

May 31, 2005

Mr. Dan Mathias
Everett Public Works
City of Everett
3200 Cedar Street
Everett, WA 98201

Dear Mr. Mathias:

Thank you for your public comment letter received on December 17, 2004, regarding Washington State's Water Quality Assessment for 2002/2004. The department received over 45 comment letters during this last review process and is appreciative of the time you took to review and comment on this Assessment. We realize that there is an extensive amount of information in the Water Quality Assessment. The scrutiny given by you and other public reviewers has resulted in many changes and corrections that improved the accurateness of the final submittal to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The Water Quality Assessment is being submitted to EPA as an "integrated report" to meet the Clean Water Act requirements of sections 305(b) and 303(d). EPA will only take approval action on Category 5 of the Assessment, which represents the state's 303(d) list. The Water Quality Assessment can be viewed at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/303d/index.html>.

We appreciate your comments from the last public review and believe your information helped improve the overall quality of the Water Quality Assessment.

I have consulted with the Northwest Regional Office on your concerns regarding Swamp Creek listing for fecal coliform, and whether the source can be fully attributed to natural conditions. Ecology does not expect the Swamp Creek TMDL to distinguish between pollution sources beyond the levels used for the North Creek and Little Bear Creek TMDLs. We will continue to encourage the use of both traditional and innovative water quality monitoring techniques by watershed stakeholders during the implementation phase of the TMDL.

Ecology is aware that identifying pollution sources is an important element of the water cleanup process and can be resource intensive. We consider these facts in the development of cleanup activities and schedules that are outlined in the TMDL and the accompanying Action Plans. I encourage you to work closely with TMDL Lead Ralph Svrjcek during the development of the Swamp Creek TMDL. Ecology's goal is to create a plan that properly balances the need to

Mr. Dan Mathias

Page 2

May 31, 2005

return local waters to good health with the resources available at the local level. I should also note with regard to your comments on funding, decisions made for the 303(d) listing process are independent of whether funding is available or not.

Thank you again for taking the time to provide comments to Ecology. If you have questions regarding the above responses, or would like further clarification, please feel free to call me at 360-407-6414.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Braley".

Susan Braley
Unit Supervisor
Watershed Management Section

cc: Ralph Svrjcek, Water Quality, NWRO