

Daniela Escontrela Dieguez

I am submitting comment in regard to the Department of Ecology's draft Puget Sound Nutrient Permit. As it stands, this draft permit would allow treatment plants to release too much nitrogen into Puget Sound, close to their worst levels in the past five years. This would be catastrophic to wildlife as excess nutrients such as nitrogen can result in anoxic zones, hurting everything from salmon to orcas. As population levels increase, this also means more sewage - the rules should account for this.

Furthermore, this draft would mean big polluters such as Tacoma Central and King Country South, which release more than 60% of all nitrogen into Puget Sound, would be held to the same standard as smaller polluters - big polluters need stronger limits and faster upgrades! Lastly, treatment plants should not be allowed to expand or take on more sewage unless they also cut their nitrogen at the same time.

We need to protect water quality in Puget Sound which supports our economy, wildlife and recreational activities!