



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

visit www.douglascountynv.gov online.



What services would the utility fee pay for?

The following services are examples of what could be provided by the program:

- 1) Costs associated with performing engineering analysis of the County's watersheds
- 2) Storm drain cleaning services, which involve operation and maintenance of existing public drainage infrastructure –ditches, culverts, retention ponds;
- 3) Capital drainage improvement program, which involves design and construction of new infrastructure; and
- 4) Stormwater Quality Program, which maintains compliance with Federal and State Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit requirements.
- 5) Annual billing and customer service

How much might my stormwater utility fee be?

Stormwater utility fees are based on the amount of impervious area on your property, which includes surfaces such as rooftops, driveways, patios, sidewalks or any other hard surfaces that do not allow stormwater to infiltrate into the ground. For Single Family Residential Customers fees in the range of \$4.00 to \$6.00 per month are typical. ■

Why do we need to implement a Stormwater Utility Fee now?

The recommendations for a fee based stormwater management program were submitted by the Citizens Flood Task Force to the County in April. Their recommendation was brought forward by the Douglas County Manager, to the Board of Commissioners on August 18, 2016. The Commission approved the contracting of a consultant to develop a stormwater management plan as well as identify a funding source.

Why is the stormwater utility charge a fee and not a tax?

Generally speaking, the purpose of taxes is simply to raise revenue and there is no association or relationship between the source of revenue and the purpose to which it is applied. User fees on the other hand, are a fee for services provided, and have been commonly used to fund all or part of public works programs such as water, sewer, solid waste and stormwater.

Do other Counties or Cities have a Stormwater Fee?

Yes, currently in Nevada there are two – Carson City and Sparks. Nationwide, there are approximately 2,500.

What does the stormwater utility fee mean to the community and the citizens of Douglas County?

The stormwater fee should generate the revenue needed to meet the Federally mandated programs; to increase the ability of the County to maintain and repair the stormwater drainage systems; to provide funding for FEMA reviews and drainage basin engineering analysis; and to provide for small capital programs.

How would I be billed for the Stormwater Utility Fee?

The current thought is to bill customers annually through their property tax bill. This method would be less costly than monthly billings.

#dcstormwater