

WATER RESOURCE INVENTORY AREA 9 (WRIA 9) WATERSHED ECOSYSTEM FORUM



Algona
Auburn
Black Diamond
Burien
Covington
Des Moines
Enumclaw
Federal Way
Kent
King County
Maple Valley
Normandy Park
Renton
SeaTac
Seattle
Tacoma
Tukwila
King Conservation District
Vashon/Maury Island
Community Council
Covington Water District
Port of Seattle
Washington Department
of Ecology
Washington Department
of Fish and Wildlife
Washington Department
of Natural Resources
U.S. Army Corps of
Engineers
Green-Duwamish Urban
Waters Partnership
Washington Environmental
Council
Green/Duwamish
Watershed Alliance
Trout Unlimited/
Mid-Sound Fisheries
Enhancement Group
Save Habitat and Diversity
of Wetlands (SHADOW)
American Rivers
The Boeing Company
Master Builders
Association
King County Agricultural
Commission

August 21, 2018

Abbey Stockwell
Washington State Department of Ecology
Water Quality Program
P.O. Box 47696
Olympia, WA 98504-7600



Dear Ms. Stockwell,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Western Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit. The WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum supports the voluntary watershed alternative approach to S5.C.1.c that King County proposed to Ecology for inclusion in the August 2018 Draft Permit. We encourage consideration of this alternative approach in the Green/Duwamish and Central Puget Sound Watershed (WRIA 9) as we have repeatedly seen the effectiveness and success in solving regional issues when the cities and the county of the watershed work collaboratively on our mission to "Making Our Watershed Fit for a King."

The WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum (WEF) is the state-designated Lead Entity to recover Endangered Species Act-listed Green River Chinook salmon population. While focused on Chinook salmon recovery, the WEF understands that successfully recovering Chinook depends on successfully improving the health of the entire ecosystem. As well, the WEF recognizes the deleterious impacts of stormwater to Puget Sound and impedance on our mission. As such, the WEF has been engaged in regional stormwater discussions and programs, consistently weighing in on the efficacy of regional, cross-jurisdictional approaches to natural resource management and advocating for integrating salmon recovery with watershed-based strategies for managing stormwater.

In 2012, for example, we supported a watershed-based stormwater retrofit study in WRIA 9. The study helped estimate the cost of stormwater infrastructure needed in the watershed to improve stream flow and water quality to levels that support salmon recovery. Moreover, WRIA 9 is a founding partner in the Our Green Duwamish Initiative to improve the health of the watershed by focusing on stormwater management, preserving open space, building climate resilience, and improving air quality.

Please contact Doug Osterman, WRIA 9 Salmon Recovery Manager, with questions at 206-477-4793 or doug.osterman@kingcounty.gov.

Sincerely,

Marlla Mhoon
Councilmember, City of Covington
WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum Co-Chair

Dennis Robertson
Councilmember, City of Tukwila
WRIA 9 Management Committee Chair

Cc: WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum

Financial support provided by signers of Watershed Planning Interlocal Agreement for WRIA 9 including:

Algona, Auburn, Black Diamond, Burien, Covington, Des Moines, Enumclaw, Federal Way, Kent, King County, Maple Valley, Normandy Park, Renton, SeaTac, Seattle, Tacoma, Tukwila