



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

P.O. Box 47775 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7775 • (360) 407-6300

January 20, 2016

Mr. Dennis Houk  
Supervisor  
City of South Bend  
P.O. Box 9  
South Bend, WA 98586

**RE: Lagoon Decommissioning Site Visit**

Dear Mr. Houk:

On October 6, 2015 Harvey Doty notified me that the South Bend WWTP lagoon decommissioning project was complete per the Site Specific Land Application Plan cited in South Bend WWTP's Final Letter of Coverage, dated September 2, 2015. Subsequently, on November 25<sup>th</sup>, Rick Mraz and I travelled to South Bend to observe a high tidal event. Due to the high tide, we observed the site from across the river on the 600 block of 1<sup>st</sup> Street. This allowed us to observe whether the site work and grading appeared to have been completed to the degree necessary for estuarine re-establishment. Our initial impression is that the site has been graded to an elevation that will allow estuarine wetlands re-establishment.

We intend to visit the site again in late spring of 2016 to observe the progress of vegetation establishment and tidal effects. Per Appendix N of the Application packet, the city will be responsible to monitor and manage the site for three years following decommissioning to prevent noxious weeds from establishing. This should not be a problem if the grading on the site was completed properly; very few plant species can tolerate elevated salinity. Also, as stated in the Final Letter of Coverage, the city will be responsible to provide annual summaries of communication, including photographs and an estimate of non-invasive plant establishment onsite.

We look forward to seeing the site in the spring. If you have any questions, please contact me at (360) 407-6055 or [kelsey.dunne@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:kelsey.dunne@ecy.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kelsey Dunne".

Kelsey Dunne  
SWRO Biosolids Coordinator  
Waste 2 Resources Program

cc: Harvey Doty, Gray & Osborne  
Peter Lyon, Ecology, SWRO Section Manager  
Megan McNelly, Pacific County  
Rick Mraz, Ecology