

Stacey Pierro

I am deeply disappointed that Ecology is proposing to postpone taking the necessary action to address the serious problem of sewage treatment plants' discharging nitrogen and toxics to Puget Sound. Ecology has known for more than 20 years that municipal waste is a primary cause of the unsafe pollution levels that are suffocating marine life, sickening Chinook salmon and orcas, causing massive algal blooms, and harming Puget Sound's food web from surface to sea floor. Entire economies and peoples rely on the ecology of the Sound, and ignoring this problem inflicts harm to these communities.

This new proposal to issue a general permit allowing 58 sewage treatment plants to continue discharging unsafe levels of pollution into Puget Sound would be a mistake. Knowingly worsening Puget Sound's impaired water quality will only make clean-up more difficult and expensive. This proposal is contrary to 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 begin issuing discharge permits that contain pollution limits that will protect Puget Sound now and into the future.