STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
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September 24, 2014

Mr. Jack Havens
Mr. Denis Curry
Mr. Bob Wubbena
Capitol Lake Improvement and Protection Association
606 Columbia Street NW #100-C
Olympia, WA 98501

Re: Capitol Lake Management

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

I am responding to the September 7 and 17, 2014, correspondence to the Department of Ecology (Ecology) from Capitol Lake Improvement and Protection Association (CLIPA) representatives regarding Capitol Lake management. Despite our earlier communications with CLIPA, your correspondence fails to recognize the Department of Enterprise Services (DES) as the state agency with the leadership role and responsibility for managing Capitol Lake. For example, CLIPA's recent letter and emails overlook that DES is in the midst of conducting a broad-based community process using the Ruckelshaus Center to probe community perspectives about Capitol Lake. You call for creation of a special public process this autumn rather than respecting the DES evaluation process.

Your letter also calls for me to "refocus leadership at the Governor's Office" on a future design for Capitol Lake. This is not an appropriate role for Ecology. During multiple meetings and communications with CLIPA representatives, we have emphasized that DES is the steward and decision maker for management of the Capitol Campus, including Capitol Lake. Future questions and concerns about long-term management of Capitol Lake should be raised directly with DES. As a courtesy, I am attaching our recent September 2, 2014, letter to you that describes Ecology's technical assistance role as a science-based resource for DES and as the state's water quality regulatory and compliance agency. Please note that DES Director Chris Liu has an open door policy, and I understand that DES has attended a number of meetings with CLIPA representatives. I strongly suggest you continue to engage with Director Liu about these important issues related to management of Capitol Lake.

In addition, it is unfortunate that your recent correspondence reiterates previous criticisms and misstatements about the Deschutes water quality technical studies. We have discussed and responded to these comments in several forums including when I met with you this summer along with senior managers and scientists. Over the past several months, our science team has

provided a number of written replies to CLIPA's questions and concerns, often addressing the same issues. Ecology staff have also met with Dr. Milne specifically, and have proposed a scientist-to-scientist meeting to discuss water quality studies. Finally, we have pursued strong independent peer review of Ecology's water quality studies and computer modeling by national, unbiased experts.

Ecology has provided straightforward and transparent responses explaining why we do not agree with CLIPA's conclusions about Capitol Lake water quality. These include clarification of our results to correct your misinterpretations and mistaken assumptions. During the August meeting and again today, Ecology respectfully acknowledges our organizations are at a juncture and must "agree to disagree" on the science.

Regardless, Ecology is committed to continuing a robust and transparent public process to return the Deschutes River Watershed, including Capitol Lake, to clean water. The existing process involves developing and implementing a Deschutes Water Cleanup Plan. We will draft this cleanup plan with guidance from the Deschutes TMDL Advisory Group, of which CLIPA has been a member since 2009. A cleanup plan for the freshwater portions of the Deschutes system is expected by the end of the year. With continued involvement from the advisory group, Ecology will then develop a cleanup plan for the marine water and Capitol Lake portions of the basin. I encourage CLIPA's continued participation in this existing venue.

I trust our shared goals for clean water in the Deschutes River and Budd Inlet will provide the common ground to identify effective solutions to support the multiple uses enjoyed among the wide range of watershed and community interests.

Sincerely,

Maia D. Bellon

Maia D. Bellon
Director

Enclosure

cc: Jay Inslee, Governor
Brad Owen, Lt. Governor
Kim Wyman, Secretary of State
Peter Goldmark, Commissioner of Public Lands
Senator Karen Fraser
Senator Ann Rivers
Senator Tim Sheldon
Representative Chris Reykdal
Representative Sam Hunt
Representative Richard DeBolt
Representative Kathy Haigh

cc: Representative Hans Dunshee
Representative Drew MacEwen
Tribal Council, Squaxin Nation
Olympia City Council Members
Tumwater City Council Members
Thurston County Commissioners
Port of Olympia Commissioners
LOTT Board
Chris Liu, Director, Department of Enterprise Services
David Schumacher, Director, Office of Financial Management
Phil Anderson, Director, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Puget Sound Partnership
Thurston County Chamber of Commerce
Olympia Downtown Association
Economic Development Council
Chris Page (c/o Ruckelshaus Center)
George Le Masurier, The Olympian
John Dodge, The Olympian