December 17, 2012

The Honorable Kelli Linville
City of Bellingham
210 Lottie Street
Bellingham, WA 98225

RE: City of Bellingham’s Comprehensive Shoreline Master Program – Conditional Approval, Ordinance Number 2009-12-078

Dear Mayor Linville:

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the city of Bellingham (City) for its efforts in developing your proposed comprehensive Shoreline Master Program (SMP) update. It is obvious that a significant effort was invested in this update by your staff and engaged community. The SMP will provide a framework to guide development and habitat restoration along the City’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 also included in Attachment C. Ecology’s findings and conclusions related to the City’s proposed SMP are contained in Attachment A.

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

- Agree to the proposed 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 submitted by Ecology and with the Shoreline Management Act.

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

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 you, the city council, planning commission and city staff, particularly Steve Sundin, have put into the development of your updated Shoreline Master Program.

Thank you again for your efforts. We look forward to concluding the SMP approval process in the near future. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the changes identified by Ecology, please contact our Regional Planner, Anthony Boscolo, at (425) 649-7049 or Anthony.Boscolo@ecy.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Ted Sturdevant
Director

Enclosures (3)

By certified mail [7012 1010 0003 3028 2624]

cc: Jeff Thomas, City of Bellingham
Doug Allen, Ecology
Peter Skowlund, Ecology
Jeannie Summerhays, Ecology
Geoff Tallent, Ecology