



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

MS: S-70 • 2108 Grand Boulevard • Vancouver, Washington 98661-4622 • (360) 690-7171

October 27, 2009

Mr. Pat Allen
Thurston County Water Resources
929 Lake Ridge Drive, SW
Bldg. 4, Room 100
Olympia, WA 98502

RE: Ecology Approval of Modified WWHM3 for Thurston County

Dear Mr. Allen:

Ecology has completed its review of the Thurston County WWHM with its new 15 minute precipitation gages. The default WWHM for Thurston County uses only the hourly data from Olympia Airport and extrapolates it to other areas in the county. The Thurston County WWHM uses the same default WWHM runoff parameters; however, it uses 12 new 15-minute precipitation gage data to represent precipitation throughout the county. Based on the limited check on the flows calculated by the Thurston County WWHM as compared to the default WWHM, the flows are different but the differences are within the expected range.

The Thurston County WWHM also includes a unique feature which tracks discharges to the groundwater. This feature allows the county to encourage and set goals for groundwater recharge.

With the above mentioned additions to the default WWHM, the Thurston County WWHM is an improvement over the default WWHM and Ecology believes that it is an appropriate model for the county to use.

Thank you for providing us with the additional information. If you or your staff have any questions about the permit please contact me at 360-690-7120 or by e-mail at: gwin461@ecy.wa.gov. For specific information or clarification on the WWHM please contact Mr. Foroozan Labib at 360-407-6439 or by e-mail at: flab461@ecy.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Greg Winters
Municipal Stormwater Permit Manager
Vancouver Field Office

GW/jw

