

**WHATCOM COUNTY**  
Planning & Development Services  
5280 Northwest Drive  
Bellingham, WA 98226-9097  
360-676-6907, TTY 800-833-6384  
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**J.E. "Sam" Ryan**  
Director

May 18, 2011

Steve Hood  
Department of Ecology-Bellingham Field Office  
1440 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Ste 102  
Bellingham, WA 98225

Re: Response to Ecology Review of Whatcom County recommendations

Dear Mr. Hood:

Planning and Development Services staff is proceeding with proposing amendments to the current regulations regarding development within the Lake Whatcom watershed all within our Title 20 Zoning Code. It is our intent to consolidate the current land use regulations within Title 20, and incorporate the relevant sections, as previously discussed, from Chapter 2 Stormwater Management of the Whatcom County Development Standards into a single area within Title 20 for Lake Whatcom. Chapter 3 Land Clearing of the Development Standards has already been incorporated, by and large, into Title 20.

It is anticipated that (2) public workshops will be held in early to mid-July regarding the proposed amendments. These dates have yet to be determined. It is expected that Ecology staff participate in the public workshops, and we will ensure that scheduling will accommodate all of our necessary staff. A public hearing and work session on the proposed amendments is tentatively scheduled with the Whatcom County Planning Commission for Thursday, July 28<sup>th</sup>. After a recommendation is made by the Planning Commission, it will be forwarded to the Whatcom County Council.

The County Council meets only once in August, and it cannot be determined at this time if the Planning Commission's recommendation for an ordinance will be ready for introduction at the August meeting. Our staff will update Ecology with the ongoing status. The County Council makes the final decision regarding the proposed amendments, and any appeal can be made to the County Council as appropriate.

It is the intent of staff to remain in frequent contact with Ecology throughout the development of the proposed amendments and legislative process in order to ensure we achieve the agreed upon TMDL goals within the proposed timeframe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cathy Craver", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Cathy Craver  
Planner II

Cc: Sam Ryan, Whatcom County  
Roxanne Michael, Whatcom County  
Wayne Fitch, Whatcom County  
Richard Grout, Ecology