



King County

Water and Land Resources Division

Department of Natural Resources and Parks
King Street Center
201 South Jackson Street, Suite 600
Seattle, WA 98104-3855
206-296-6519 206-296-0192 Fax

March 31, 2004

David Peeler, Manager
Water Quality Program
Washington State Department of Ecology
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

RE: Annual Report for NPDES Permits WASM13001, WASM23001, and WASM33001

Dear Mr. Peeler:

With this letter, I am transmitting to you King County's report on the status of our stormwater management program (SWMP) as required under condition S10 of our Municipal Stormwater General Permits (numbers WASM13001, WASM23001, and WASM 33001), which were issued on July 5, 1995. The focus of the report is on compliance activities for calendar year 2003. I have included a narrative piece that addresses the report elements listed in the permits. I have also included a variety of reporting tables and other information to provide more detail on the programs described in our SWMP. As a whole, our program continues very much as it was described and submitted to Ecology for approval in March, 1997. Additionally, we believe the two areas of the SWMP that still require Ecology approval, management of Lake Sammamish water quality and adoption of a stormwater design manual equivalent to Ecology's Puget Sound Manual, are resolved to the point that full approval of our SWMP should no longer be withheld.

Our report for calendar year 1998 included information on the incorporation and annexation of a substantial portion of the urban areas in the Lake Sammamish Basin along with a request that in recognition of this changed circumstance and of County programs in the remaining unincorporated areas, Ecology no longer withhold its approval of the Lake Sammamish component of the County's SWMP. Two years ago, we sent you a map showing the current status of annexations and incorporations in the Lake Sammamish Basin, virtually unchanged since then, so that you could see how little of the urban area remains in the County's jurisdiction. Additionally you will find, from reading the first section of our report, that the water quality of Lake Sammamish has been well within the goals set in the Lake Sammamish Water Quality Management Plan. Accordingly, our request for full approval of the Lake Sammamish portion of our SWMP still stands and we continue to await an Ecology response.

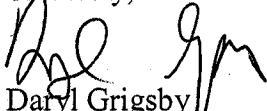
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Prior to Ecology's publication of its Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington, (Western Washington Manual) there were numerous exchanges between Ecology and the County on the subject of the equivalency of our Surface Water Design Manual (SWDM) and your Puget Sound Manual (PSM). In a letter of November 8, 1999, Ecology agreed that King County proposed ordinance changes affecting runoff that had been in process for some time would resolve outstanding equivalency issues. We expected that the ordinance would be adopted by June of 2000, and your acceptance of the changes was contingent on their implementation by July of 2000. Unfortunately, the timeline for the adoption of these changes has slipped considerably as they were packaged with the highly controversial Critical Areas Ordinance updates, which have only just this year been transmitted to the King County Council. The ordinance package also contains changes to the County's drainage code, King County Code 9.04, that are the first step towards updates to our SWDM that will make it equivalent to Ecology's new Western Washington Manual. The SWDM updates are under way so they can be ready for adoption as a public rule soon after the Council approves the ordinance package. In the meantime, King County continues to operate under a design manual that is widely recognized as more protective than the PSM. Ecology recognized its excellence by using it as its model for the Western Washington Manual and Ecology staff have publicly acknowledged its equivalence to the PSM. Therefore, it seems only reasonable that Ecology's formal approval of the SWDM as equivalent to the PSM should no longer be withheld and we respectfully request that you issue that approval expeditiously.

I certify under penalty of law, that this document (the report enclosed) and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gathered and evaluated the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system or those persons directly responsible for gathering information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for willful violations.

Please do not hesitate to call me at 206-296-6585, or Luanne Coachman, NPDES Municipal Stormwater Permit Coordinator, at (206) 296-8381 to discuss this report and the appended materials.

Sincerely,


Daryl Grigsby
Division Director

Enclosures

cc: Ed O'Brien, Washington Department of Ecology
Pam Bissonnette, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)
Luanne Coachman, NPDES Municipal Stormwater Permit Coordinator, Stormwater Services Section, Water and Land Resources Division, DNRP