March 20, 2015

Maia D. Bellon, Director
Washington State Department of Ecology
Attention: Director’s Office
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-6700

Subject: City of University Place Comprehensive Shoreline Master Program Update – Response to Ecology Conditional Approval

Dear Ms. Bellon:

On March 16, 2015, the City of University Place City Council took action to adopt Ordinance No. 652, thereby agreeing to and accepting all of the Ecology-required changes per Attachment B to your letter dated January 7, 2015. The City Council agreed to all of the Ecology-recommended changes per Attachment C to your January 7, 2015 letter.

The City has also identified a need to submit an alternative proposal for review and consideration by Ecology. In addition to adopting Ecology’s required and recommended changes, this alternative proposal would amend the City’s definition of fish and wildlife habitat areas to match the amended definition enacted by the Washington State Legislature in 2012. This alternative proposal is being prompted by the City’s update of its comprehensive plan and development regulations to comply with Growth Management Act 2015 Periodic Update requirements. Under the GMA, University Place must amend its definition to read as follows:

UPMC 17.10.005
“Fish and wildlife habitat areas” means:

A. Areas which have a primary association with federally listed endangered, threatened or candidate species, and which, if altered, may reduce the likelihood that the species will maintain and reproduce over the long term, or

B. Areas that have been documented by WDF&W as habitat for state listed endangered or threatened species, or

C. Creeks listed in UPMC 17.25.040.

“Fish and wildlife habitat areas” does not include such artificial features or constructs as irrigation delivery systems, irrigation infrastructure, irrigation canals, or drainage ditches that lie within the boundaries of and are maintained by a port district or an irrigation district or company.
University Place intends to adopt this critical areas amendment as part of its GMA Periodic Update during summer 2015. The City requests Ecology acceptance of this *alternative proposal* as being consistent with the purpose and intent of the changes originally developed by Ecology and with the Shoreline Management Act.

The City of University Place would appreciate Ecology’s support of its *alternative proposal*. We look forward to receiving Ecology’s final letter of approval.

Sincerely,

David Swindale, AICP  
Planning and Development Services Director

Cc: Denise McCluskey, University Place Mayor  
Steve Sugg, University Place City Manager  
Chrissy Bailey, Department of Ecology  
Jeff Boers, University Place Planning and Development Services