



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10**

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 155
Seattle, WA 98101-3123

APR 30 2019

WATER
DIVISION

Ms. Heather Bartlett
Manager, Water Quality Program
Washington State Department of Ecology
PO Box 47600
Olympia, Washington 98504-7600

Re: The EPA's Action on Certain Revisions to the Washington State Department of Ecology's 2019 Surface Water Quality Standards to Protect Primary Contact Recreation in Fresh and Marine Waters, and Other Water Quality Standards Provisions

Dear Ms. Bartlett:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has completed its Clean Water Act review of the new and revised water quality standards that the Washington State Department of Ecology submitted to the EPA on March 1, 2019. Under the CWA Section 303(c), 33 U.S.C. § 1313(c), states must submit new and revised WQS to the EPA for review and action, and the EPA must ensure that those WQS are consistent with the CWA and the EPA's implementing regulations. The EPA's action is further described in the enclosed Technical Support Document.

The EPA's action applies only to waters in the State of Washington and does not apply to waters that are within Indian Country, as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 1151.

Summary of the EPA's Action

- I. Pursuant to the EPA's authority under CWA Section 303(c) and the implementing regulations at 40 CFR Part 131, the EPA is approving certain revisions to the following sections of Chapter 173-201A WAC:
 - WAC 173-201A-020: Definitions.
 - Portions of WAC 173-201A-200: Fresh water designated uses and criteria.
 - Portions of WAC 173-201A-210: Marine water designated uses and criteria.
 - WAC 173-201A-320: Tier II - Protection of waters of higher quality than the standards.
 - WAC 173-201A-600: Use Designations – Fresh waters.
 - WAC 173-201A-602: Table 602 – Use designations for fresh waters by water resource inventory area (WRIA).
 - WAC 173-201A-610: Use designations – Marine waters.
 - WAC 173-201A-612: Table 612 – Use designations for marine waters.

II. The EPA is not taking action on the following new and revised provisions in the following sections of Chapter 173-201A WAC because they are not considered WQS under Section 303(c) of the CWA:

- Portions of WAC 173-201A-200: Fresh water designated uses and criteria.
- Portions of WAC 173-201A-210: Marine water designated uses and criteria.
- Portions of WAC 173-201A-602: Table 602 – Use designations for fresh waters by water resource inventory area (WRIA).

The EPA looks forward to continuing the close collaboration with Ecology and we appreciate the efforts your staff have dedicated to updating the recreational criteria for fresh and marine waters in Washington. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at (206) 553-1855 or Lindsay Guzzo, the EPA staff lead, at (206) 553-0268 or Guzzo.Lindsay@epa.gov.

Sincerely,



Daniel D. Opalski
Director

Enclosure: Technical Support Document

cc: Ms. Melissa Gildersleeve, Water Quality Management Section Manager, Washington State Department of Ecology
Mr. Chad Brown, Water Quality Management Unit Supervisor, Washington State Department of Ecology