



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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July 26, 2010

The Honorable Mary Verner, Mayor
City of Spokane
808 West Spokane Falls Boulevard
Spokane, WA 99201

**Re: Final Approval of Changes to the City of Spokane Shoreline Master Program
Comprehensive Update**

Dear Mayor Verner:

By this letter, the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) gives final approval to the City of Spokane Shoreline Master Program (SMP). The final approved document includes Ecology's acceptance of the alternative language proposed by the city and itemized as city of Spokane responses found in attachment B and C, to your letter dated July 14, 2010.

Chronology of correspondence on final SMP

As you know, the following correspondence regarding the shoreline master program amendment took place between Ecology and the city of Spokane (City):

- On February 1, 2010 - Ecology approved the city of Spokane Shoreline Master Program (SSMP) Comprehensive update contingent on City acceptance of specific required changes.
- On July 14, 2010 – The City sent a letter to Ecology agreeing to all of Ecology's documented changes to the SMP, except for proposing alternative language referenced in Attachments B and C.

Ecology finds the proposed alternative language found in Attachments B and C consistent with the purpose and intent of the changes originally proposed by Ecology, Shoreline Management Act (SMA) policy and the applicable guidelines. We appreciate your efforts to work closely with us in developing the alternative language. I congratulate the city of Spokane for its leadership and initiative in achieving an excellent SMP that provides stewardship of the Spokane River and Latah Creek shorelines. This SMP is the first among the five largest cities in Washington to complete its update, is more than three years ahead of the statutory deadline, includes a model public involvement process, and takes an innovative approach to managing visual access to the river. In conclusion, **Ecology gives final approval of the City of Spokane SMP** including the alternative language proposed by the City. There will be no further modifications required to the SMP under RCW 90.58.090(2).



Per WAC 173-26-120(7)(b)(ii), **the effective date of the City of Spokane's SMP is the date of this letter.**

Final actions required from the City

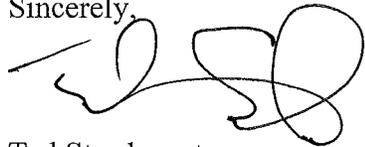
1. Publish a notice that Ecology has taken final action. This notice is required by RCW 36.70A.290.
2. Provide Ecology with two clean hard copies with changes integrated, and final map sets. Also provide one digital copy including maps.

Appeal

An interested party may file an appeal with the Growth Management Hearings Board. RCW 90.58.190(2)(a) as amended in 2010 appears to identify two different points to initiate the 60-day appeal period: 1.) the date of this letter, and 2.) The date that notice of final action is published under RCW 36.70A.290. Any disputes related to the appeal timeframe will be addressed by the board as part of the appeal.

Congratulations and thank you again for your efforts. If you have any questions, please contact our regional Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program Section Manager, Sara Hunt, at sara.hunt@ecy.wa.gov/ (509) 329-3561.

Sincerely,



Ted Sturdevant
Director

Enclosures

By certified mail [7003 1010 0005 0569 1383]

cc: Sara Hunt, Ecology Eastern Regional Office
Grant Pfeifer, Eastern Regional Director
Jaime Short, Shoreline Planner, Eastern Regional Office
Peter Skowlund, Ecology Headquarters
Gordon White, Ecology HQ SEA Program Director
Jo Anne Wright, Director, City of Spokane Planning Services Department
Interested Parties