



OCEAN VISIONS

Advancing Solutions for Ocean-Climate Restoration

August 16, 2024

Gayle Garbush
Southwest Region Office
PO Box 47775
Olympia, WA 98504-7775

SUPPORT: Project Macoma's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Wastewater Discharge Permit

Dear Ms. Garbush:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Department of Ecology's forthcoming determination regarding Project Macoma, the proposed 2-year pilot project seeking to remove legacy carbon pollution from the atmosphere and improve water quality in Port Angeles.

I lead an organization called Oceans Visions, which is committed to directly addressing the causes and impacts of climate disruption — this includes both reducing *and* removing carbon emissions from the atmosphere. Given our organization's commitment, and our and the public's interest in the knowledge that will be generated from Project Macoma, we are pleased to support the pilot project's NPDES Wastewater Discharge Permit application.

Having previously served as Executive Director of the Puget Sound Recovery Program (precursor to the Puget Sound Partnership), I well understand the vulnerability of Washington's communities and economy to climate change and ocean acidification. Science-based pilot projects like Project Macoma are crucial for advancing research and solutions to these threats. From my standpoint, Project Macoma is exactly the kind of science-led project that the State's Blue Ribbon Panel on Ocean Acidification, Marine Resources Advisory Council, Legislature, and Governor Inslee have called for. Developing this technology in Washington State will help the state meet its greenhouse gas reduction goals, combat the impacts of ocean acidification, and continue leading in the development and deployment of innovative negative emissions technologies.

Permanently removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere is essential to keeping global warming below 1.5°C or 2.0°C above pre-industrial levels. The National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine have emphasized that pilot projects like Project Macoma are critical for advancing the field of marine carbon dioxide removal. This 2-year pilot project offers an opportunity to rigorously test and validate a promising approach to carbon dioxide removal that is permanent, net-negative, additional, and verifiable.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on this important matter and for Ecology's continued dedication to protecting communities and ecosystems from the worst impacts of climate change.

Sincerely,

Brad Ack
CEO
Oceans Visions