September 21, 2012

Mr. Todd Mielke, Chair
Board of County Commissioners
Spokane County
1116 West Broadway Avenue
Spokane, WA 99260

Re: Spokane County Comprehensive Shoreline Master Program Update – Conditional Approval

Dear Commissioner Mielke:

I would like to take this opportunity to commend Spokane County (County) for its efforts in working with the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) to complete the proposed comprehensive Shoreline Master Program (SMP) update. The SMP will provide a framework to guide development and habitat restoration in the County’s shorelines along the Spokane River, Little Spokane River, Latah Creek and their tributaries as well as more than 40 lakes, including Liberty Lake and Newman Lake.

As we have already discussed with your staff and fellow commissioners, Ecology has identified specific changes necessary to make the proposal approvable. These changes are detailed in Attachment B. (Attachment B1 includes the textual changes, and Attachment B2 refers to the channel migration zone maps). Ecology’s findings and conclusions related to the County’s proposed SMP update are contained in Attachment A.

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

- Agree to the proposed 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 submitted 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 SMP Guidelines requirements.
Please provide your written response within 90 days, as you requested, 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 you, the Board of County Commissioners, Building and Planning Department staff (John Pederson, Director), the Planning Commission and the Shoreline Advisory Committee have put into the Shoreline Master Program update.

Thank you again for your efforts. 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 Section Manager, Sara Hunt, at Sara.Hunt@ecy.wa.gov or (509) 329-3561.

Sincerely,

Ted Sturdevant  
Director

Enclosures (4)

By Certified Mail [7009 0820 0001 9056 1370]

cc:  
John Pederson, Spokane County  
Grant Pfeifer, Ecology  
Sara Hunt, Ecology  
Peter Skowlund, Ecology  
Gordon White, Ecology