

CITY OF PULLMAN

325 S.E. Paradise Street, Pullman, WA 99163

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admin@ci.pullman.wa.us DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

April 20, 2009

APR 22 2009

WATER QUALITY PROGRAM

Municipal Permit Comments
Washington State Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Dear Department of Ecology:

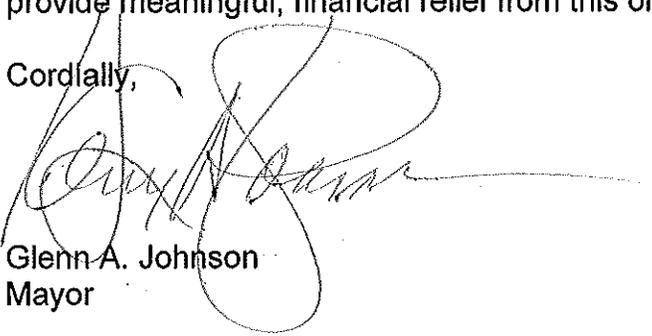
Over these past many months, I've appreciated the department being open to hearing the city of Pullman's concerns regarding the Phase II Eastern Washington Municipal Stormwater permit.

I plan to attend the DOE workshop and public hearing at Moses Lake on the 22nd, but I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate, in writing, our request for meaningful relief from the stormwater regulations under which Pullman is laboring.

We would like DOE to allow the permit cycle for Pullman to be rolled back from the current status of year three to year one. If that were to be granted, we would continue with our fulltime stormwater manager, our community stormwater education program and all the initiatives currently underway. But with the rollback, we would not yet need to hire a stormwater field technician or additional personnel to ramp up the maintenance of the stormwater system to municipal permit levels, which would add to the fees that we would be forced to charge our homeowners, businesses and Washington State University. This relief would keep stormwater utility costs to a minimum, allowing us to fund these costs from our street fund. Stormwater fees could be deferred for two years, which would be, we hope a sufficient amount of time for stimulus efforts to have a positive effect on the general economy.

Thank you for again allowing me to voice the city of Pullman concerns. I hope that the department is amenable to modifications in the permit that will provide meaningful, financial relief from this onerous burden.

Cordially,



Glenn A. Johnson
Mayor