



# KITSAP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

*Efficient, accessible and effective county services*

November 16, 2017

Robert Gelder  
DISTRICT 1

Charlotte Garrido  
DISTRICT 2

Edward E. Wolfe  
DISTRICT 3

Ms. Amy Jankowiak  
Water Quality Program  
Washington State Department of Ecology  
300 Desmond Drive SE  
Lacey WA 98503

Dear Ms. Jankowiak:

We are writing in support of the Department's rulemaking proposal to establish a No Discharge Zone in the greater Puget Sound and Hood Canal region.

Kitsap County is virtually surrounded by Puget Sound waters and includes 186 miles of saltwater shoreline. Since time immemorial, the tribes that call Kitsap home depended on Puget Sound for food, travel, recreation, and quality of life. That tradition continued with European/American settlers, and it continues today with Kitsap County's diverse population.


The waters of Puget Sound are central to our Kitsap culture. This is not some abstract historical notion; it is our reality today. Kitsap County was settled by water, its development patterns are determined by water, and its substantial role in Naval operations is driven by water. Thousands of Kitsap County residents commute across Puget Sound waters daily; in 2016, State ferry trips from Kitsap County ports alone exceeded 7.8 million trips. Kitsap County residents consume Puget Sound finfish and shellfish, rely on Puget Sound for jobs, swim in its waters, and enjoy its marine shorelines.

That is why establishment of a No Discharge Zone is important to Kitsap County. We have substantial ongoing investments to maintain clean water, clean-up legacy pollution, manage discharge of pollutants, improve community and on-site wastewater systems, and manage shoreline impacts. We have worked as a community to clean and re-open shellfish areas closed due to wastewater pollution. Prohibiting the disposal of untreated waste in Puget Sound waters is a logical next step to protect the health, safety, and welfare of our residents.

We encourage adoption of the No Discharge Zone proposed rule as written, and we thank the Department for its action and resolve in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

  
Charlotte Garrido, Chair

  
Robert Gelder

  
Edward E. Wolfe