



CITY OF EAST WENATCHEE

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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January 30, 2012

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

RE: Eastern Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit, Draft Language

To Whom It May Concern:

The City of East Wenatchee(City) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Eastern Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit, draft language. The City values the objective of our NPDES permit and has made great progress in achieving goals established by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Washington State Department of Ecology. However, the draft permit still includes some elements that may end up being too challenging considering the economic climate, current staffing levels and the impact to the development community. It seems that Ecology is moving into a whole other phase of requirements without first providing the opportunity to fully evaluate the effectiveness of our current program, modify local regulations and requirements for consistency and establishing efficiencies among other departments.

The proposed changes to the permit may be premature and hinder progress with our stormwater program that was developed from the first permit. The City of East Wenatchee encourages Ecology to evaluate effectiveness of our current program and initiate a process within the next permit that establishes monitoring requirements that consider our geographic region and cooperative efforts among Chelan County, Douglas County, the City of Wenatchee, the City of East Wenatchee and the development of our Wenatchee Valley Stormwater Program. The City also encourages Ecology to develop and approve an Eastern Washington LID manual working cooperatively with stakeholders during our second permit cycle.

The City finds it appropriate to employ Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1478, continue working under current permit requirements and allow Ecology to establish a process for new permit requirements that would have more beneficial results for all involved.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments on the Eastern Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit, draft language.

Sincerely,



Steven C. Lacy, Mayor
City of East Wenatchee

CC: Donald McGahuey, P.E.
Brandon Mauseth