



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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April 17, 2008

Honorable Members  
Puget Sound Monitoring Consortium  
Governance and Technical Advisory Committees  
(through Karen Dinicola, Project Manager)

**RE: PS Monitoring Consortium – NPDES Permits**

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) very much appreciates your work on the Puget Sound Monitoring Consortium (Consortium). Please know that Ecology shares your interest in ensuring that the Consortium will be of value to all parties. In particular, we acknowledge that local governments are concerned about the prospect of new monitoring requirements that could be included in future National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits.

The Consortium was convened in part to address local governments' requests that Ecology and other agencies look for ways to reduce duplication of efforts and improve the environmental information that is produced as a result of required monitoring activities. The Puget Sound Partnership and the Washington Forum on Monitoring support the Consortium's efforts to establish a coordinated monitoring and assessment program for Puget Sound. I believe that a truly integrated program will address local frustrations and deliver efficient and effective monitoring for the Sound.

Ecology expects the coordinated monitoring and assessment program's future work to inform our policy and management decisions. As you know, Ecology is responsible for administering the Clean Water Act in Washington State. Ecology adopts water quality standards, writes and issues NPDES permits, develops the state nonpoint source pollution control plan, assesses the condition of state waters, and develops water cleanup plans for waters not attaining standards.



While specific permit conditions imposing monitoring requirements must comply with state and federal law, it is our objective that monitoring requirements be as meaningful, effective, and efficient possible. I understand that the Consortium will soon be launching several pilot projects, including a process to design a scientific study, that evaluate the effectiveness of stormwater management practices, including monitoring requirements. These pilot projects will contribute to our understanding of the ecosystem, and could be incorporated into future NPDES stormwater permit monitoring requirements. In order to meaningfully provide input to the next cycle of the municipal stormwater permits, Ecology needs to have a tangible study design in hand by the summer of 2010, at the latest. With your help, we can accomplish that objective.

Ecology is committed to the Consortium process and will continue to work to achieve the goals of a coordinated monitoring and assessment program. We believe that a successful program can be achieved by bringing the best thinking of local governments and other Consortium members to the table. If you have questions about how to move forward with discussions about future permit requirements, please contact Bill Moore of our Water Quality Program at [bmoo461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:bmoo461@ecy.wa.gov) / (360) 407-6444.

Sincerely,



Jay J. Manning,  
Director

cc: Dave Williams, Association of Washington Cities  
Eric Johnson, Washington Association of Counties  
Eric Johnson, Washington Public Ports Association  
Grant Nelson, Association of Washington Business  
Bill Moore, Water Quality Program - ECY  
Karen Dinicola, Water Quality Program - ECY