

Sophia Cassam

From: Jan Alderton <janetmalderton@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 9, 2021 2:39 PM
To: Sophia Cassam; Cindy Wolf
Subject: Stormwater Docket Comments
Attachments: JA Stormwater Docket.docx

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Sophia,
Please find below and attached my comments on docket request 21-0008, proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendment:

"Proposed amendment to Comprehensive Plan Section B, Element 4 Water Resources Draft May 19, 2020,
Section 4.5 Storm and Surface Water Management, p.7"

Thank-you for sharing my comments with our county councilors.

Janet Alderton
Orcas Island

Councilor Wolf,
I appreciate your thoughtfulness and hard work!
Janet

Request 21-0008—Stormwater code updates

This proposal would amend the Comprehensive Plan and update the County Code with language consistent with current stormwater standards to improve environmental protection, address stormwater runoff, control erosion and sedimentation, and promote aquifer recharge.

Staff have already identified the need to update the stormwater code and propose adding the Comprehensive Plan language during the current update and to take up the stormwater regulation update in 2022-23.

DCD Staff have recommended that this Docket Request have the highest priority.

I agree because the requirements in Alexandra Gayek's request will reduce stormwater runoff and promote aquifer recharge.

Aquifer recharge is already limited. Ensuring that aquifer recharge does not steeply decline as more development occurs will require the measures that are proposed in this docket request. Future rainfall patterns are predicted to concentrate precipitation in heavier and less frequent storms. Stormwater handling will become more challenging. At the same time, population growth will increase water demands. Development will replace the natural areas that promote aquifer recharge (forests, shrublands, meadows, and wetlands) with more and more impervious surfaces. The creation of more and more roofs and driveways, decks and patios, and the access roads to these new homes will collectively create larger pulses of stormwater. Longer periods without rain, like the one we are experiencing, are predicted. (See the drought map below that indicates our islands are experiencing "severe drought" for the week of Sept. 2, 2021.)

To better communicate with people who are not stormwater professionals, please preface the regulations with explanations of why these restrictions and requirements are necessary. Please create the new regulations using ordinary language, if possible. And please provide graphics for those of us who need this extra help to understand.

Thank-you for your attention!

Janet Alderton
Orcas Island

The Seattle Times

While areas east of the Cascade mountain range are experiencing "exceptional drought."

ABNORMALLY DRY

Ski season is shortened; visitation is lower

MODERATE DROUGHT

Fire danger increases. Possible dust storms. River flow is low

SEVERE DROUGHT

Wheat and corn are stunted; harvest is early. Producers feed cows earlier; silage is harder to find. Number of wildfires increases; grasses are brown

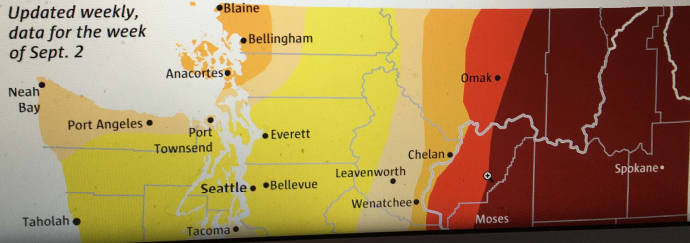
EXTREME DROUGHT

Crop and hop yields are poor; wheat protein content is higher. Unprecedented wildfires occur; call is issued for citizen volunteers to fight fires; firefighting funds are running out. Tourism is reduced, and recreation is altered

EXCEPTIONAL DROUGHT

Exceptional and widespread crop/pasture losses; shortages of water in reservoirs, streams and wells create water emergencies

Updated weekly, data for the week of Sept. 2



MacBook Air