

June 30, 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

On behalf of the members of the Puget Sound Stormwater Work Group (SWG) I am pleased to deliver the *Stormwater Monitoring and Assessment Strategy for the Puget Sound Region* (the strategy). The SWG has been working since October 2008 to produce the strategy 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 Strormwater Assessment and Monitoring Program for Puget Sound (SWAMPSS). 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. SWAMPSS is envisioned to be a founding component of the regional ecosystem monitoring program which the Partnership is currently developing. We believe that implementing SWAMPSS 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 were released in April 2010 for a second public comment period.

This final document is not our final product. Much work remains to be accomplished to add sufficient detail to adopt and implement the proposed strategy. Due to time constraints, the SWG has not addressed all of the comments received on the April 2010 version of the strategy. Key issues that are yet to be addressed are highlighted in the final strategy. The SWG is committed to continuing to work on these 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.
- The Partnership's need to provide the Office of Financial Management with prioritized costs estimates for implementing SWAMPSS as part of the *Action Agenda*.
- Others' needs to better understand their roles and responsibilities in implementing the strategy.
- The overarching need to ensure funding for this effort.

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. The strategy indicates a placeholder, planning-level cost estimate of \$13.6 million annually to implement SWAMPSS. This includes ongoing monitoring activities that might already be included in the *Action Agenda*.

June 30, 2010
Page 2 of 2

In October 2010 we will provide you with updated, prioritized cost estimates and proposed allocations of those costs among local, state, and federal government agencies.

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,

Jim Simmonds, Chair
Stormwater Work Group

enclosures

Stormwater Work Group Members
(January-June 2010 participants)

Local Governments:

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

Environmental Groups: 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: Carol Smith, WA Conservation Commission.