



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**REGION 10**

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OFFICE OF  
WATER AND  
WATERSHEDS

Mr. Kelly Susewind  
Program Manager, Water Quality Division  
Washington Department of Environmental Quality  
PO Box 47600  
Olympia, Washington 98504-7600

**DEC 21 2012**

Re: Approval of Washington State 2010 303(d) List

Dear Mr. Susewind:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has conducted a complete review of Washington's 2010 Section 303(d) List and supporting documentation and information. Based on this review, the EPA has determined that Washington Department of Ecology's (Ecology) list of water quality limited segments still requiring Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) meets the requirements of Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and the EPA's implementing regulations. Therefore, the EPA hereby approves Washington's 2010 Section 303(d) List. The statutory and regulatory requirements, and the EPA's review of Ecology's compliance with each requirement, are described in Enclosure 1.

Ecology submitted the initial documentation for Washington's 2010 303(d) list on December 28, 2011, and the final documentation for the 2010 303(d) list on June 8, 2012. The documentation included the 2010 303(d) list, a response to public comments on the list, the final list methodology, a TMDL priority ranking, and an Integrated Report on the status of Washington's waters. With today's action, the EPA has approved Washington's 2010 Section 303(d) listing of 849 water quality limited segments. In addition, the EPA has determined that the removal of 312 water quality limited segments is consistent with CWA Section 303(d) and the federal regulations.

The EPA has also conducted a detailed review of Ecology's justification for not placing Puget Sound or other Washington waters, including Willapa Bay, Gray's Harbor, The Strait of Juan de Fuca, and the Pacific Coast, on the 2010 303(d) list for impairments associated with water quality standards that could be related to ocean acidification, including marine pH and narrative criteria under aquatic life designated uses, or antidegradation. Based on this review, the EPA has concluded that Ecology has adequately addressed all statutory and regulatory requirements for excluding these waters from Category 5 of the Integrated Report. A detailed summary of the EPA's review of Ecology's decision to exclude these waters from Category 5 can be found in Enclosure 2.

The EPA's approval of the State of Washington's 2010 303(d) list does not apply to any waters, or portions thereof, that are within Indian Country. The EPA is taking no action to approve or disapprove the State's list with respect to any waters within Indian Country.

We recognize and appreciate the work of staff and managers at the Washington Department of Ecology in developing the final 2010 303(d) List. We look forward to continuing to work with you on this process to address the water quality issues in Washington. If you have any questions, please contact Jill Gable, Impaired Waters Program Coordinator, at (206)553-2582, or Dave Croxton, Watershed Unit Manager, at (206) 553-6694.

Sincerely,



Daniel D. Opalski, Director  
Office of Water and Watersheds

Enclosures: Enclosure 1 - EPA Review of Washington 2010 303(d) Integrated Report  
Enclosure 2 - EPA Review of Ecology's Analysis of Ocean Acidification Data and Information  
Appendix A - Table 1, Appendix A - Table 2

cc: Ms. Melissa Gildersleeve (via email)  
Ms. Susan Braley (via email)  
Mr. Ken Koch (via email)  
Mr. Mike Herold (via email)