



October 20, 2016

Steve Hood
Water Quality Program
Washington Department of Ecology
Bellingham Field Office
1440 - 10th Street, Suite 102
Bellingham, WA 98225

Mr. Hood:

The City of Bellingham and Whatcom County (collectively, "the jurisdictions") hereby submit a preferred timeline and budget for implementing a water quality improvement plan as required by the Lake Whatcom Watershed Total Phosphorus and Bacteria TMDL (total maximum daily load), which was approved by the U.S. EPA on April 7, 2016. The jurisdictions propose a 50-year timeline and a \$100 million (2016 dollars) budget to complete full implementation of the water quality improvement plan as a policy. Actual appropriation of funds is subject to each jurisdiction's budget appropriation process. Implementation activities will be divided into five-year work plans. The work presently being conducted is described in the Lake Whatcom Management Program 2015-2019 Work Plan approved by the jurisdictions on April 13, 2014.

The jurisdictions have and will continue to work closely with the Lake Whatcom Water & Sewer District under the Lake Whatcom Management Program to address water quality issues in Lake Whatcom. Per the requirements of the TMDL, the jurisdictions will submit a detailed implementation plan to the Department of Ecology by October 31, 2017 that establishes annual milestones for the following ten years that demonstrates that the adopted plan is on track.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions regarding this submittal.

Best Regards,

A blue ink signature of Jon Hutchings, written in a cursive style.

Jon Hutchings, Director
Public Works Department
Whatcom County
322 N. Commercial Street, Suite 210

A blue ink signature of Ted Carlson, written in a cursive style.

Ted Carlson, Director
Public Works Department
City of Bellingham
104 W. Magnolia Street