

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

FEB 03 2012

WATER QUALITY PROGRAM

February 2, 2012

Water Quality Program
Department of Ecology
P.O.Box 47696
Olympia, WA 98504-7696

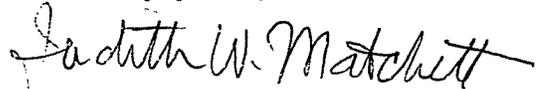
Department of Ecology,

I support the inclusion of Low Impact Development (LID) requirements and expanded requirements to monitor discharges, and elimination of the 1-acre exemption for Phase II small municipality jurisdictions. These are essential elements for a successful program.

However, to address the pollution adequately, the following changes need to be made: 1) Eliminate the very broad "feasibility" and "competing needs" exemptions. These loopholes and others will allow jurisdictions and developers to evade low impact development requirements. 2) Include specific requirements for developers to avoid destruction of native plants and reduce total paved surfaces on building sites. These core foundations of good LID approaches are necessary for LID techniques to succeed. 3) Strengthen requirements for "watershed basin" planning to protect forested areas and green spaces.

I am pleased to see these LID techniques included in the Department of Ecology proposed Municipal Stormwater Regulations but the requirements need to be improved as outlined above. Thank you for your serious consideration.

Sincerely yours,



Judith W. Matchett
2359 Nellita Road
Seabeck, WA 98380