



## King County

Department of  
Natural Resources and Parks

Director's Office

King Street Center  
201 South Jackson Street, Suite 700  
Seattle, WA 98104-3855

March 11, 2013

Carol Kraege  
Washington State Department of Ecology  
PO Box 47600  
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Dear Ms. Kraege:

King County applauds the Department of Ecology's (Ecology) initiative to recognize and explore the complex regulatory and societal questions involved in reducing chemical pollution in Washington State. The Workgroup's thoughtful issue paper – *Toxics Policy Reform for Washington State* – provides an excellent synthesis of the dilemmas and challenges facing regulators, industries, and individuals in attempting to reduce or eliminate the sources of harmful chemicals in our environment. Addressing toxic chemical pollution is extremely important to safeguard human health, protect our environment, and enhance our economic prosperity.

Ecology has proposed very good strategies and we support this work. The strategies proposed are aligned with the innovative, holistic approaches needed to improve environmental outcomes for Washington State. It is important to prioritize this work so that resources can be used most effectively to provide the greatest environmental improvement. We would like to be closely engaged with you in partnership as you go through the process of prioritizing and implementing these programs.

We appreciate the paper highlighting that chemicals in the environment result in human exposure through contact with waters or sediment, their airborne inhalation or consumption in fish and shellfish. These human exposures inevitably result in additional health care costs and impacts to our residents. While toxic contamination therefore threatens both our health and our economy, we also agree that there may be economic opportunities, such as promoting green chemistry and the development of more environmentally friendly products. Finally, we also wish to emphasize the equity and social justice importance of addressing toxic chemicals, as some communities are disproportionately burdened by these contaminants.

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We support Washington moving boldly to find ways to reduce the use of harmful chemicals and their presence in the environment. As both a regulated discharger and natural resource manager, King County stands ready to help with the state's effort in tackling these difficult problems.

Thank you for taking the step forward to convene this group in 2012 and issue a set of recommendations. I hope 2013 presents the opportunity to begin implementation. Do not hesitate to contact me at 206-296-6500 if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Christie True  
Director

cc: Pam Elardo, P.E., Division Director, Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD),  
Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)  
Sandra Kilroy, Assistant Division Director, WTD, DNRP  
Mark Isaacson, Division Director, Water and Land Resources Division (WLRD), DNRP  
Joanna Richey, Assistant Division Director, WLRD, DNRP