



Stormwater

Position

The NWSA takes its environmental responsibilities seriously and recognizes stormwater management is key to the health of the Salish Sea. We support funding for stormwater projects at seaports that result in sustainable benefits while aiding economic development. Specifically, the NWSA seeks funding to support new stormwater infrastructure at Terminal 5 in Seattle.



Alliance staff installing downspout stormwater treatment boxes at a marine terminal.

Background

Washington state has the strictest storm water standards in North America. These standards make operating marine cargo terminals expensive. Our facilities already face a price disadvantage compared to the competition. Ocean carriers can save nearly \$400 per container shipping cargo through Canadian ports compared to Puget Sound.

This makes it difficult to pass the increased costs associated with stormwater onto our customers.

As it prepares to launch a \$340 million terminal modernization project at Terminal 5, the NWSA will need to spend \$30 million on new stormwater infrastructure. This in addition to the \$44 million in stormwater infrastructure improvements it has made in both harbors.

How can the state help?

Public-owned stormwater infrastructure means a cleaner Salish Sea, benefitting everyone. The state already helps other local governments meet their stormwater obligations. Ports should be no different.

While the alliance's needs are great, one way the state could help is a cost-sharing partnership to address Terminal 5's \$30 million stormwater infrastructure investment.

The legislature has, in recent years, appropriated toxics funds for stormwater projects. Lawmakers could allocate a portion of this money towards Terminal 5.

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