August 2, 2012

The Honorable Kenneth G. Hearing, Mayor
City of North Bend
211 Main Avenue North
North Bend, WA 98045

RE: City of North Bend Comprehensive Shoreline Master Program Update – Conditional Approval, Resolution No. 1578

Dear Mayor Hearing:

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the city of North Bend (City) for its efforts in developing the proposed comprehensive Shoreline Master Program (SMP) update. It is obvious that significant effort was invested in this update by your staff and engaged community. The SMP will provide a framework to guide development and habitat protection along the City’s river and wetland shorelines.

As we have already discussed with your staff, the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) has identified specific changes necessary to make the proposal approvable. The required changes are detailed in Attachment B. Ecology’s findings and conclusions related to the City’s proposed SMP update are contained in Attachment A.

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

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

Final Ecology approval will occur when the City and Ecology agree on language that meets statutory and guideline requirements.

Please provide your written response within 30 days to the Director’s Office at the following address:

WA State Department of Ecology
Attention: Director’s Office
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-6700
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Ecology appreciates the dedicated work that you, the city council, planning commission, and the Community and Economic Development Department staff, particularly Jamie Burrell and Gina Estep, have put into the SMP update.

Thank you again for your efforts. We look forward to concluding the SMP update process in the near future. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the changes identified by Ecology, please contact our Regional Planner, David Pater, at David.Pater@ecy.wa.gov or (425) 649-4253.

Sincerely,

Ted Sturdevant
Director

Enclosures (2)

By Certified Mail [7009 0820 0001 9056 1271]

cc: Jamie Burrel, City of North Bend
    Gina Estep, City of North Bend
    David Pater, Ecology
    Peter Skowlund, Ecology
    Geoff Tallert, Ecology