UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101-3140

OFFICE OF THE
REGIONAL
ADMINISTRATOR

Capitol Lake Improvement and Protection Association
606 Columbia Street NW #100-C
Olympia, WA 98501

Dear Mr. Havens, Mr. Curry, and Mr. Wubbena:

Thank you for your letter dated August 23, 2018 regarding the Deschutes Urban Community Water Plan. We appreciate your active interest and participation in water quality issues in the Deschutes River Watershed, Capitol Lake, and Budd Inlet. Your letter raises some important points for EPA to be aware of and includes your report, *The Washington Department of Ecology's Deschutes River, Capitol Lake, and Budd Inlet Total Maximum Daily Load Study – Supplemental Modeling Scenarios: A Critical Review* by David H. Milne. We also received a letter addressed to Dan Opalski, addressing similar issues and also including the report referenced above. This letter serves as a reply to both of those pieces of correspondence.

We will take your report and input into consideration as we work in the watershed, both in developing replacement Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for the disapproved portions of the Deschutes River multi-parameter TMDL, as well as our review of and decision on any proposed TMDLs for Budd Inlet or Capitol Lake from the Washington Department of Ecology ('Ecology'). Also, if you have not already, we encourage you to share your report with Ecology. Another important ongoing activity is the State-led Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) review for long-term planning in the Deschutes Watershed and Capitol Lake area. While EPA isn't required to comment on Washington's State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) projects, we do make an effort to track SEPA projects and weigh in as appropriate.

To ensure consistency between Budd Inlet and Deschutes River TMDL work, EPA is coordinating with Ecology as we develop replacement TMDLs for the disapproved portions of the Deschutes River multi-parameter TMDL. EPA also plans to provide periodic updates to stakeholders on our progress. As you know, any proposed TMDL plans, including any modeling and other technical work used to inform such a plan, must follow public participation requirements. This includes seeking feedback on the draft TMDL through a public comment period. We understand that community engagement is critical to ensuring that actions and management decisions in the Deschutes River watershed consider the perspectives of all affected stakeholders. We encourage CLIPA to keep participating through those avenues.

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Thank you again for reaching out to us. If you have questions about the Deschutes River TMDLs which EPA is working on, please contact Miranda Hodgkiss of my staff at (206) 553-0692.

Sincerely,

Chris Hladick, Administrator
U.S. EPA Region 10