

February 1, 2012

Mr. Ted Sturdevant
Ecology Director
Department of Ecology
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tstu461@ecy.wa.gov

Mr. Kelly Susewind
Water Quality Program Manager
Department of Ecology
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Dear Mr. Sturdevant and Mr. Suswind,

We are requesting that the Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE) include stronger Low Impact Development (LID) requirements in its new standards and that it strengthen the Permits with expanded requirements to monitor discharges and that it include the retention of mature evergreen trees.

The Shorewood-on-the-Sound neighborhood, located in the City of Burien, is home to over 450 families. Our community is bounded by the 88 acre Salmon Creek Ravine to East, the 183 acre Seahurst Park to the South, Puget Sound to the West and the 3.3 acre Shorewood Park to the North. Since our neighborhood is located in a steep-slope critical area, we are keenly aware that a mature evergreen tree can absorb as many as 250 gallons of rainwater a day and thus reduce surface water runoff while maintaining soil stability. It is critical that vegetation and evergreens be part of the backbone of the new LID standards.

Over the years, Shorewood-on-the-Sound has been an environmentally-conscious community whether it be the protection our marine beach and planting of native vegetation, or, striving to return salmon runs to Salmon Creek, one of the most cleanest freshwater creeks in the South Sound, or, the protection of the Salmon Creek Ravine from the development of 135 homes thus avoiding surface water runoff which certainly would have added pollution to Salmon Creek and Puget Sound, or, the replacement of invasive plants with native vegetation along Salmon Creek in the Salmon Creek Ravine and in nearby Shorewood Park, or, supporting an Eagle Scout project that stenciled all of the Storm Water drains throughout our neighborhood.

While our community involvement has contributed to the environmental protection of our neighborhood, we are subjected to the effects of the City's lax Storm Water Master Plan that fails to regulate and reduce upland storm water runoff and its toxic brew of hydrocarbons, heavy metals, paints, soaps, phosphates, dog poop, fertilizers and pesticides. When implemented, the improved DOE LID requirements will force the City of Burien to take a more responsible, proactive approach in developing a robust Storm Water Master Plan that better protects the city's residents, open spaces, freshwater creeks and streams, and the waters of Puget Sound.

Shorewood-on-the-Sound is requesting that the DOE adopt stronger Low Impact Development and Storm Water standards.

Sincerely,



Bob Edgar
Director
Shorewood-on-the-Sound Community Club
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