



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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January 7, 2015

Board of County Commissioners
Benton County
PO Box 190
Prosser, WA 99350

Re: Benton County Comprehensive Shoreline Master Program Update – Conditional Approval, Resolution Number 2014-440

Dear Commissioners:

I would like to take this opportunity to commend Benton County for its efforts in developing the proposed comprehensive Shoreline Master Program (SMP) update. It is obvious that a significant effort was invested in this update. The SMP will provide a framework to guide development and habitat restoration along the County's shorelines.

As we have already discussed with your staff, the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) has identified specific changes necessary to make the proposal approvable. These changes are detailed in Attachment B. Recommended changes are proposed in Attachment C. The findings and conclusions that support Ecology's decision are contained in Attachment A.

Pursuant to RCW 90.58.090 (2)(e), at this point, the County may:

- Agree to the proposed changes (required and/or recommended changes), or
- Submit an alternative proposal. Ecology will then review the alternative(s) submitted for consistency with the purpose and intent of the changes originally developed by Ecology and with the Shoreline Management Act.

Final Ecology approval will occur when the County and Ecology agree on language that meets statutory and Guideline requirements.



Benton County Board of County Commissioners
January 7, 2015
Page 2

Please provide your written response within 30 days to the Director's Office at the following address:

WA State Department of Ecology
Attention: Director's Office
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-6700

Ecology appreciates the dedicated work that the Board of County Commissioners, County staff, the Planning Commission, and the community have put into the Shoreline Master Program update.

We look forward to concluding the SMP update process in the near future. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the changes identified by Ecology, please contact our Regional Planner, Angela San Filippo, at Angela.SanFilippo@ecy.wa.gov/(509) 454-3619.

Sincerely,



Maia D. Bellon
Director

Enclosures (3)

By Certified Mail [7012 1010 0003 3028 3799]

cc: Michael Shuttleworth, Benton County
Gary Graff, Ecology
Angela San Filippo, Ecology