



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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December 18, 2009

Commissioner Mike Leita  
Yakima County  
128 North Second Street  
Yakima, WA 98901

**Re: Yakima County Regional Shoreline Master Program Comprehensive SMP Update – Conditional Approval.**

Dear Commissioner Leita:

I would like to take this opportunity to commend Yakima County (County) for your efforts in developing the proposed comprehensive update of the Yakima County Regional Shoreline Master Program. 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 County'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 County to identify **recommended changes enclosed in Attachment C**, that will provide for easier and clearer administration of the regional SMP. If the County 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 County agreeing to the changes<sup>1</sup>. The effective date of the amendment will be the date on 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

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<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, Wapato, and Zillah



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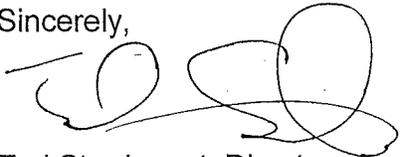
of your written agreement, the County should publish a public notice. This will initiate an appeal period that lasts 60 days for jurisdictions planning under the Growth Management Act. Finally, each participating jurisdiction must forward Ecology two hard copies and one digital copy of the final approved SMP with the agreed to changes included.

**To summarize, if the County 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: Steven Erickson, Yakima County Public Services Department  
Jeff Lewis, Central Regional Section Manager, SEA Program  
Doug Pineo, Eastern Regional Office  
Peter Skowlund, Ecology SEA Program  
Tom Tebb, Central Regional Director  
Gordon White, Ecology SEA Program Director  
Interested Parties