STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
PO Box 47600, Olympia, WA 98504-7600 • 360-407-6000

June 25, 2024

The Honorable Satpal Singh Sidhu
Whatcom County
311 Grand Avenue, Suite 108
Bellingham, WA 98225-4082

RE: Whatcom County Shoreline Master Program Periodic Review Amendment – Conditional Approval

Dear Executive Sidhu:

I would like to take this opportunity to commend Whatcom County for its efforts in developing the proposed Shoreline Master Program periodic review amendment. It is obvious that the County invested a significant effort in this periodic review and amendment process.

Ecology conditionally approves the County's SMP periodic review amendment.

As we have discussed with your staff, Ecology considered the record and concluded that portions of the proposal were not consistent with applicable laws and rules. The findings and conclusions that support our decision are contained in Attachment A. The specific changes identified as necessary to make the proposal approvable are detailed in Attachment B.

Pursuant to RCW 90.58.090(2)(e), at this point, the County may:

- Agree to the proposed changes as shown in Attachment B, or
- Submit an alternative proposal. Ecology will then review the alternative(s) submitted for consistency with the purpose and intent of the changes originally developed by Ecology and with the Shoreline Management Act.

Please provide your initial written response to me at laura.watson@ecy.wa.gov within 30 days.

Ecology's final approval will be in the form of a letter and will be sent after the County responds demonstrating acceptance of the required changes or agreed upon alternative language that meets the statutory and guideline requirements.

Thank you again for your efforts. We look forward to receiving your written response and concluding the SMP periodic review amendment process in the near future.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss the changes identified, please contact our regional planner, Chad Yunge, at chad.yunge@ecy.wa.gov or 360-366-6186.

Yours truly,

Laura Watson
Director

Enclosures

cc: Mark Personius, Whatcom County
Steve Roberge, Whatcom County
Cliff Strong, Whatcom County
Joe Burcar, Ecology
Chad Yunge, Ecology