



**MAYOR'S OFFICE**  
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June 16, 2011

The Honorable Christine Gregoire  
Governor of Washington State  
PO Box 40002  
Olympia, WA 98504-002

**RE: Whatcom County letter of June 15, 2011, in response to City of Bellingham's letter regarding lead agency status**

Dear Governor Gregoire:

Whatcom County's letter dated June 15, 2011, appears to raise two substantive issues regarding the Gateway Pacific Terminal project. The first issue relates to the City's request that the State assume lead agency status for environmental review of this project. From the County's comments it appears that the City and County agree that the State should assume lead agency status. The City sincerely hopes the State will accede to this request.

The second issue relates to the City's request for membership on the MAP team. As stated in our earlier letter, the City is an affected jurisdiction, similarly situated as other governmental entities that are currently on the MAP team. This proposal directly impacts the City of Bellingham and it therefore seems appropriate for the City to participate on the team. We disagree with the County's assertion that the City's membership on the MAP team should be precluded. Like the project proponents, including Burlington Northern, the City's participation on the MAP team is not improper.

The City is respectfully requesting that the State assume lead agency status and allow the City to be a representative on the MAP team.

Sincerely,

Dan Pike, Mayor  
City of Bellingham

cc: The Honorable Peter Goldmark, Washington State Lands Commissioner  
The Honorable Pete Kremen, Whatcom County Executive  
Patrick Swan, Chief of Public Affairs, US Army Corps of Engineers, NW Region  
Bellingham City Councilmembers