



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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October 12, 2018

The Honorable Douglas Richardson, Chair
Pierce County Council
930 Tacoma Avenue S, Rm 1046
Tacoma, WA 98402

**Re: Final Ecology Approval of the Pierce County Shoreline Master Program
Comprehensive Update and Periodic Review**

Dear Chairman Richardson:

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) is pleased to announce final approval of the Pierce County (County) Shoreline Master Program (SMP) update and periodic review. Congratulations to you, your staff, and the Pierce County community for completing this comprehensive update. We know this has been a long and challenging process. We appreciate your commitment to comprehensive land use planning for Washington's unique and valuable shorelines.

As you know, the following correspondence regarding the SMP update took place between Ecology and the County:

- December 18, 2015 – Ecology accepted the County's locally adopted SMP update as complete for purposes of review (Ordinance No. 2013-45s4).
- May 31, 2018 – Ecology conditionally approved the County's comprehensive SMP update with specific required and recommended changes.
- October 9, 2018 – The County sent a letter to Ecology agreeing to all of Ecology's 21 required changes (Ordinance No. 218-57s). In addition the County has accepted 32 of the 68 recommended changes, partially accepted 3 recommended changes (9, 37 and 60) and proposed a slight revision to recommended change 14. As a cross reference, Ecology has added the County's response to revised versions of Attachments B and C.

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Upon review, Ecology finds the County's proposed alternative language to Ecology's recommended change 14, revising the word "should" to "shall" in the last sentence, is consistent with the purpose and intent of the original proposed change and with the policy of RCW 90.58.020 and the applicable Shoreline Guidelines.

Ecology therefore approves the County's comprehensive SMP update and periodic review, which includes the agreed to required and recommended changes. This action represents Ecology's final decision and there shall be no further modifications to the County's proposal.

The effective date of the County's comprehensive SMP update is fourteen days from the date of this letter, Ecology's final approval letter. This fourteen day period was established by legislative action in 2011 and is intended to provide lead time for the County to prepare to implement the new SMP.

Ecology is required to promptly publish notice that the County's SMP has received final approval. The notice, in the form of a legal ad, will begin a 60-day appeal period. We will provide a copy of the legal ad to the County for its records.

Finally, please integrate the changes referenced in this correspondence into the County's SMP proposal. When this is complete, please forward a digital copy of the complete approved SMP to Ecology.

Thank you again for your significant work and leadership in completing this SMP update and periodic review. If you have any questions, please contact our regional planner, Kim Van Zwalenburg, at Kim.Vanzwalenburg@ecy.wa.gov/(360) 407-6520.

Sincerely,



Tim Gates
Policy & Operations Manager

Enclosures (2)

By Certified Mail [9489 0090 0027 6019 1351 28]

cc: Mike Kruger, Pierce County
Dave Risvold, Pierce County
Perry J Lund, Ecology
Kim Van Zwalenburg, Ecology