



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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MAR 15 2016

March 8, 2016

The Honorable Joe McDermott, Chair
King County Council
516 Third Avenue, Room 1200
Seattle, WA 98104

Wastewater Treatment Division

Re: Joint Project Agreement for the Ship Canal Water Quality Project

Dear Councilmember McDermott:

I understand that the King County Council will be deliberating soon on the approval of a Joint Project Agreement (JPA) for the Ship Canal Water Quality Project, an environmentally important combined sewer overflow (CSO) reduction project, between King County (County) and the City of Seattle (City). The purpose of this letter is to express the Department of Ecology's (Ecology) support for this project.

Ecology has encouraged both the City and the County to work jointly to manage their respective CSOs to protect water quality. In fact, both the City and County are required to control their untreated CSO outfalls via their respective federal consent decrees between Ecology, USEPA, and each agency. The Ship Canal Water Quality Project represents a significant joint effort to meet the requirements of the consent decrees because the completed project will control two County-owned CSO outfalls and five City-owned CSO outfalls along the Lake Washington Ship Canal that will meet the State's regulatory requirement of no more than one untreated discharge per outfall per year on average. This project will prevent about 130 combined sewer overflows from occurring each year, which equates to an approximate reduction of 50 million gallons of combined sewage and stormwater from discharging to the Lake Washington Ship Canal on an annual basis. Ecology agrees with County and City staff findings that construction of a single storage tunnel rather than seven separate CSO control projects in different locations will result in operational efficiencies, cause fewer construction-related disruptions to residents and businesses in the project area, and be more environmentally sound.

We understand that passage of JPA for the Ship Canal Water Quality Project is a significant first step to implementing the project. We encourage the King County Council to approve the JPA so that both the City and County can begin work immediately on this important water quality project and meet their respective requirements under the consent decrees.

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Thank you for your consideration. If you have questions or wish to discuss Ecology's perspective further, please contact Mark Henley, Municipal Unit Supervisor, at (425) 649-7103.

Sincerely,



Kevin Fitzpatrick
Water Quality Section Manager

cc King County Councilmembers
Christie True, King County, Department of Natural Resources, Director
Ray Hoffman, Seattle Public Utilities, Director
Pam Elardo, P.E., King County, Wastewater Treatment Division, Director
Madeline Goddard, Seattle Public Utilities, Deputy Director