

May 31, 2005

Mr. John Kiess
Water Quality Program
Kitsap County Health District
345 6th Street
Bremerton, WA 98337

Dear Mr. Kiess:

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>.

Responses to your specific comments, noted below, correspond to the order provided in your letter.

Bear Creek Listings (10375 & 10376)

These listings are in Category 4A as part of Union River TMDL that was approved August 2, 2002.

Purdy Creek listings (10387 & 10389)

The department did not receive data on these creeks to verify that standards are being met. These listings are now on Category 4B. Ecology suggests that during the next listing process, Kitsap County Health District should provide data showing that these are now meeting standards, and they will be moved to Category 1.

Category 5 Listings

Kitsap County Health District is requesting that several listings be moved to other categories because of the belief that the exceedance is naturally occurring. We appreciate the additional

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information you provided for these listings. We are moving the listings you provided information on to Category 1 or Category 2 based on your justification provided.

Dogfish Creek listings (7636, 7637, and 7639) were moved to Category 4B as noted. Listing 7635 was inactivated because it was rolled into #38540, Category 4B.

Liberty Bay (23723) was moved to Category 2 with a note in remarks indicating the LBF data appears to be in error.

Liberty Bay fecal coliform listings (23708 and 23707). The locations for these listings were reviewed to determine if the site was representative of the water body or whether they would be considered in the outfall locations. As a result, listing #23707 has been placed in Category 2 because some of the locations within this area were at the outfall. Listing #23708 remains on Category 5 as the site is not located within an outfall.

The Unnamed Creek (38927) has been changed to Sacco Creek per your comment.

The unnamed Creek (38919) has been changed to Kleabal Creek.

Wilson Creek (38934) was changed to Karcher Creek as noted.

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