



PACIFIC CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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March 7, 2012

Kathy Hamel
Washington State Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Dear Ms. Hamel,

On behalf of the Pacific Conservation District Board of Supervisors, I would like to express our support for adding imazamox to the state's general NPDES permit for the control of *Zostera japonica*, an invasive weed within Willapa Bay.

Imazamox will allow the control of invasive *Zostera japonica*. Studies on imazamox have found that imazamox is very benign and much less toxic than imazapyr, the aquatic labeled chemical that is used to control *Spartina alterniflora* in Willapa Bay. The massive invasion of *Zostera japonica* is completely altering the tidelands in Willapa Bay. We need the ability to protect and restore tideland habitat provided by shellfish beds. The control of *Zostera japonica* on various properties will allow native shore birds to utilize the tidelands and have a clear place to feed, forage, and rest. Native and natural biota will return for birds and other species that they feed upon. The heavy layer of muck and sedimentation that is caused from *Zostera japonica* will begin to disappear and the beds and tidelands will be restored back to natural function so shorebirds and other aquatic life can naturally utilize the habitat again.

I would like to take this time to thank you for your time and consideration. We feel that the addition of imazamox to the State's general NPDES permit for the control of *Zostera japonica* will benefit and restore the natural ecosystem and help to regain the social and economic foundation in Willapa Bay. Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Mark Ashley, Chairman
Pacific Conservation District