April 8, 2013

The Honorable James T. Irish
City of La Center
214 East Fourth Street
La Center, WA  98629

RE:  City of La Center Comprehensive Shoreline Master Program Update – Conditional Approval, Resolution Number 2012-357

Dear Mayor Irish:

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the City of La Center (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. The SMP will provide a framework to guide development and habitat restoration along the City’s shorelines. In addition, I want to commend you for your close coordination with Clark County and the other municipalities to ensure your SMP contains consistent goals and policies along shared waterbodies and across jurisdictional boundaries.

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. The findings and conclusions that support Ecology’s decision are contained in Attachment A.

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

- Agree to the proposed changes (required and/or recommended 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 developed 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 the City Council, City staff (Dale Miller), the Planning Commission and the community, including the Clark County Coalition Advisory Committees, have put into the Shoreline Master Program update.

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 Zwahlenburg, at Kim.Vanzwalenburg@ecy.wa.gov or (360) 407-6520.

Sincerely,

Maia D. Bellon  
Director

Enclosures (7)

By certified mail [7012 1010 0003 3028 3133]

cc: Dale Miller, City of La Center  
    Paula Ehlers, Ecology  
    Peter Skowlund, Ecology  
    Kim Van Zwahlenburg, Ecology