



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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November 12, 2015

Jack Louws, Whatcom County Executive  
County Courthouse  
3111 Grand Avenue, Suite 108  
Bellingham, WA 98255-4082

**Re: Response to dispute resolution request from Whatcom County**

Dear Mr. Louws:

On December 18, 2014, Whatcom County requested dispute resolution on the Lake Whatcom Watershed Total Phosphorus and Bacteria Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) Water Quality Report and Implementation Strategy. On January 14, 2015, I replied that the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) section managers would work with your staff to see if the dispute could be resolved. EPA, Whatcom County, and Ecology staff met on March 5, 2015, and narrowed the areas of dispute and came to tentative agreements on clarifications that would resolve the dispute. Since that meeting Whatcom County and Ecology staff have worked on refining the clarification language. The attached document titled "Lake Whatcom Total Phosphorus and Bacteria TMDL Clarifications" represents mutually agreeable clarifications on how the TMDL will be implemented. Ecology understands that the dispute is resolved. Please confirm that Whatcom County also understands that this clarification resolves the dispute.

Throughout this process, your staff have been respectful and forthright. Steve Hood, Ecology's TMDL lead, reports that the resulting clarifications will help improve the TMDL implementation. He is pleased to have participated in this process with your staff. Thank you for committing resources to this process.

Sincerely,

Heather R. Bartlett  
Water Quality Program Manager

Enclosure

cc: Laurie Mann, US EPA  
Helen Bresler, Ecology  
Steve Hood, Ecology

