



August 31st, 2021

Marla Koberstein
Department of Ecology, Water Quality Program
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Submitted via Ecology's ecomment form online

Re: Triennial Review of Washington Surface Water Quality Standards, Chapter 173-201A WAC

Dear Marla Koberstein:

This letter is submitted on behalf of the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe, a federally-recognized sovereign Indian Tribe with its governmental offices at 9571 Ethan Wade Way SE, Snoqualmie, WA 98065. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important process.

As the Department of Ecology considers revising the water quality standards for the State of Washington, we ask that you consider and address the following:

- 1) There should be a better process for submitting requests for 303d listings, with more transparency about how Ecology reviews the data submitted by tribes and which data submitted will be used in the determination.
- 2) To facilitate transparency, we request increased communication between Ecology and tribes so that the data that we spend time and resources to collect can be shared and utilized. We also present the following questions:
 - a. Is Ecology using tribal water quality data submitted through WQX? If not, please explain why.
 - b. What can tribes do to make sure their data can be used, accessed, and shared?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kelsey J. Payne".

Kelsey Taylor Payne
Water Quality Manger
Snoqualmie Indian Tribe Environmental and Natural Resources Department