



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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May 6, 2009

Mr. David Sullivan, Chairman
Jefferson County Board of Commissioners
PO Box 1220
Port Townsend, WA 98368

Re: Shoreline Master Program Comprehensive Update Schedule

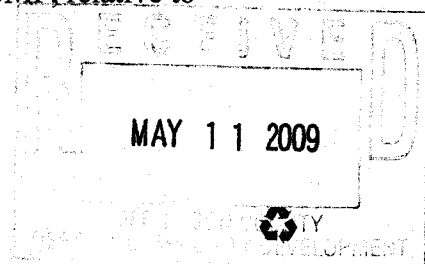
Dear Mr. Sullivan:

Thanks for your letter of March 16, 2009. That letter explains proposed schedule changes for completing Contract # 0600343. As you noted, the final product is a locally adopted update of the Jefferson County Shoreline Master Program, and one that is consistent with RCW 90.58 and WAC 173-26 Guidelines. Thank you for also recognizing that the funding associated with the Grant will come to a close on June 30, 2009. Per the requirements of the State Legislature, there is nothing Ecology could do to extend that any further.

We previously acknowledged that the Preliminary Draft SMP (PDSMP) now being reviewed by the Planning Commission was generally "fairly close to being ready for approval..." My observation is that Planning Commission members are taking a serious look at the PDSMP, and that they are extensively editing same. I'm hopeful their work will lead to a document that's easier to understand. There is uncertainty whether changes the Planning Commission is making will meet Guidelines requirements.

Like you, we are ready to see the project completed. I have been concerned about some Planning Commission remarks that were made about meeting deadlines. We are concerned by evidence of significant misinformation being broadcast to citizens. Some of the recent, eleventh-hour commentary has reflected those misunderstandings about the Update. While it is appropriate to consider all the public comments, some of the comments are based on misapprehensions. The documented public review opportunities were extensive while the PDSMP was being drafted.

We recognize the excellent performance of Jefferson County staff, the consultants, and the efforts of both citizen advisory groups to get the PDSMP ready for Planning Commission review. Likewise we appreciate the perspectives offered by numerous citizens who made time to comment during the original public comment period. The contents of the PDSMP, relative to Guidelines requirements, reflect those various and collaborative efforts.



The clear schedule you have outlined, with firm deadlines for the Planning Commission review to be completed, give us assurance. Therefore, we can accept the revised schedule, with no more than four months time added for a final, locally adopted SMP delivered to Ecology. This will allow the extra public review to be properly considered by the Board, and we will likewise have time to carefully consider those changes proposed for compliance with the Guidelines requirements.

Thanks to you and the other Commissioners, for your support of all Jefferson County's efforts in organizing and conducting the excellent collaborative process to date. I look forward to working with you and with Community Development staff through these final stages of completion. If I can answer any questions or clarify any statements, please don't hesitate to call me at 360-407-6521.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Stewart
Shoreline Specialist
Southwest Regional Office

JS:dn

cc: Michelle McConnell, Jefferson County
Al Scalf, Jefferson County
Stacie Hoskins, Jefferson County
Peter Skowlund, Ecology
Paula Ehlers, Ecology
Bev Huether, Ecology