December 5, 2013

The Honorable Karen Skoog
The Honorable Mike Manus
The Honorable Stephen Kiss
Commissioners, Pend Oreille County
PO Box 5025
Newport, WA 99256-5025

Re: Final Ecology Approval of the Pend Oreille County Comprehensive Shoreline Master Program Comprehensive Update

Dear Commissioners:

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) is approving the Pend Oreille County (County) Shoreline Master Program (SMP) comprehensive update as submitted by the County on March 7, 2013.

I want to specifically thank you for the extra work and time the Board of County Commissioners took in reviewing public comments and providing us ideas for additional actions needed to help Pend Oreille County manage its shorelines in partnership with its citizens. Therefore, along with my approval action today, I am directing my staff to work with you and your fine staff in developing a shoreline stewardship program and crafting any future amendments you decide are necessary to improve the newly adopted Shoreline Master Program (SMP).

We have reviewed and carefully considered the details found in Resolution 2013-31, expressing an interest in additional elements that you feel should be included, and a desire to modify the locally adopted SMP. Please see the attached Findings and Conclusions (Attachment A) for detailed analysis of these resolutions.

Ecology finds the County’s program to be consistent with the policy and procedural requirements of the Shoreline Management Act (RCW 90.58) and its implementing rules. Ecology, therefore, approves the County’s comprehensive SMP update as submitted under Pend Oreille County Ordinance No. 2012-3 on October 30, 2012. This is Ecology’s final action on the SMP submitted to us by Pend Oreille County on March 7, 2013, and there will be no further modifications to the SMP. The enclosed Attachment A, Findings and Conclusions document, provides more information about our decision. Attachment B is a summary of comments submitted during the state’s review and Ecology’s responses.
The SMP is effective on December 19, 2013, 14 days from the date of this letter. This time period was established by the state legislature and is intended to provide lead time for the County to prepare to implement the new SMP.

Ecology is required to publish a newspaper notice that the County’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. Per RCW 90.58.190(2) and RCW 36.70A.290, an interested party may file an appeal with the Growth Management Hearings Board within 60 days of the publication date of Ecology’s written notice of final action. We anticipate publication in the Newport Miner on December 18, 2013. We will provide a copy of the legal ad to the County for its records.

To review Ecology’s documents related to Pend Oreille County comprehensive SMP update, please visit Ecology’s website at:
http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/shorelines/smp/mycomments/PendOreille.html

In closing, I would like to note the strong work that your Planning Director Mike Lithgow and staff, your consultant Greg Dorn, and the County Planning Commission did in working through the many details needed to complete this update.

If you have any questions, please contact our regional Shorelines and Environmental Assistance (SEA) Program Section Manager, Sara Hunt at Sara.Hunt@ecy.wa.gov / (509) 329-3561.

Sincerely,

Maia D. Bellon
Director

Enclosures

By Certified Mail [7012 1010 0003 3028 2761]

cc: Mike Lithgow, Pend Oreille County
Sara Hunt, Ecology
Grant Pfeifer, Ecology
Betty Renkor, Ecology
Jaime Short, Ecology
Jeremy Sikes, Ecology