees' data are needed, specify the type, and the expected timing of a request for existing information from Permittees.)
- What are the anticipated measurable outcomes and key deliverables that will be produced by the proposed study, and how will they be used by Permittees and the Washington State Department of Ecology?
- Permittees or agencies you are proposing to coordinate with (provide staff names and contact information, if known).

The SAM Staff, with input from the SWG's SAM Study Selection Subgroup (S4), will review each LOI for

eligibility based on criteria for proposals as discussed in the introduction section of this document. Each project proponent will receive feedback on or before March 31, 2023 to inform their decision as to whether to proceed to Stage 2.

Stage 2. Full Proposal

Successful project proponents from Stage 1 will be invited to develop full proposals and submit via email on or before May 31, 2023 to SAM Staff. A proposal for a SAM project should be complete enough for the review committee to understand and address scoring criteria (provided in this document) but not at the level of detail necessary for a complete contract scope of work. Proponents are advised to include the following sections:

- Project title and LOI #,
- Applicant information,
 - Organization, email, phone number, and other additional contacts.
- Project purpose,
 - What specific Stormwater Management Program condition(s) or other permit condition(s) in the NPDES W. WA. Phase I and/or Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit does your study address?
- Project description/scope of work,
 - Describe the study design or main project tasks.
 - For projects collecting new data or analyzing new or existing data, a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) is needed.
 - Specifically describe data requests from Permittees anticipated for the project. The data type, format, and nature of information sought.
 - All SAM projects must include a plan for communicating the study findings, and at a minimum, these deliverables:
 - A presentation to the SWG before the final report is completed; and
 - A draft SAM Fact Sheet which is a two-page summary of the project results/ findings following the template.
- Project team description,
 - SAM projects should plan to organize a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The TAC will review of the study design and key and final deliverables.
 - The TAC may be formed as the first task in the proposal.
 - Project proponents may request that a SWG subgroup be a resource for recruiting project advisory committees.
 - Projects are encouraged to include multiple permittees, and particularly jurisdictions of various sizes, on their TACs.
- Project management strategy,
- Project budget and schedule
 - Specify the expected duration of the project and particular requirements for the study period, if any.
 - Articulate key project deliverables such as survey results, databases, final reports, and communication tools.
 - All SAM contracts are deliverables-based. A distinct cost for each deliverable is required.

The final proposal may not exceed 10 pages total excluding the cover page. Font size must be 12 point. Up to three additional pages are allowed for maps and figures. The proposal scoring criteria are included at the end of this document.

Each proposal must be signed by a person duly authorized to legally bind the project lead. Partnering entities must attach a letter of commitment describing their role in the study. Letters of commitment do not count toward the 10-page proposal limit.

All costs for developing proposals in response to this request are the obligation of the applicant and are not chargeable to SAM. All submitted proposals and accompanying documentation will become property of SAM and will not be returned.

Email Brandi Lubliner at brandi.lubliner@ecy.wa.gov with the attached proposal. If the file is too large, indicate the need to arrange for a safe electronic file transfer.

Stage 3. Scoring and Technical Review of Full Proposals

Stage 3a – Scoring

The SAM Coordinator and members of the SAM Study Selection Subgroup (S4) will review and score full proposals based on the criteria at the end of this document, past performance as a SAM contractor (if applicable), and technical concerns.

Stage 3b – Technical review

If needed, the SAM Coordinator will identify technical reviewers among SWG and/or Ecology to assess the technical efficacy of each proposal that passed Stage 3a. The technical reviewers will produce an unscored summary of their findings for each proposal.

SAM Staff will return scoring and technical review results to each project proponent by July 31, 2023. The SAM Coordinator may request a revised proposal when significant changes are considered necessary by the reviewers to meet eligibility requirements.

Stage 4 – Presentation of final proposal at SAM Round 3 Project Selection Workshop

Project leads that have successfully made it through Stage 3 will give a presentation at the SAM Round 4 Workshop in late August 2023. The venue for the workshop is yet to be decided. Brief presentations (10-15 minute) will follow the template provided by SAM Staff, including Q&A. The purpose of the workshop is to allow permittees and other stakeholders to get a better understanding of each full proposal. Time will be scheduled for interaction between interested parties and the project proponent. The workshop is expected to last about four hours but will be dependent on how many proposals make it to this stage.

Stage 5 – Permittee voting

For the week following the workshop, the NPDES permittees that fund SAM will be asked to vote on the proposals. A representative vote by the permit manager from each jurisdiction will cast their vote in a form sent by the SAM Coordinator. Each permittee will be asked to vote for three projects, ranked in priority order.

Stage 6 – Proposal Awards

The SAM Study Selection Subgroup, local, state, federal, and other caucuses will meet to consider the permittee votes and all the full proposals along with scores to formulate recommendations to submit to the SWG. The PRO-C will meet and form fiscal recommendations for SWG and then SWG will review the ranked project list resulting from the permittee voting prior to making final decisions. The SWG will send a final list of approved projects, including recommended start dates (see introduction section), to the SAM Coordinator and Ecology following its meeting on November 15, 2023.

Full Proposal Scoring

Category	Evaluation Criteria	Maximum Possible Points
Project Purpose 100 Points	Addresses a priority topic (see Appendix A). Clearly defines how the study supports implementation of NPDES municipal stormwater permit programs and/or conditions. Articulates how the study or project will inform future permit requirements or permittees' implementation of current permit requirements.	50
	Directly involves multiple permittees who are engaged because the project will benefit their stormwater management.	15
	Advances regional implementation of stormwater management programs. Demonstrates regional or statewide significance or value (i.e., is transferable).	25
	Will sustain long-term benefits and/or deliverables are durable.	10
Project Description and Scope of Work 100 points	Clear project goals and scope of work. Contains a purpose, objective, design, method, anticipated outcomes. Measurable outcomes are tied to project goals.	25
	Detailed description of project tasks. All tasks necessary to complete the project are clearly identified.	25
	Includes specific deliverables linked to project tasks.	25
	Clear plan for communication of project findings.	25
Project Team and Project Management 50 points	Clear team structure with highly qualified staff. Appropriate levels of effort. Assigns appropriate roles and responsibilities to project staff and partners. Includes estimates of necessary time to be dedicated to the project by all team members.	25
	Multiple permittees are actively engaged in the project development and delivery processes.	15
	Past project performance on similar water quality projects is described and successes and/or lessons learned are documented.	10
Project Budget and Schedule 50 points	The budget is consistent with the level of effort described in the scope of work, with a good rationale for how it was calculated.	25
	The schedule is realistic, demonstrates the project is ready to proceed, and includes major dates and milestones and time for review by TAC or liaison.	15
	A distinct cost is provided for each project deliverable.	10

Appendix A: SWG Approved Round 4 Priority Topics List

MAINTENANCE/MANUAL

1. What is the minimum maintenance frequency for bioretention required to achieve full benefits of the facilities?
2. What is the range of options to address spills on permeable pavement, and what are the most effective and lower cost methods?
3. Informed by a white paper, do a controlled field study to evaluate maintenance thresholds required in the SWMMWW; include a survey of permittees on thresholds being used.
4. Develop or modify a model to predict catch basin accumulation for predicting maintenance frequencies.
5. Research related to adaptations for the Stormwater Management Manuals; e.g., maintenance needs for new GULD/TAPE BMP's, vetting feasibility of new BMP design screening methods (i.e. infiltration testing methods).

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT OF 6PPD-QUINONE

6. Study existing BMPs (gray or green) to verify capture or treatment of 6PPD/q; e.g. solids and dissolved constituents removal.
7. Identify new BMPs that effectively reduce 6PPD/q; e.g. in HPBSM.
8. Fill gaps on physicochemical properties for stormwater characterization, environmental fate and transport of 6PPD/q
9. Study street sweeping and/or line cleaning to get more information about 6PPD/q removal.

BMP EFFECTIVENESS

10. Create a matrix comparing the effectiveness, costs, constructability, and maintainability of BMPs.
11. Quantify the habitat and other benefits and reduced O&M provided by mature vegetation in stormwater ponds. Are we still getting the pollutant removal? What are the tradeoffs?
12. A study that identifies appropriate BMPs for managing polluted pressure washing runoff and how to use them effectively in the variable situations that you find at different sites to better establish regional compliance consistency for both regulators and contractors.

MUNICIPAL STORMWATER PERMIT(S)

13. Fill gaps on benefits of retrofitting, restoration of riparian buffer, property acquisition, removal of impervious surfaces, floodplain reconnection or other actions used to address stormwater runoff not otherwise required in S.5.C (from Structural Stormwater Controls, Science Review and Synthesis Project)
14. Improve future Permit annual report questions for quantifying data for regional learning by analyzing Annual Report data, including analysis of narrative questions.
15. Investigate other NPDES permit thresholds to see if they are appropriate for 6PPD/q; also review reporting data from other permits for information pertinent to treating 6PPD/q.
16. Regional stormwater discharge monitoring study (Appendix 9, WWA Permit) to characterize emerging pollutants in stormwater, e.g. 6-PPD/q, PFAS/PFOS, micro- and nano- plastic contamination in stormwater.

SOURCE CONTROL

17. What are the most effective approaches to source control for bacteria? In what situations do E&O, IDDE, and O&M activities most effectively address bacteria problems.
18. What do we know about the impacts of homeless camps on aquatic resources? Research water quality impacts with the goal of developing relationships with social services.
19. Research and compile examples of innovative stormwater management – e.g. –public private partnerships, watershed planning, use of technology tools, Strategic Asset Management. (White paper)