



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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January 5, 2011

Jim Simmonds, Stormwater Work Group Chair
King County Department of Natural Resources, Water and Land Resources Division
King Street Center, Mail Stop KSC-NR-0600
201 South Jackson Street, Room 600
Seattle, WA 98104-3855

RE: Puget Sound Stormwater Monitoring Work Group

Dear Jim:

I am writing to express my deep appreciation for your leadership of, and contributions to, the success of the Puget Sound Stormwater Monitoring Work Group (workgroup). The workgroup was formed in October 2008, and you have served as its Chair since February 2009. In July and October, the workgroup delivered a total of 88 specific recommendations to the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) and the Puget Sound Partnership for framing and implementing a regional stormwater monitoring program. On December 15, 2010, you and your colleagues, representing the caucuses of the workgroup, briefed me on your recommendations, process and next steps.

All but two of the workgroup's recommendations are consensus agreements of a wide array of stakeholders, including representatives of state and federal agencies, environmental groups, business organizations and local governments in Puget Sound. These recommendations focus on creating a means for pooling resources to efficiently implement a well-defined regional stormwater monitoring program. Stormwater monitoring has been a particularly contentious and complicated endeavor. Only two years ago, little potential for widespread agreement existed as to what to monitor, when, where and how often, or how to pay for the monitoring. The workgroup's recommendations mark a significant milestone for monitoring in Puget Sound and will be tremendously helpful to Ecology as we write the next round of stormwater permits for municipalities in Puget Sound.

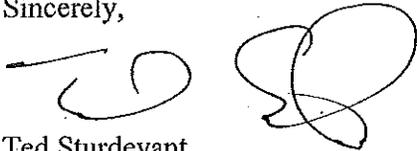
The workgroup might not have succeeded in making these recommendations without the active engagement and behind-the-scenes efforts of its Chair. You led two very productive venues for making progress on a contentious issue. In addition to chairing the workgroup, you convened a local government stormwater caucus, inviting participation of all of the cities, towns and counties covered by municipal stormwater permits to help shape the workgroup's recommendations to Ecology for monitoring requirements in the next permit term. I deeply appreciate your efforts and success in creating, leading, and informing the local government stormwater caucus.



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I also want to thank King County for making their time available and supporting your contributions to the workgroup's efforts. I hope that you will continue to play a substantial role in furthering the success of the workgroup. Ecology looks forward to continuing to work collaboratively with the workgroup to establish and implement the Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program that the workgroup has recommended.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ted Sturdevant', written over a horizontal line.

Ted Sturdevant
Director

cc: Karen Dinicola, Ecology - Stormwater Work Group Project Manager
Mark Isaacson, Director, King County DNR Water and Land Resources Division
Joanna Richey, Deputy Director, King County DNR Water and Land Resources Division
Randy Shuman, Supervisor, King County DNR Water and Land Resources Division

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bcc: Josh Baldi
Kelly Susewind