



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

PO Box 47775 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7775 • (360) 407-6300

February 19, 2014

The Honorable Karen Valenzuela, Chair, District 3
The Honorable Sandra Romero, Vice Chair, District 2
The Honorable Cathy Wolfe, District 1
Thurston County Commissioners
Building #1, Room 269
2000 Lakeridge Drive SW
Olympia, WA 98502-6045

Re: Deschutes River/Budd Inlet TMDL Completion Schedule

Dear Commissioners Valenzuela, Romero, and Wolfe:

Thank you for your letter dated January 17, 2014 recommending Ecology complete the Deschutes River/Budd Inlet TMDL promptly and combine both freshwater and marine water into one Water Quality Improvement Report/Implementation Plan (WQIR/IP).

We acknowledge and appreciate all the work done by Thurston County departments, the LOTT Clean Water Alliance, other organizations, and county citizens to reduce nitrogen pollution in support of this water quality improvement effort. We continue to have numerous discussions, internally and externally, addressing multiple options for this water cleanup report. The final report will be submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for their approval. At this point, Ecology staff share Thurston County's perspective; we would like to keep this effort in one report, addressing both freshwater and marine water. However, limited information on the impact of individual sources of pollution located outside of Budd Inlet makes this difficult. For instance, we need additional computer modeling to demonstrate the impacts of external sources flowing into Budd Inlet before we can make the best decision to support cleanup of Budd Inlet.

We expect to make a firm decision on the direction and schedule of the WQIR/IP in the near future. Ecology staff will first consult with Thurston County and other organizations most affected by this decision. County staff will continue to have opportunities to provide input to Ecology as we update this effort.

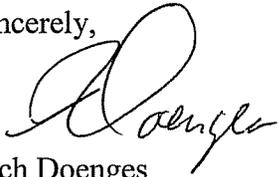
Again, thank you for your interest in this water cleanup effort. We also want to thank County staff for their participation and contributions to this process. Their time and input is sincerely valued, and we look forward to our continued collaboration.

Please contact me at (360) 407-6271 should there be any questions or additional comments about the Deschutes River watershed water quality cleanup effort.



Commissioners Valenzuela, Romero, and Wolfe
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rich Doenges". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rich" being more prominent and the last name "Doenges" following in a similar style.

Rich Doenges
Southwest Region Manager
Water Quality Program

cc: Sally Toteff, Southwest Regional and Olympic Director, Ecology
Don Seeberger, Water Quality Program Manager (*Acting*), Ecology
Andrew Kolosseus, Unit Supervisor-Water Cleanup, Ecology
Greg Zentner, Unit Supervisor-Municipal Operations, Ecology
Lydia C. Wagner, Eastern Olympic WQMA TMDL Coordinator, Ecology
