

KEN STANTON  
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2ND DISTRICT

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3RD DISTRICT

# DOUGLAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

JUN 17 2011

WATER QUALITY PROGRAM

June 13, 2011

Municipal Stormwater Permit Comments  
Washington State Department of Ecology  
Water Quality Program  
P.O. Box 47696  
Olympia, WA 98504-7696

Subject: Eastern Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit, Preliminary Draft Language

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Eastern Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit, Preliminary Draft Language on Monitoring and Low Impact Development. After a discussion with staff, the goals and objectives of this comment period are unclear. It appears that the Department of Ecology (Ecology) has used the permit as a starting point for discussion, instead of developing applicable permit language for the permittees to provide constructive comments on. The Board of County Commissioners would encourage Ecology to utilize the additional time Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1478 provides to cities and counties to accomplish this.

Added costs to the public and private sector associated with implementing the monitoring and low impact development permit requirements is a concern. Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1478 was enacted to provide "fiscal relief during periods of economic downturn". It is unlikely that implementing the new requirements of this permit will achieve this goal and assist in minimizing costs in the future. The new permit appears to be costly and the requirements unclear, with no defined environmental goal. Measures within the preliminary draft permit language propose contributions from local agencies to other permittees and/or Ecology. Utilization of the permit requirements to fill gaps within Ecology's budget is unacceptable. While the County can clearly sympathize with the budget shortfalls being experienced by Ecology, the County cannot subsidize Ecology or any other municipality.

It is the responsibility of Ecology, not the local jurisdictions to implement measures within Washington State, in order to comply with EPA regulations in accordance with the Clean Water Act. Lastly, as you are aware in Washington State, the Environmental

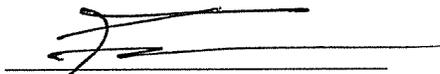
Protection Agency (EPA) has delegated authority to Ecology to administer the Clean Water Act

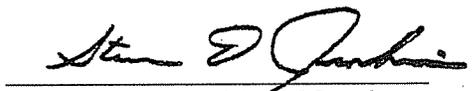
Thank you for the opportunity to briefly provide comments on Eastern Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit, Preliminary Draft Language. Douglas County hopes these comments are beneficial to creating a permit that satisfies all involved. County staff will continue to work with Ecology to develop permit language for monitoring and low impact development which will satisfy Ecology's obligation under the Clean Water Act, and which will ultimately and reasonably achieve the goal of protecting water quality in Washington State.

Respectfully,

Douglas County Board of Commissioners

  
Dale Snyder, Chair

  
Ken Stanton, Vice Chair

  
Steven D. Jenkins, Member