August 19, 2013

The Honorable Marilyn Strickland
City of Tacoma
747 Market Street, Room 1200
Tacoma, WA 98402-3766

Re: City of Tacoma Comprehensive Shoreline Master Program Update – Conditional Approval, Ordinance Number 28034

Dear Mayor Strickland:

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the city of Tacoma (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 Commencement Bay and the Tacoma Narrows, portions of the Puyallup River and Hylebos Creek and Wapato Lake.

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 and Development Services staff (particularly Peter Huffman and Stephen Atkinson), 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 or (360) 407-6520.

Sincerely,

Maia D. Bellon  
Director  

Enclosures  

By Certified Mail [7012 1010 0003 3028 3379]  

cc: Stephen Atkinson, City of Tacoma  
    Peter Huffman, City of Tacoma  
    Paula Ehlers, Ecology  
    Peter Skowlund, Ecology  
    Kim Van Zwalenburg, Ecology