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To: [SW Permit Comments](#)
Subject: SWPermits
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I am writing to implore the State to take a more serious and realistic view of this issue.

The problem with storm water is not that it is polluted. We are not facing the equivalent of a super tanker oil spill every two years. Copper is not present in ambient samples taken from Puget Sound, it is only present in localized places most of which are fresh water systems, the bases of freeway overpasses etc., that could be dealt with as point rather than non-point sources. There are no pharmaceuticals or phthalates in stormwater, they come primarily from municipal treatment systems and industrial discharges. There are no dioxins, PAHs or DDT leftovers, they come from groundwater intrusion into storm drains, not stormwater runoff.

The problem is that when we pave everything we change basic physical and hence chemical and biological parameters. We change rock water contact time and the ability for a system to hold water and release it slowly during dry seasons. We need to get water back into the water table and we need to protect the structure of groundwater holding systems. The way to do this is to stop paving everything.

Paving the earth not only causes changes in stream ecology, it requires gravel. There's damage at both ends, when gravel is removed and when it is placed in concrete on the ground's surface.

The single greatest damage we're currently considering in South Puget Sound will be the mining of the Sequatchew watershed. Once the gravel is removed, it can never be put back.

If we're going to go after pollution, let's do it. But let's not endlessly confuse this question in ways that divert attention from the real problems while allowing continued destruction of the most basic parameters and the ultimate destruction of Puget Sound ecosystems.

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