January 8, 2013

Mr. Todd Mielke, Chair
Board of County Commissioners
Spokane County
1116 Broadway Avenue
Spokane, WA 99260-0100

RE: Final Ecology Approval of Spokane County Shoreline Master Program Comprehensive Update

Dear Commissioner Mielke:

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) is pleased to announce final approval of the Spokane County’s (County) Shoreline Master Program (SMP) update. Congratulations to you, your staff, and the Spokane community for completing this comprehensive update. We know this has been a long and challenging process. We appreciate your commitment to comprehensive land use planning for Washington’s unique and valuable shorelines.

As you know, the following correspondence regarding the SMP update took place between Ecology and the County:

- August 4, 2009 – Ecology accepted the City’s locally adopted SMP update as complete for purposes of review (adopted as Resolution No. 9-0436).

- September 21, 2012 – Ecology conditionally approved the County’s comprehensive SMP update with specific required changes.

- December 11, 2012 – The County passed Resolution No. 12-1039 agreeing to all of Ecology’s required changes with alternative language which modifies the required changes.

- December 28, 2012 – The County submitted a letter transmitting the Resolution No. 12-1039, and accepting Ecology’s required changes with alternative language.

Upon review, Ecology finds the County’s alternative language to be consistent with the purpose and intent of the changes originally required by Ecology. The proposed changes are also consistent with the policy of RCW 90.58.020 and applicable rules.
Ecology therefore approves the County’s comprehensive SMP update, which includes the agreed to required changes including the alternative language shown on the addendum to Attachment B1. This action represents Ecology’s final decision and there shall be no further modifications to the County’s proposal.

The effective date of the County’s comprehensive SMP update is fourteen days from the date of this letter, Ecology’s final approval letter. This fourteen-day period was established by legislative action in 2011 and is intended to provide lead time for the County to prepare to implement the new SMP.

Ecology is required to promptly publish notice that the County’s SMP has received final approval. The notice, in the form of a legal ad, will begin a 60-day appeal period. We will provide a copy of the legal ad to the County for its records.

Finally, please integrate the changes referenced in this correspondence into the County’s SMP proposal. When this is complete, please forward two clean hard copies and one digital copy of the complete approved SMP with appropriate maps and appendices to Ecology.

Thank you again for your significant work and leadership in completing this SMP update. If you have any questions, please contact our regional section manager, Sara Hunt, at Sara.Hunt@ecy.wa.gov/(509) 329-3561.

Sincerely,

Ted Sturdevant
Director

Enclosures (2)

By Certified Mail [7012 1010 0003 3028 2648]

cc: John Pederson, Spokane County
    Sara Hunt, Ecology
    Peter Skowlunc, Ecology