WHATCOM COUNTY
Planning & Development Services
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J.E. "Sam" Ryan
Director

July 15, 2011

Ted Sturdevant, Director
Washington State Department of Ecology
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Re: Formal Request for State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Lead Agency Agreement Associated with the Gateway Pacific Terminals Project

Dear Mr. Sturdevant:

This letter is a formal request for the Washington State Department of Ecology to become a co-lead agency with Whatcom County for the SEPA Environment Impact Statement (EIS) associated with the Gateway Pacific Terminal project. As outlined in WAC 197-11-944; two or more agencies may by agreement share or divide the responsibilities of lead agency through any arrangement agreed upon. As you are aware, Whatcom County and the United State Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) have agreed to share lead agency status for this project and will be preparing a combined National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)/SEPA document. If your agency agrees to this request, we would like to prepare a written agreement outlining the responsibilities of all agencies with co-lead status for the environmental review process.

Thank you for your consideration and we are hoping the Department of Ecology agree with Whatcom County to be co-lead for the EIS and provide guidance and expertise on the elements of the environment that may have a statewide or regional impact.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (360) 676-6907 ext. 50202 – or - Email: Tschroed@co.whatcom.wa.us .

Sincerely,

Tyler R. Schroeder
Whatcom County Planning Supervisor/ Designated SEPA Official

Cc: Randal Perry, USACE
Jeannie Summerhays, DOE Northwest Regional Office Director
Pete Kremen, Whatcom County Executive
J.E. "Sam" Ryan, Whatcom County PDS Director
Cliff Strong, AMEC