March 11, 2013

Snohomish County Council
3000 Rockefeller Ave, MS607
Everett, WA 98201

Dear Council Members:

The Stillaguamish Clean Water District (CWD) Advisory Board would like to call your attention to a particular impact of the amendments to Title 25A SCC, contained in proposed Ordinance 13-009. We refer specifically to the amendment of section 25A.20.060(6), exempting properties regulated by an NPDES permit from CWD charges imposed pursuant to RCW 90.72. County agencies would receive 75% of this fee reduction; non-County ratepayers 25%.

This amendment results in a 47% cut ($393,929) to the 90.72 Shellfish Protection annual revenue. Programs central to our clean water goals, including the CWD water quality and Shellfish Protection Programs, the Discretionary Fund, and our Snohomish Conservation District contract, are funded solely from these 90.72 fees, pursuant to 25A.20.030(3), and each would suffer a corresponding, drastic cut in revenue.

The Board intends to work with Surface Water Management to remedy this 90.72 revenue loss, by way of the Service District Reassessment Study. We hope that in the interim, SWM may use RCW 36.89 revenues to offset the loss when necessary, so that these important programs can be maintained.

The Board urges Council to avoid, if possible, making the entire proposed reduction retroactive to the 2013 budget year.

Thank you for your attention.

Respectfully,

Steve Van Valkenburg, Chair

Gina Gray, Vice Chair

Cc: Debbie Terwilleger, SWM Director
    Aaron Reardon, County Executive