



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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February 18, 2016

The Honorable Kelli Linville, Mayor
City of Bellingham
210 Lottie Street
Bellingham, WA 98225

Re: Final Ecology Approval of City of Bellingham Shoreline Master Program Limited Amendment

Dear Mayor Linville:

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the city of Bellingham (City) for its efforts in developing the proposed amendments to the Shoreline Master Program (SMP). It is obvious that a significant effort was invested by your staff, the Port of Bellingham and engaged community. The amendments make changes to the City's SMP in order to make it consistent with the City's recently adopted Waterfront District Master Plan.

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) finds the City's SMP amendments are consistent with the policy and procedural requirements of the Shoreline Management Act of 1971 and the Shoreline Master Program Guidelines. However, Ecology has worked extensively with City staff to prepare recommended changes to provide further clarity, based on questions that arose during the local and state public comment periods. These recommendations are included in Attachment B – Ecology Recommended Changes. Ecology's findings and conclusions related to the City's proposed SMP amendment are contained in Attachment A.

Pursuant to RCW 90.58.090(2)(e), at this point, the City may:

- Agree to the proposed recommended changes, or
- Submit an alternative proposal. Ecology will then review each alternative submitted for consistency with the purpose and intent of the changes originally submitted by Ecology and with the Shoreline Management Act (SMA).

Pursuant to RCW 90.58.090(2)(e), the City must notify Ecology if the recommended changes are approved or denied. Please provide your written response within 30 days to the Director's Office at the following address:



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WA State Department of Ecology
Attention: Director's Office
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-6700

Final Ecology approval will occur after the City responds to Ecology communicating the City's decision on the recommended changes. Ecology's final approval will be in the form of a letter, and will be sent upon receipt of the City's written notification that the recommended changes are acceptable to the City, or after the city and Ecology have reached agreement on alternative changes.

The SMP will be effective fourteen days from the date of Ecology's final action. This fourteen-day period was established by legislative action in 2011 and is intended to provide lead time for the City to prepare to implement the new SMP.

Ecology is required to publish a newspaper notice that the City's SMP has received final approval. The publication of this notice, in the form of a legal ad, will begin a 60-day appeal period. Ecology will provide a copy of the legal ad to the City for its records.

Thank you again for your efforts. We look forward to receiving your written response and concluding this SMP amendment in the near future. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the Ecology's recommended changes, please contact our regional planner, Chad Yunge at Chad.Yunge@ecy.wa.gov or (360) 715-5206.

Sincerely,



Maia D. Bellon
Director

Enclosures

By Certified Mail [7012 1010 0003 3028 4284]

cc: Steve Sundin, City of Bellingham
Chad Yunge, Ecology

Mayor,
We are
making great
progress on your
SMP! I hope you
are well!!
-Maia