September 20, 2013

The Honorable Chuck Hunter  
City of Gig Harbor  
3510 Grandview Street  
Gig Harbor, WA 98335

Re: City of Gig Harbor Comprehensive Shoreline Master Program Update — Conditional Approval, Resolution Number 921

Dear Mayor Hunter:

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the city of Gig Harbor (City) for its efforts in developing the proposed comprehensive Shoreline Master Program (SMP) update. I recognize this update represents a significant amount of effort by your staff and the community as a whole. The SMP will provide a framework to guide development and habitat restoration in the City’s shoreline along the marine waters of Gig Harbor Bay, the Tacoma Narrows, and Henderson Bay.

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. These changes are detailed in Attachment B. Recommended changes are proposed in Attachment C. 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

Ecology appreciates the dedicated work that you, the City Council, Planning staff (particularly Peter Katich, Jennifer Kester and Tom Dolan), the Planning Commission, and the community have put into the Shoreline Master Program 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, Kim Van Zwalenburg, at Kim.Vanzwalenburg@ecy.wa.gov/ (360) 407-6520.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Maia D. Bellon
Director

Enclosures (6)

By Certified Mail [7012 1010 0003 3028 3423]

cc: Peter Katich, City of Gig Harbor
Jennifer Kester, City of Gig Harbor
Paula Ehlers, Ecology
Peter Skowlund, Ecology
Kim Van Zwalenburg, Ecology