U.S. Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 10, 1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101-3140

Ms. Nina Bell, Executive Director
Northwest Environmental Advocates
P.O. Box 12187
Portland, Oregon 97212-0187

MAY 18 2012

Dear Ms. Bell:

Thank you for your April 3, 2012, letter expressing the Northwest Environmental Advocates' concerns about the pace of Oregon Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) progress on Oregon's Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program and your May 2, 2012, letter regarding the federal agencies' interim finding as to the sufficiency of Oregon's agricultural programs.

Working with Oregon to achieve full approval of its Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program is a priority for NOAA and the EPA. NOAA and the EPA recognize that the implementation-ready (IR) TMDL effort is a new and complicated undertaking; it will take time to develop and interim milestones may need to be adjusted as the process unfolds. We also have expressed our concern to DEQ about the slipping deadlines.

The IR TMDL effort is designed to address all major sources, including agriculture. The agencies will review the IR TMDL and consider its contribution to Oregon's coastal nonpoint program for all sectors addressed by the IR TMDL.

Both agencies will continue to work closely with DEQ to move its IR TMDL effort forward expeditiously and to enable the State to meet the other remaining conditions on its Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program.

Sincerely,

John King, Acting Deputy Director
Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Sincerely,

Michael A. Bussell, Director
Office of Water and Watersheds
Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10

cc: Mr. Dick Pedersen, Director, DEQ
Mr. Bill Blosser, Chair, EQC
Mr. Greg Aldrich, Acting Water Quality Division Administrator, DEQ
Mr. Gene Foster, Watershed Management Manager, DEQ
Ms. Patty Snow, Program Manager, Coastal Management Program, DLCD
Mr. David Powers, Regional Manager for Forests and Rangelands, EPA R10
Mr. Don Waye, EPA HQ
Ms. Allison Castellan, Coastal Management Specialist, NOAA