



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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December 18, 2009

The Honorable Jesse Farias  
City of Wapato  
205 East Third Street  
Wapato, WA 98951

**Re: Conditional approval of the Yakima County Regional SMP applicable to the City of Wapato**

Dear Mayor Farias:

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the City of Wapato (City) for your efforts in developing the proposed comprehensive update of the Yakima County (County) Regional Shoreline Master Program (SMP). It is consistent not only with the needs of the County and participating jurisdictions\* but also with the policy and procedural requirements of the Shoreline Management Act and the Shoreline Master Program Guidelines. Your current and former staff did an outstanding job working with a broad diversity of stakeholders to address their concerns and suggestions in forging this historic document.

As we have already discussed with your staff, the Department of Ecology (Ecology) approves the proposed amendment, **subject to the City's agreement to the required changes detailed in Attachment B**. The findings and conclusions that support Ecology's decision are enclosed in Attachment A. In addition, Ecology has worked with the City to identify **recommended changes enclosed in Attachment C**, which will provide for easier and clearer administration of the regional SMP. If the City agrees with our recommended changes, a written confirmation is necessary.

Because changes to the submittal are required, the amendment will not become effective until Ecology receives written notice from the City agreeing to the changes<sup>1</sup>. The effective date of the amendment will be the date in which Ecology receives written notice of your agreement.

As a reminder, shoreline procedural rules<sup>2</sup> require the City to publish a notice that Ecology has taken final action on this amendment. Therefore, once Ecology acknowledges receipt of your written agreement, the City should publish a public notice. This will initiate an

<sup>1</sup> WAC 173-26-120(7)(b)(i)

<sup>2</sup> WAC 173-26-120(9)

\* Grandview, Granger, Mabton, Naches, Selah, Toppenish, Union Gap, and Zillah



The Honorable Jesse Farias  
December 18, 2009  
Page 2

appeal period that lasts 60 days for jurisdictions planning under the Growth Management Act. Finally, the City must forward Ecology two hard copies and one digital copy of the final approved SMP with the agreed to changes included.

**To summarize, if the City agrees with the required and recommended changes, you must:**

1. Notify Ecology in writing.
2. Wait to hear from Ecology that we received your notice of agreement.
3. Publish a notice that Ecology has taken final action. This notice will begin a 60-day appeal period.
4. Forward two hard copies and one digital copy of the final approved SMP to Ecology.

Thank you again for your efforts. If you have any questions, please contact our regional shorelands specialist, Doug Pineo at [Doug.Pineo@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Doug.Pineo@ecy.wa.gov)/ 509-329-3416.

Sincerely,



Ted Sturdevant, Director

Enclosures

**By Certified Mail**

cc: Jeff Lewis, Central Regional Section Manager, SEA Program  
Sue Pearson, City of Wapato  
Doug Pineo, Eastern Regional Office  
Page Scott, YVCOG  
Peter Skowlund, Ecology SEA Program  
Tom Tebb, Central Regional Director  
Gordon White, Ecology SEA Program Director  
Interested Parties