



June 28, 2016

Dale Shelton, Chair  
Bob Landles, Vice Chair  
Stillaguamish River Clean Water District Advisory Board  
c/o Snohomish County Public Works  
Surface Water Management  
3000 Rockefeller Ave., M/S 607  
Everett, WA 98201

Subject: Stillaguamish Clean Water District – Recommendations to the Snohomish Health District

Dear Ms. Shelton and Mr. Landles,

Thank you for your letter dated May 31, 2016. We appreciate your input on our continued efforts to implement actions and initiatives that align with the Clean Water District's (CWD) goals and vision. The Snohomish Health District (SHD) continues to be committed to furthering our partnership with the Clean Water District and Snohomish County Surface Water Management (SWM). As you outlined in your letter, our work plan does indeed contain a number of areas that leverage this partnership and deliver results directed at water quality improvements and protections.

SHD is particularly grateful for the support the CWD Advisory Board has provided in establishing a source of funding for portions of these initiatives. The resulting scope of work (work plan) that the agreement represents addresses the specific tasks you detail in your letter. We expect work to commence on or around July 1.

In particular, SHD has and will always be committed to investigation and correction of onsite septic system failures. The public health significance of a failing system, as well as our mandated responsibility to eliminate these hazards, has continually driven SHD to prioritize surfacing sewage failures. We agree that continued enhancement of our coordination with SWM will provide additional opportunities to enhance our abilities to address failing system issues.

Additionally, SHD has a history of providing technical assistance and education regarding onsite sewage systems. The resources provided through the SWM contract will enhance our abilities to be an active partner in educating the public, as well as give us additional availability to provide technical assistance to our water quality partner agencies.

We appreciate the Board's support of our policy initiatives, including the current pharmaceutical take-back efforts and the Board of Health's consideration of a time-of-sale process for onsite systems. This policy work provides protections and possible improvements to water quality, and SHD welcomes your support as our Board of Health explores these for policy adoption. We look forward to the CWD Board actively participating in the public policy process for these initiatives.

As your letter indicates, the work plan includes activities associated with solid waste management (manure) as well as toxic algae. SHD intends to engage with the existing responsible agencies to best leverage public health efforts into the matters.

Of particular interest to us is continued support from the CWD for sustainable funding of SHD activities that align with our shared water quality goals and vision. While the current support via a contract with SWM is a step in the right direction, there are other possible models for establishing sustainable funding for this area of public health. SHD intends to explore securing funding via RCW 70.05.190.

Ultimately, the success of establishing sustainable funding for implementation of an onsite sewage system management plan will necessitate committed support by others, such as the CWD Board. I and the staff at SHD appreciate your dedication to this effort.

Thank you again for your support in enhancing SHD's role regarding water quality in Snohomish County. I look forward to furthering our partnership with the CWD Board.

Sincerely,



Gary Goldbaum, M.D., M.P.H.

Health Officer & Director

Administration Division

425.339.5210 ■ [ggoldbaum@snohd.org](mailto:ggoldbaum@snohd.org)

cc: Brian Sullivan, Snohomish Board of Health Chair  
Adrienne Fraley-Monillas, Snohomish Board of Health Vice Chair  
Will Hall, Snohomish County Public Works SWM Director  
Sean Edwards, Snohomish County Public Works SWM Sr. Planner  
Lisa Dulude, Snohomish County Energy and Environmental Sustainability Manager  
Pete Mayer, SHD Deputy Director and Chief Operating Officer  
Jeff Ketchel, SHD Environmental Health Director  
Kevin Plemel, SHD Environmental Health Manager