



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

OF BELLINGHAM-WHATCOM COUNTY

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January 23, 2012

Sirs,

In general The League of Woman Voters of Bellingham/ Whatcom County are pleased to see new regulations for protecting our waters.

However we share the concerns with environmental groups that the new standards for LID techniques do not go far enough.

Protection of vegetation on the site and reduction of impervious surfaces are two proven techniques in combating water pollution problems, yet the new standards only recommend these techniques and do not mandate them. We feel this is a mistake.

We are also concerned with the broadness of the exemptions on "competing needs". While these permits talk about low impact development—what kind of "competing" need would be given an exemption? There should be no loopholes that could be exploited in the permit regulations.

We are experiencing planning commission suggestions on updates for a LID here in Whatcom County that do not meet the standards we hope to see enacted. Without clear guidelines from the state, new codes from individual counties could be less than optimal.

Our representative had planned to attend the meeting at Skagit Valley College which was postponed because of snow. We hope these concerns will be addressed.

Sincerely,

Jayne Freudenberger & Kay Ingram

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Co-presidents