



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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April 27, 2018

The Honorable Joe Gardner, Chair  
Cowlitz County Board of County Commissioners  
207 Fourth Avenue North, Room 305  
Kelso, WA 98626

**Re: Cowlitz County Comprehensive Shoreline Master Program Update –  
Conditional Approval**

Dear Commissioner Gardner:

I would like to take this opportunity to commend Cowlitz County (County) for its efforts in developing the proposed comprehensive Shoreline Master Program (SMP) update. It is obvious that a significant effort was invested in this update. The SMP will provide a framework to guide development and habitat restoration along the County's shorelines.

As we have already discussed with your staff, the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) has identified specific changes necessary to make the proposal approvable. These changes are detailed in Attachment B. Recommended changes are proposed in Attachment C. The findings and conclusions that support Ecology's decision are contained in Attachment A.

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

- Agree to the proposed changes (required and/or recommended changes), 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.

Final Ecology approval will occur when the County and Ecology agree on language that meets statutory and Guideline requirements.



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Please provide your written response within 30 days to the Director's Office at the following address:

WA State Department of Ecology  
Attention: Director's Office  
PO Box 47600  
Olympia, WA 98504-6700

Ecology appreciates the dedicated work that the County Board of Commissioners, County staff, led by Elaine Placido, the Planning Commission and the community have put into the Shoreline Master Program update.

We look forward to concluding the SMP update process in the near future. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the changes identified by Ecology, please contact our Senior Regional Planner, Kim Van Zwalenburg, at [kim.vanzwalenburg@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:kim.vanzwalenburg@ecy.wa.gov) or (360) 407-6520.

Sincerely,



Maia D. Bellon  
Director

Enclosures (3)

By Certified Mail [91 7199 9991 7031 7906 1338]

cc: Elaine Placido, Cowlitz County  
Greta Holmstrom, Cowlitz County  
Perry Lund, Ecology  
Kim Van Zwalenburg, Ecology