BEFORE THE POLLUTION CONTROL HEARINGS BOARD
IN AND FOR THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

PUGET SOUNDKEEPER ALLIANCE, KING COUNTY, CITY OF TACOMA,
WASHINGTON ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL, SUQUAMISH TRIBE, CITY OF
EVERETT, CITY OF BREMERTON, BIRCH BAY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT,
ALDERWOOD WATER & WASTEWATER DISTRICT, PIERCE COUNTY, and CITY OF
EDMONDS,

Appellants,

v.

STATE OF WASHINGTON,
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY,

Respondent.

In this consolidated matter King County and City of Tacoma (Tacoma) filed appeals of
the Puget Sound Nutrient General Permit (PSNGP) issued by the Department of Ecology
(Ecology) on December 1, 2021. King County and Tacoma additionally filed separate motions to
stay the PSNGP under RCW 43.21B.320. The cities of Bremerton, Edmonds, Everett, the Birch
Bay Water and Sewer District, and Alderwood Water & Wastewater District separately filed
notices of appeal that included requests to stay the PSNGP. Pierce County by participating in
this stipulation also requests a partial stay of the permit as set forth in this stipulation. King
County and Tacoma have conferred with Ecology and separately conferred with the other permittee appellants on the terms of this stipulation.

Based on those consultations, the parties to this stipulation have agreed to the following partial stay of the PSNGP which will fully resolve the pending motions for a stay. Ecology has agreed to, and does hereby, exercise its authority under RCW 43.21B.310(1) to the following partial stay of the PSNGP pending the Board’s resolution of the appeals in this matter.

1. Special Condition S3 – Compliance with Standards - shall be stayed in its entirety pending the Board’s resolution of the appeals in this matter.

2. Optimization requirements in Special Conditions S4.C.3, S5.C.3, S6.B.2.b require evaluation of opportunities to reduce TIN loads. The conditions do not require permittees to consider optimization strategies that reduce the volume of septage or influent to the subject facilities, impose building moratoria, or require significant operational changes that would reduce treatment capacity at the facilities.

3. Special Conditions S4.D.2 and S5.D.2 – Action Level Exceedance Corrective Actions are stayed in their entirety pending the Board’s resolution of the appeals in this matter. The parties to this stipulation agree that in the event monitoring data collected during this stay indicates an exceedance of an action level in accordance with S4.D.2.a or S5.D.2.b, the deadline for submitting a proposed approach to reduce the annual effluent load will be with the Annual report due in the year following the year in which this stay is lifted or otherwise no longer in effect, but in no event earlier than March 31, 2024.

4. The requirement for King County to elect whether to apply individual or bubbled action levels for each of its facilities pursuant to Special Condition S4.B is stayed until July 1, 2022. King County may change its selection in the report required in Special Condition S4.C.2.

5. Reporting requirements under Special Condition S.9 for Action Level Exceedance Corrective Actions stayed under paragraph 3, and provisions in, General Condition G.1 related to Action Level Exceedance Corrective Actions stayed under paragraph 3 are stayed pending the
Board’s resolution of the appeals in this matter.

   6. The parties to this stipulation do not waive or concede any claims or defenses in the
   PSNGP consolidated appeals as to lawfulness and reasonableness of the PSNGP or the specific
   conditions of the PSNGP that are the subject of this stipulation.

Respectfully submitted this 14th day of January 2022.

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

/s/ Vincent McGowan
Vincent McGowan, P.E.
Water Quality Program Manager

TUPPER MACK WELLS PLLC

/s/ James A. Tupper, Jr.
James A. Tupper, Jr. WSBA No. 16873
Attorneys for the Cities of Tacoma, Bremerton and Everett

CITY OF TACOMA
William C. Fosbre
City Attorney

/s/ Christopher D. Bacha
Christopher D. Bacha, WSBA No. 16714
Chief Deputy City Attorney

Attorneys for the City of Tacoma

STOEL RIVES LLP

/s/ Beth S. Ginsberg.
Beth S. Ginsberg, WSBA No. 18523
Michael R. Campbell, WSBA No. 55300

King County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office

/s/ Verna P. Bromley.
Verna P. Bromley, WSBA No. 24703
Michael Graves, WSBA No. 52632

Attorneys for King County

Attorneys for State of Washington, Department of Ecology

ROBERT W. FERGUSON
Attorney General

/s/ Ronald L. Lavigne
Ronald L. Lavigne, WSBA No. 18550
Senior Counsel

/s/ Sonia A. Wolfman
Sonia A. Wolfman, WSBA No. 30510
Assistant Attorney General

Attorneys for State of Washington, Department of Ecology

FOSTER GARVEY PC

/s/ Lori A. Terry
Lori A. Terry, WSBA #22006
Devra R. Cohen, WSBA # 49952

Attorneys for Pierce County
STIPULATION FOR PARTIAL STAY
OF PSNGP

CITY OF BREMERTON
Kylie Finnell
City Attorney

s/Brett M. Jette
Brett M. Jette, WSBA No. 47903
Assistant City Attorney

Attorney for the City of Bremerton

CITY OF EVERETT
David Hall
City Attorney

s/Timothy D. Benedict
Timothy D. Benedict, WSBA No. 30378
Deputy City Attorney

Attorney for the City of Everett

LIGHTHOUSE LAW GROUP PLLC

s/Beth Ford
Jeffrey Taraday, WSBA No. 28182
Sharon Cates, WSBA No. 29273
Beth Ford, WSBA No. 44208

Attorneys for the City of Edmonds

CARMICHAEL CLARK PS

s/Robert A. Carmichael
Robert A. Carmichael
Catherine Moore

Attorneys for Birch Bay Water and Sewer District

HENDRICKS-BENNETT, PLLC

s/Joseph P. Bennett
Joseph P. Bennett, WSBA No. 20893

Attorneys for Alderwood Water & Wastewater District
DECLARATION OF SERVICE

I declare on oath that on this date I filed the foregoing document with the Pollution Control Hearings Board by delivering a copy via electronic mail and by sending the original via U.S. mail, postage paid, addressed as follows:

Pollution Control Hearings Board
P.O. Box 40903
Olympia, WA 98504-0903
eluho@eluho.wa.gov

I further declare that I served a copy of the foregoing document via email upon the parties listed as follows:

Janette Brimmer
Marisa C. Ordonia
Earthjustice
810 Third Avenue, Suite 610
Seattle, WA 98104
jbrimmer@earthjustice.org
mordonia@earthjustice.org
ahinz@earthjustice.org

Ronald Lavigne, Senior Counsel
Sonia Wolfman, Asst. Attorney General
Office of the AG – Ecology Division
P.O. Box 40117
Olympia, WA 98504
Ronald.lavigne@atg.wa.gov
sonia.wolfman@atg.wa.gov
donna.fredricks@atg.wa.gov
ecyolyef@atg.wa.gov

Verna Bromley
Michael Graves
King County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office
1191 Second Avenue, Suite 1700
Seattle, WA 98101
Verna.Bromley@kingcounty.gov
mgraves@kingcounty.gov

Beth Ginsberg
Michael Campbell
Stoel Rives LLP
600 University Street, Suite 3600
Seattle, WA 98101
beth.ginsberg@stoel.com;
michael.campbell@stoel.com

Wyatt Golding
Brian C. Gruber
Ziontz Chestnut
2101 Fourth Avenue, Suite 1230
Seattle, WA 98121
wgolding@ziontzchestnut.com
bgruber@ziontzchestnut.com
chazzard@ziontzchestnut.com

Melody Allen
The Suquamish Tribe Office of Tribal Attorney
18490 Suquamish Way
P.O. Box 498
Suquamish, WA 98392
mallen@suquamish.nsn.us
STIPULATION FOR PARTIAL STAY
OF PSNGP

Jane G. Steadman  
Kanji & Katzen, PLLC  
811 First Avenue, Suite 630  
Seattle, WA 98104  
jsteadman@kanjikatzen.com

Joseph P. Bennett  
Hendricks-Bennett, PLLC  
402 Fifth Avenue South  
Edmonds, WA 98020  
joe@hendricksb.com

Timothy D. Benedict  
City of Everett  
2930 Wetmore Avenue, Suite 10-C  
Everett, WA 98120  
tbenedict@everettwa.gov

Brett M. Jette  
City of Bremerton  
345 6th Street, Suite 100  
Bremerton, WA 98337  
brett.jette@ci.bremerton.wa.us

Robert A. Carmichael  
Catherine Moore  
Carmichael Clark PS  
1700 D Street  
P.O. Box 5226  
Bellingham, WA 98227  
Bob@carmichaelclark.com  
CMoore@carmichaelclark.com  
TBaker@carmichaelclark.com  
TMaloy@carmichaelclark.com

Sharon Cates  
Beth Ford  
Jeffrey Taraday  
Lighthouse Law Group PLLC  
600 Stewart Street, Suite 400  
Seattle, WA 98101  
sharon@lighthouselawgroup.com  
beth@lighthouselawgroup.com  
jeff@lighthouselawgroup.com

Lori A. Terry  
Devra R. Cohen  
Foster Garvey PC  
1111 Third Avenue, Suite 3000  
Seattle, WA 98101  
devra.cohen@foster.com  
lori.terry@foster.com  
Shbien.Cross@Foster.com

Christopher D. Bacha  
City of Tacoma  
747 Market St Room 1120  
Tacoma WA 98402  
cbacha@cityoftacoma.org

Signed at Seattle, Washington, this 14th day of January 2022.

s/ Susan Barragan  
Susan Barragan, Legal Assistant

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