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There is a great deal of misinformation surrounding this decision.

Runoff from streets does not contain significant quantities of the most biologically damaging persistent toxins. PAHs, dioxin, PCBs and DDT leftovers and others mostly come from legacy sources. They enter stormdrains via groundwater intrusion. Phalates, pharmaceuticals and other things come from treated municipal sewage. Other things come from permitted industrial discharges. Runoff from rain is not the leading source of toxic chemicals in Puget Sound.

That said, there have been many problems with the way we have managed our watersheds. Our concern should be how well watersheds hold and release water, water rock contact time, peak high and low flows and other physical parameters. There are ways to bring ecology into design that we have not explored and in fact are discouraged or even not allowed. It is virtually impossible for example under the current regime to incorporate restoration into nearshore development.

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