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August 16, 2011

Dear Mr. Connolly and Ms. Betchley:

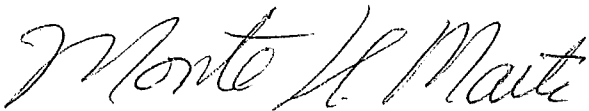
Thank you for the June 23, 2011 letter from the Stillaguamish Clean Water District (SCWD) Advisory Board. The Snohomish Conservation District (SCD) greatly appreciates your input and recommendations and the opportunity to work collaboratively with you and others to address natural resource concerns within the SCWD.

- The SCD will continue to work with landowners to implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) that protect and improve water quality and natural resource management as detailed in the 2011 work plan. SCD will also continue to have a full-time planner dedicated to the Stillaguamish watershed.
- SCD will continue to move forward with the large manure pile project funded through the Discretionary fund. SCD has identified several piles and is working to get landowner agreement. The SCD is in the process of finding a business to maintain and rent out the manure spreader that will be purchased with SCWD funds.
- The SCD will continue to pursue additional Education and Outreach opportunities within the Stillaguamish watershed to promote the activities and programs that address the identified water quality priorities within the SCWD. Classes and other events provide valuable face-to-face contact and an opportunity to educate landowners about their impact on water quality and the services of SCD. The District is committed to working with our partners on the implementation of the CWD Education and Outreach Strategic Plan.
- The SCD supports the SCWD Advisory Board's intentions to pursue Discretionary Fund projects. The SCD will use the Nexus publication, website, workshops, and other means to publicize the program. The SCD will emphasize the Discretionary Fund as a critical component to the success of water quality projects in the Stillaguamish watershed.

- The SCD understands the importance of the farm and livestock surveys and follow-up activities. These actions lead to direct contact with cooperators to address their natural resource concerns. In 2011, the SCD will commit to a survey of Portage Creek, as well as the Warm Beach and Port Susan drainages. SCD plans to complete the field portion of the surveys by the end of November 2011. The District is committed to following up with the priority landowners identified in all past surveys. The District will focus on the delivery of resource management assistance to these high priority areas. Additionally, the District is committed to working with Snohomish County Surface Water Management and the Washington State Department of Ecology to clarify the referral and compliance process.
- The SCD is committed to working with the SCWD Board and Snohomish County Surface Water Management to address the priority action items within the Stillaguamish Shellfish Protection Program. The SCD is interested in exploring new, proactive, and creative ways to approach education, outreach, and cooperator engagement that can broaden the impact of our efforts. The SCD will continue to pursue available grants to address these activities.
- The SCD will continue to work with the SCWD Board and Snohomish County in the development of the 2012 SCD Work Plan for the Stillaguamish Clean Water District. The SCD is committed to working cooperatively with all our partners in the SCWD to address the natural resource concerns within the Stillaguamish watershed.

If you have any additional questions, comments, or concerns please contact me.

Respectfully,



Monte H. Marti

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cc: Debbie Terwilleger, Director Snohomish County Surface Water Management  
Ralph Svrjcek, Washington State Department of Ecology  
Sean Edwards, Snohomish County Surface Water Management