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CITY OF KELSO

Public Works Department
203 S. Pacific Ave., Suite 205
PO Box 819
Kelso, WA 98626

March 7, 2008

RE: NPDES Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit

Dear Kelso Residents and Other Interested Parties:

I am writing to inform you of the City of Kelso's responsibilities under a new NPDES Phase II municipal stormwater permit issued by the Department of Ecology. Kelso, as with most other municipalities in the state, must now comply with the permit's comprehensive regulations to protect surface waters. This includes preventing pollution to our surface waters from stormwater, educating and involving the general public, businesses, policy makers, and other parties to this issue. The permit is posted on the City's website.

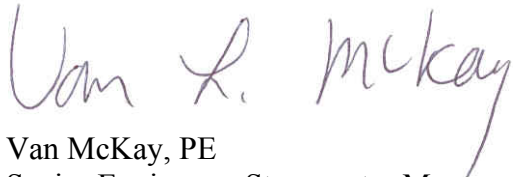
Over the coming year, we are developing a comprehensive stormwater program, called the Stormwater Management Program, as required by this new permit. The main elements of this program are: Public Education and Outreach; Public Involvement and Participation; Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination; Controlling Runoff from New Development, Redevelopment, and Construction Sites; and Pollution Prevention and Operation and Maintenance for Municipal Operations. A draft of this Stormwater Management Program is posted on the City website and will be revised as it is developed.

The City has hired consultants to provide assistance with the development of this program. In the short-term, this is a formidable task that requires our utmost attention and resources to complete. In the long-term, this stormwater program will ensure healthier surface waters and will become second-nature to us as we continue to implement these important initiatives.

I encourage your involvement in this program by becoming a member of the Stormwater Advisory Committee, by staying informed about this important issue, and by doing your part to protecting our surface waters. The City's website on stormwater will be updated with program developments as we implement the permit requirements.

If you have any questions, please give me a call at (360) 423-6590.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Van L. McKay". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Van McKay, PE
Senior Engineer – Stormwater Manager
Public Works Department