

July 1, 2010

David Dicks, Director
Puget Sound Partnership
P.O. Box 40900
Olympia, WA 98504-4900

Ted Sturdevant, Director
Washington Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Dear David and Ted,

The Puget Sound Stormwater Work Group (SWG) has developed a stormwater monitoring and assessment strategy for the broader community of Puget Sound. On behalf of the members of the SWG I am pleased to deliver the *2010 Stormwater Monitoring and Assessment Strategy for the Puget Sound Region* (the strategy). We have been working since October 2008 to achieve this milestone at the request of the Puget Sound Partnership (Partnership) and the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology).

The strategy includes 55 Key Recommendations for establishing the Stormwater Assessment and Monitoring Program for Puget Sound (SWAMPPS). These Key Recommendations have been agreed to by consensus of the broad group of stakeholders that have participated in our meetings during the past six months. SWAMPPS is envisioned to be a founding component of the larger regional ecosystem monitoring program for Puget Sound. We believe that implementing SWAMPPS is critical to the success of the *Puget Sound Action Agenda*.

This is the third version of the strategy the SWG has released. A draft scientific framework released in November 2009 was peer-reviewed by five nationally recognized experts in stormwater and monitoring and the SWG received more than 800 stakeholder comments. The SWG addressed these comments in a revised draft scientific framework and an implementation plan that was released in April 2010 for a second public comment period.

This document represents a major milestone we have reached. However, the SWG has more work to do. More detail is needed to adopt and implement the proposed strategy. Due to time constraints, we have not addressed all of the comments received on the April 2010 version of the strategy. Issues that are yet to be addressed are highlighted in the final strategy. The SWG is committed to continuing to work on key issues over the next four months and to deliver further recommendations at the end of October 2010 to address:

- Ecology's specific requests for information to inform the 2012-2017 NPDES Phase I and Phase II municipal stormwater permits. In particular we plan to:
 - Develop an administrative entity to facilitate cost-sharing to implement regional monitoring and assessment (a "pay-in option").
 - Provide further detail on costs and experimental designs and approaches for the proposed categories of monitoring and assessment activities.
- The Partnership's need to provide the Office of Financial Management with prioritized costs estimates for implementing SWAMPPS as part of the *Action Agenda*.
- Other participants' and stakeholders' needs to better understand their roles and responsibilities in implementing the strategy.
- The overarching need to ensure funding for this effort.

July 1, 2010

Page 2 of 3

The SWG will continue to address remaining issues in future work. We ask both the Partnership and Ecology to procure and advocate for future state and federal funding to implement the strategy. This includes continuation of key monitoring and assessment efforts already under way and launching the new efforts proposed in the strategy. We understand that the state and federal budget requests will depend upon final allocation of costs among local, state, federal entities.

The strategy indicates a placeholder, planning-level cost estimate of at least \$14.9 million annually to implement SWAMPPS. This includes ongoing monitoring activities that might already be included in the *Action Agenda*. For comparison: we estimate that current annual monitoring expenditures in Puget Sound by Phase I jurisdictions (the largest 3 counties, 2 cities, and 2 ports) exceed \$6 million; and at least \$1.7 million is being spent annually on existing status and trends monitoring that is included in the proposed strategy. We anticipate that another 80 smaller Phase II jurisdictions will participate in SWAMPPS.

In October 2010 we will provide you with recommendations for establishing the "pay-in option" along with updated, prioritized cost estimates and proposed allocations of those costs among local, state, and federal government agencies. During this time frame we will also provide additional detail on designs and approaches for status and trends, source identification, and effectiveness studies. We will continue to work after October on other issues that were raised during the May 2010 public comment period on the strategy.

Please feel free to contact me at 206.296.1986 or Jim.Simmonds@kingcounty.gov, or Karen Dinicola, our Project Manager, at 360.407.6550 or karen.dinicola@ecy.wa.gov for further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Simmonds". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jim" and last name "Simmonds" clearly distinguishable.

Jim Simmonds, Chair
Stormwater Work Group

Enclosures

Stormwater Work Group Members
(January-June 2010 participants)

Local Governments:

Representatives: Dana de Leon, City of Tacoma; Mindy Fohn, Kitsap County; Jonathan Frodge, City of Seattle; Heather Kibbey, City of Everett; Kit Paulsen, City of Bellevue; Jim Simmonds, King County.

Alternates: Neil Aaland, WA Assn. of Counties; Alison Chamberlin, Mason County; Rick Haley, Skagit County; Andy Meyer, Assn. of WA Cities; Jerallyn Roetemeyer, City of Redmond.

State Agencies:

Representatives: Shayne Cothorn, Dept. of Natural Resources; Tim Determan, Dept. of Health; Dick Gersib, Dept. of Transportation; Bill Moore, Ecology; Bruce Wulkan, Partnership.

Alternates: Fred Bergdolt, Dept. of Transportation; Nathalie Hamel, Partnership; Julie Lowe, Ecology.

Federal Agencies:

Representatives: Jay Davis, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; DeeAnn Kirkpatrick, NOAA Fisheries; Tony Paulson, U.S. Geological Survey.

Environmental Groups:

Representatives: Tom Putnam, Puget Soundkeeper Alliance; Heather Trim, People For Puget Sound.

Business Groups:

Representatives: Allison Butcher, Master Builders Assn. of King and Snohomish Counties; Mel Oleson, The Boeing Company.

Alternates: Kris Holm, Assn. of Washington Business.

Agriculture:

Representative: Carol Smith, WA Conservation Commission.