



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

*Northwest Regional Office • 3190 160th Ave SE • Bellevue, WA 98008-5452 • 425-649-7000  
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May 20, 2009

Dr. Joe Simmler, PhD  
Otak Inc.  
10210 NE Points Drive  
Suite 406  
Kirkland, WA 98033

Dear Dr. Simmler:

**Re: Greater Lake Ballinger/McAleer Creek Strategic Action Plan (Project #31325)**

Thank you for the opportunity to review the draft Greater Lake Ballinger/McAleer Creek Strategic Action Plan. The Department of Ecology (Ecology) is pleased with the quality of the technical assessment as well as with the depth and breadth of solutions the report proposes. This is especially commendable in light of the expansion of scope of the study to help address all short and long-term actions that communities can take to address stormwater-related flooding and water quality issues in the watershed from above Lake Ballinger down to Lake Washington.

It took more than a half century for the Lake Ballinger/McAleer Creek watershed to develop its water quantity and quality problems and it is apparent that it may take a generation or more to reverse these problems. The Strategic Action Plan recognizes this and proposes that steps to alleviate the worst of flooding be given priority in the short term and that long-term solutions, including adopting Low Impact Design (LID) strategies, be considered for future development. The plan recommends, and Ecology concurs, that long term solutions to these problems requires the integration of LID and conventional stormwater flow control/ water quality approaches.

Ecology continues to encourage Lake Ballinger watershed communities to further investigate and seek solutions for water quality problems as well as addressing the flooding issues. These water quality issues include the overabundance and lack of treatment of nitrate and phosphate contaminants that contribute to algal blooms and de-oxygenation of surface water bodies. In this regard, references to the 'hypolimnetic pipe' should be revised to refer specifically to the hypolimnetic discharge as the component that Ecology recommended shutting off. Please make clear that the hypolimnetic injection from Hall Creek is still in place and the effect of the injection component alone has yet to be assessed.



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Thank you again for the opportunity to review and comment on the draft Greater Lake Ballinger/McAleer Creek Strategic Action Plan. Ecology looks forward to helping implement many of the actions that are recommended therein.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Douglas H. Wood".

Douglas H. Wood, M.S., P.Geo.(BC), L.H.G.(WA)  
Senior Hydrogeologist  
Water Resources Program

dw/mc