DRAFT Deschutes TMDL Desk Statement

EPA has issued a final decision on the Washington Department of Ecology ("Ecology") developed TMDL titled, *Deschutes River, Percival Creek, and Budd Inlet Tributaries Temperature, Fecal Coliform, Bacteria, Dissolved Oxygen, pH and Fine Sediment [TMDL]* (hereafter referred to as the "Deschutes TMDL"). This effort to address multi-parameter water quality issues in the Deschutes River is an important step towards meeting water quality goals in this watershed. It is also an important step towards moving forward with addressing downstream impacts to Capitol Lake and Budd Inlet. EPA recognizes the complex and challenging work that went into developing the Deschutes TMDL. EPA commends Ecology's technical and water quality modeling efforts that formed the basis for the TMDL, and we appreciate all of the hard work that went into developing it. At this point, EPA must partially disapprove the Deschutes TMDL because portions of it don't meet certain statutory and regulatory requirements. Moving forward, EPA plans to build off of the modeling work that was already conducted to refine the Deschutes TMDL's allocations, and ensure they conform with our requirements. EPA will continue our close coordination with Ecology as we work towards our common goal of protecting water quality in the State of Washington, and reaching the most beneficial environmental outcome possible.