



King County

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

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August 23, 2023

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

Dear Councilmember Upthegrove:

This letter transmits the Poverty Bay Shellfish Protection District (Clean Water District) 2023 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 2018. The SPD was formed in response to bacteria levels that exceeded the National Shellfish Sanitation standards. Prior to formalizing the SPD, King County convened a group of partners to define its boundaries and to agree to a strategy for keeping bacteria from reaching Puget Sound.

The report demonstrates the progress made by various agencies over the last 12 months (June 1, 2022 – May 31, 2023) 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 partners identified in Ordinance 18840, Statement of Fact 7, by convening a meeting to discuss the content needed to build out the report. Subsequent coordination also occurred between partners and the County representative responsible for managing the Clean Water District. DNRP worked to incorporate the input gathered into the report, and the participating partners have indicated that they support the report.

The work outlined in this report advances the King County Equity and Social Justice 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 collaborating with local cities, residents, and other partners advancing climate preparedness across King County. It will also help reduce the effects of climate change on the environment, human health, public safety, and

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the economy by coordinating with partners to address potential impacts to wild-grown shellfish.

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 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: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff
Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council
Karan Gill, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive
Mina Hashemi, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive
Christie True, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)
Josh Baldi, Division Director, Water and Land Resources Division, DNRP