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

February 27, 2025

The Honorable Satpal Singh Sidhu
Whatcom County
311 Grand Avenue, Suite 108
Bellingham, WA 9825-4082

Re: Final Ecology Approval of the Whatcom County Shoreline Master Program Periodic Review Amendment

Dear Executive Sidhu:

The Washington State Department of Ecology is pleased to announce final approval of Whatcom County Shoreline Master Program (SMP) periodic review amendment. Congratulations to you, your staff, and the Whatcom community for completing the periodic review of your SMP. We appreciate your commitment to comprehensive land-use planning for Washington's unique and valuable shorelines.

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

- August 10, 2022 – Ecology accepted your locally-adopted SMP submittal as complete (Resolution No. 2021-056 and 2022-027)

- June 25, 2024 – Ecology conditionally approved the County's SMP periodic review amendment with required changes.

- December 12, 2024 – The County sent an email to Ecology accepting all Ecology's recommended and required changes (Ordinance No. 2024-047).

Ecology therefore approves the County's periodic review amendment, which includes the required 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 SMP periodic review amendment is 14 days from the date of this letter, Ecology's final approval letter. This 14-day period was established by legislative action in 2011 and is intended to provide lead time for the County to prepare to implement the amended SMP.

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

Finally, please integrate the changes referenced in this correspondence into a final clean copy version of the complete approved SMP, including the appendices, within 30 days. When this is complete, please forward one digital copy of the complete approved SMP to Ecology.

Thank you again for your significant work and leadership in completing this SMP periodic review. If you have any questions, please contact our Shoreline Unit Supervisor, Chad Yunge, at Chad.Yunge@ecy.wa.gov or 360-366-6186.

Sincerely,

Misty Blair
Shoreline Management Policy Lead

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