



By Email

April 19, 2024

Ian Fawley
Washington Department of Ecology
Ian.Fawley@ecy.wa.gov

**Re: In the Matter of Remedial Action by City of Anacortes
Agreed Order No. DE 22379 and Public Participation Plan
Public Comment**

Dear Mr. Fawley,

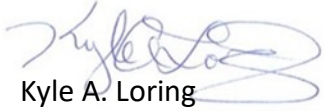
I am submitting the comments below on behalf of Evergreen Islands to address the Public Participation Plan ("Plan") and Agreed Order No. DE 22379 ("Order") for the City of Anacortes' ("City") remedial investigation and potential cleanup of hazardous substances at the A Avenue Landfill ("Landfill"). Evergreen Islands appreciates the Department of Ecology's ("Ecology") efforts to ensure that the former landfill is remediated so that it does not continue to present a hazard to the people who recreate in the Anacortes Community Forest Lands ("ACFL") and to the many natural inhabitants that call it home. As you know, that landfill received a wide variety of wastes from the 1970s to 2006 and Evergreen Islands has devoted a significant amount of energy into watchdogging the cleanup and subsequent monitoring. In fact, Evergreen Islands joined other concerned Anacortes residents in 2019 to express concerns about likely contamination when the City proposed to develop a bike skills park for children on top of the landfill.

Evergreen Islands would like to express its support for the robust Public Participation Plan and Agreed Order that Ecology and the City have designed to address contamination from the Landfill. While we are disappointed that it has taken nearly four years to get to this point – the City submitted its formal request to enter into the formal MTCA cleanup program on July 15, 2020 – if implemented as designed, the Order will afford the City the opportunity to investigate and remediate site contamination and the Plan should afford the public the opportunity to monitor these activities. Given the lengthy delay in between notification and the Order, and the ongoing impacts to the ACFL and its inhabitants, we strongly urge the City to meet each deliverable as expeditiously as possible.

We look forward to the implementation of the Order and to meaningful opportunities to review and comment on actions like the remedial investigation work plan and subsequent

reports. We also welcome the opportunity to ensure that the current process results in a permanent cleanup of the contamination at the site, unlike the earlier process that resulted in a no further action letter that needed to be set aside within just a decade.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kyle A. Loring". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kyle" being the most prominent.

Kyle A. Loring
Counsel for Evergreen Islands