



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
1112 SE Quince Street • PO Box 47890
Olympia, Washington 98504-7890
Tel: (360) 236-4010 • FAX (360) 586-7424
TDD Relay Service: 1-800-833-6388

March 6, 2002

Stephen Kutz, RN, MPH
Director of Health Services
Mason County Department of Health Services
Post Office Box 1666
Shelton, Washington 98584

Dear Mr. Kutz:

In conjunction with the Department of Ecology, the Department of Health has reviewed your submitted documentation of problems in the in the Lynch Cove area of Hood Canal. The Department agrees that conditions noted in the documentation result in a situation which has a significant potential to cause illness, and therefore declares these conditions create a severe public health hazard. This conclusion is based upon:

- On-site sewage systems at 54 of the 102 homes evaluated were either failing or suspect.
- The high ground water, soils poorly suited for on-site sewage technology, fill, antiquated systems design, and small lot sizes make on-site sewage systems impractical or unworkable in this area.
- Runoff from failed systems flows over the ground or through saturated subsurface flow into Hood Canal. This pattern has caused the bay to be unfit for human recreation and has resulted in the closure of this part of Hood Canal for shellfish harvest.
- This problem involves a serviceable area of Hood Canal in Mason County.
- The problems described cannot be corrected through more efficient operation and maintenance of the existing on-site systems. Many of these are old, and all of them are on small lots with limited depth of suitable soil.

Stephen Kutz
March 6, 2002
Page 2

As noted in the Department of Ecology's program guidelines for Water Quality Program Funding, a copy of this letter must be submitted with an application for financial assistance during the application period of a funding cycle. If you have any questions about the guidelines, please contact Brian Howard, Department of Ecology, at (360) 407-6510.

The submittal by you and your staff clearly identifies the extent of the problem and presents realistic short-term and long-term methods for mitigating the existing situation. If you have any further questions, please contact Selden Hall, DOH Office of Environmental Health and Safety, at (360) 236-3043 or via email at selden.hall@doh.wa.gov.

Sincerely,



Mary C. Selecky
Secretary

cc: Brian Howard
Selden Hall