



Bellevue • Bothell • Issaquah • Kirkland • Maple Valley – Black Diamond • Newcastle • Redmond • Sammamish • Snoqualmie Valley • Woodinville

---

February 3, 2012

Ted Sturdevant  
Director  
Washington State Department of Ecology  
PO Box 47696  
Olympia, WA 98504-7696

Re: Municipal Permit Comments

Dear Director Sturdevant:

The East King County Chambers of Commerce Legislative Coalition (Coalition) brings together 10 chambers of commerce representing the Eastside business community and enables these chambers to speak with a unified voice on legislative issues.

The Coalition understands and supports the need to preserve and protect our natural environment adds to our quality of life in the region. However, mandates such as the new National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II permit for Western Washington, drive up costs for businesses. This approach will create undue or extreme hardships on local businesses and governments.

The Coalition urges the Department of Ecology to, at a minimum, modify the effective date of this new permit. Doing so will allow the Department, with stakeholders like the business community and local governments, to better assess the impact of the new permits.

Businesses and local governments are only beginning to understand the implications of the NPDES Phase II stormwater regulations. Approving more stringent regulations when the economy is in such a fragile condition will be burdensome for municipalities as well as the businesses who will have to implement the requirements given its one-size-fits-all approach and costs associated with compliance.

A better approach would be to insist that these changes are market-driven and incentive-based and that they have clearly defined, measurable outcomes. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathy Putt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kathy Putt  
Chair  
East King County Chambers of Commerce Legislative Coalition