



**King County**

**Dow Constantine**

King County Executive

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[www.kingcounty.gov](http://www.kingcounty.gov)

August 30, 2021

The Honorable Claudia Balducci  
Chair, King County Council  
Room 1200  
C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Balducci:

This letter transmits the Poverty Bay Shellfish Protection District (Clean Water District) 2021 annual report, as called for by Ordinance 18840, Section 6. The report fulfills the annual reporting criteria required of all shellfish protection districts by the Washington State Department of Health (DOH). The Clerk of the Council will submit the report to the DOH once the Council has acknowledged its receipt.

The Poverty Bay Shellfish Protection District (SPD) was established in December of 2018. The SPD was formed in response to bacteria levels that exceeded the National Shellfish Sanitation standards. Prior to formalizing the SPD, King County had convened a group of stakeholders to define its boundaries and agree to a strategy for keeping bacteria from reaching Puget Sound.

The report demonstrates the progress made over the last 12 months by various agencies to find and eliminate sources of fecal pollution in Poverty Bay. In developing the report, the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) engaged the stakeholders identified in Ordinance 18840, by convening a meeting to discuss the content needed to build out the report. Subsequent coordination also occurred between stakeholders and the County representative responsible for managing the Clean Water District. DNRP worked to incorporate the input into the report, and the participating stakeholders have indicated that they support the report.

The work outlined in this report furthers the King County Strategic Plan goal of a healthy environment by preserving open space and rural character by protecting nearshore shellfish habitat from fecal coliform bacteria. This work also advances the King County Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan goal of developing tools for better engagement and access to services by moving from project-based outreach to ongoing engagement and partnering with other organizations and tribes to facilitate consistent engagement with communities. In addition, the work furthers the Strategic Climate Action Plan goal of preparing for climate change by strengthening collaborations and partnerships with local cities, residents, and other partners advancing climate preparedness across King County, and reducing the effects of

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climate change on the environment, human health, public safety, and the economy by coordinating with partners to address potential impacts to wild grown shellfish.

It is estimated that the report required 20 staff hours to produce, costing approximately \$2,200.

Thank you for your consideration of this report. These important recommendations will help King County residents understand how King County is working to prevent bacteria from harming local shellfish harvesting.

If your staff have any questions, please contact Josh Baldi, Division Director of the Water and Land Resources Division of the Department of Natural Resources and Parks, at 206-477-9440.

Sincerely,

 for

Dow Constantine  
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Janine Weihe, Interim Chief of Staff

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

Shannon Braddock, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Karan Gill, Director, Council Relations, Office of the Executive

Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget

Christie True, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)

Josh Baldi, Division Director, Water and Land Resources Division, DNRP