Mr. Eldon Hout
Coastal Manager
Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development
Portland State Office Building, Suite 1145
800 NE Oregon Street, #18
Portland, Oregon 97232

Dear Mr. Hout:

I just wanted to update you on where we in the Coastal Programs Division (CPD) are in the process of reviewing and approving state Coastal Nonpoint Programs in accordance with the administrative changes we issued last October. As you probably know, we're working diligently towards a Clean Water Action Plan key action to ensure that programs are fully approved by December 1999, with appropriate state-enforceable policies and mechanisms. We have recently issued a public notice of our intent to fully approve the Maryland Coastal Nonpoint Program, and we anticipate more approvals in the coming months. We do not expect all states will receive full approval by the deadline, but we want to work with you to make as much progress towards that goal as possible. As we complete review of information we've received and apply the administrative changes, we hope to significantly reduce the number of conditions on state programs. To date, only a handful of states have chosen to submit a legal opinion (as provided for in the administrative changes) to meet conditions associated with back-up enforceable policies and mechanisms. Working with you, I hope we can move forward more quickly in completing this process.

We continue to work with EPA Headquarters and EPA Regional staff on the Coastal Nonpoint Program, but I wanted to share my perspective with you and let you know what we're doing to expedite the process here. To track progress, we've developed a series of "status tables" that list conditions placed on your program, identifying information you've sent and actions you've proposed or already taken to meet those conditions. We've also included "next steps" which outline actions you or we need to take to make additional progress in satisfying conditions. In developing these tables, we've tried to sort out "the wheat from the chaff," highlighting areas where more effort may be required on your part or our part vs. those areas that we feel you have addressed or can be dealt with easily.

Attached is the status table for your state, based on the latest information available. It summarizes the information exchanged between our staffs through phone calls and written materials (primarily the April 1999 submission from Amanda Punton), preliminary decisions reached by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to date, and remaining tasks

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needed for full approval. The April 1999 submission included information on a number of conditions that the state believes it has met. We believe that you have met most of these conditions and hope that you will be able to make progress on meeting the remaining conditions in a timely fashion.

We have discussed with your staff the option for extending the timeframe for several of the remaining conditions, as requested in the April 1999 submission. We believe that several of these conditions may be met through activities under the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds and the January 1999 Executive Order. We will continue to discuss this issue with your staff. We are working with EPA to finalize comments on the conditions addressed in the April 1999 submission and the request to extend the timeframe for meeting several of the remaining conditions. In addition, we also look forward to Oregon's submission of its five and fifteen year plan.

Finally, I would also like to congratulate Amanda Punton of your staff for the dedicated effort she has put into addressing the conditions placed on Oregon's Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Program. I look forward to working with you and your staff to move forward on the Coastal Nonpoint Program. We have made a lot of progress so far and anticipate a significant push by the CPD to complete the bulk of the remaining work before the end of the calendar year. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 301 713-3102, Extension 195 or Keelin Kuipers at 301 713-3121, Extension 175.

Sincerely,

Joseph A. Uravitch, AICP
Chief, Coastal Programs Division

cc: Teena Reichgott, EPA Region 10