



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 10

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900  
Seattle, WA 98101-3140

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL  
ADMINISTRATOR

AUG 16 2016

Ms. Cami Apfelbeck, Chair  
Stormwater Work Group  
City of Bainbridge Island  
280 Madison Avenue  
Bainbridge Island, Washington 98110

Dear Ms. Apfelbeck and Representatives of the Stormwater Work Group:

I am writing to express our appreciation for all your group efforts in developing a coordinated and integrated approach to monitoring the stormwater problem in Puget Sound. Your work provides a scientific grounding as to the exact nature of the problem as well as advanced exploration into ways to reduce harm to the ecosystem.

The body of work generated by the Stormwater Work Group to date is impressive in terms of volume and quality. The recommendations for the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System municipal stormwater permit Special Condition S8 were novel because of their integrated and inclusive nature, and because they resulted in a new paradigm for permit related monitoring. Your recommendations were wholly adopted by the Washington Department of Ecology to establish a comprehensive monitoring framework unlike any other in the nation.

Your early scientific contributions such as the Effectiveness Study Literature Review, Mussel Watch Gradient Project, and the U.S. Geological Survey Stream Gage Network Analysis advanced our regional understanding of stormwater science. The current Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program status and trends, effectiveness studies, and source identification monitoring and assessment projects continue to accelerate the pace of our improved understanding of stormwater impacts and management approaches. And your ever expanding role in developing monitoring recommendations for rural and agricultural lands indicates your commitment to a larger, integrated goal of reducing the harm caused by stormwater.

The Environmental Protection Agency Region 10 is encouraged by the past work of the Stormwater Work Group and we are hopeful that the Group's new recommendations will continue to move the program forward for permit cycles to come. We especially appreciate that the diverse representatives comprising this group do so voluntarily. The work you do is critical to the recovery of Puget Sound and your responsibility should not be underestimated. We look forward to future opportunities to support you and your work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dennis J. McLerran".

Dennis J. McLerran  
Regional Administrator

cc: Karen Dinicola, Stormwater Work Group Project Manager