

February 3, 2012

Gerry O'Keefe, Director
Puget Sound Partnership
326 East D Street
Tacoma, WA 98421

Re: Department of Ecology Comments on December 9, 2011 Draft *Action Agenda*

Dear Gerry,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the December 9, 2011 draft Puget Sound *Action Agenda*. The Department of Ecology (Ecology) would like to acknowledge the tremendous effort invested by the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) team to get the Action Agenda to this point.

In reviewing the draft, it is clear that PSP is being responsive to past concerns expressing the need for greater transparency and documentation to support the important and challenging body of work needed to achieve Puget Sound recovery by 2020. As a result, PSP has presented a very expansive and detailed recovery plan.

As your team has developed the draft, PSP has reached out to Ecology in an increasingly thoughtful manner and sought to better engage technical experts in the *Action Agenda* development process. The resulting product is one that is far more detailed than the previous version. In fact, the draft has become so broad and detailed as to dilute focus from key priorities. We know PSP recognizes this, so we look forward to working with your team over the next few months to refine the draft into a final that has more strategic focus.

In your "Letter to Reviewers," PSP asked that we pay particular attention to five focal areas. You will find our thinking on those questions in the attached Appendix 1. We also have provided detailed comments on the draft text of the Action Agenda in the attached Appendix 2. We hope our comments help improve the draft.

Again, Ecology would like to thank PSP leadership and staff for the tremendous effort on the update to the Action Agenda. We look forward to working with you to produce a final Action Agenda that puts us squarely on the path to 2020 recovery.

Sincerely,

Josh Baldi
Special Assistant to the Director

cc: Ted Sturdevant