

Alan Chapman

I am writing to provide comments on the Draft Municipal Stormwater Permits for Phase I and Phase II permittees in Western Washington. There is a need strong stormwater permits to better protect and conserve the Puget Sound ecosystem to ensure the continued services that support human communities, salmon and orcas.

Polluted stormwater runoff is one of the most significant if not the number one source of toxic pollution into Puget Sound, and these permits are the most direct way to reduce this threat throughout the region. There must be strong stormwater permits that will lead to reduction of toxic pollution to levels that will not harm human health and welfare through ecosystem services that stop the decline of orcas and salmon populations improve human health and welfare for generations to come.

I believe the permits must be strengthened in four key areas to ensure the best outcomes for Puget Sound:

- 1.The 2019 municipal stormwater permits have not done enough to advance Ecology's own goals to achieve environmental protections for all Washingtonians. Ecology should eliminate incentives that continue the flow of resources and progress into wealthier neighborhoods, while ignoring those communities most affected by stormwater pollution and most in need of investments in infrastructure and green solutions.

- 2.Ecology must make sure that cities and counties are required to undertake meaningful, inclusive public engagement as they draft watershed plans and make decisions that will directly impact communities.

- 3.Ecology should require all Puget Sound Cities and counties permittees to implement a meaningful number of projects to achieve real water quality improvements.

- 4.There high minimum thresholds and loopholes in the draft documents should be reduced and require developers to implement low-impact development (LID) in big projects. This is a critical time to increase protection for Puget Sound. Please strengthen stormwater permits to curb polluted runoff and protect our orcas, salmon and communities.