

Megan Hartz

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Nutrient Email 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. I believe that Washington should continue its course as a climate action leader in both the United States and the world. Our unique marine ecology and Puget Sound should be protected at all costs. We can no longer stand by and continue allowing the business-as-usual philosophy to rule our decision making. The state and the affected companies have the ability to reduce the toxins in Puget Sound, so there is no excuse for delaying action further and allowing the problem to get worse. Megan Hartz megan.hartz@gmail.com 7030 Radius Loop SE Lacey, Washington 98513