July 24, 2012

The Honorable Timothy Leavitt, Mayor  
City of Vancouver  
415 West Sixth Street  
Vancouver, WA 98668

RE: City of Vancouver Comprehensive Shoreline Master Program Update – Conditional Approval, Ordinance No. M-3995

Dear Mayor Leavitt:

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the city of Vancouver (City) for its efforts in developing the proposed comprehensive Shoreline Master Program (SMP) update. It is obvious that a significant effort was invested in this update by your staff and engaged community. 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. The required 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 commission, Community and Economic Development Department staff (particularly Marian Lahav and Jon Wagner), and the Clark County Coalition Advisory Committees have put into the SMP update. I particularly want to acknowledge the lead role taken by the City to manage the shoreline grant on behalf of all Clark County jurisdictions. I know this entailed additional work and dedication to ensure deliverables were produced on time and spending was appropriately tracked and documented.

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/(360) 407-6520.

Sincerely,

Ted Sturdevant
Director

Enclosures (3)

By Certified Mail [7009 0820 0001 9056 1264]

cc: Chad Eiken, Community & Economic Development Director
Marian Lahav, Community & Economic Development
Sandra Towne, Planning Manager
Paula Ehlers, Ecology
Peter Skowlund, Ecology
Kim Van Zwalenburg, Ecology