

Toni Howard

Nutrient General Permit Lead Ellie Ott, I am writing to object to Ecology's proposal to allow sewage treatment plants to continue to discharge nitrogen and toxics to Puget Sound at current unsafe levels of pollution that are already suffocating marine life, harming Chinook salmon and orcas, causing massive algal blooms, and fundamentally changing the food web. For over 20 years, Ecology has taken no regulatory action, just watching as water quality in Puget Sound has continued to deteriorate. Now, you propose to legalize the same do-nothing approach. Ecology's proposed general permit to allow 58 sewage treatment plants to continue polluting Puget Sound with unsafe levels of nitrogen fails to meet its responsibility to protect Puget Sound. This proposal is contrary to both the Clean Water Act and to Washington laws that require the use of modern sewage treatment to keep water quality as clean as possible. I urge you to change course. Ecology should stop dragging its feet and issue discharge permits with pollution limits that will protect Puget Sound now and into the future, when population increases and climate change will only make the situation even worse than it is today. Please STOP killing Puget Sound now!