

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-09

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF HB 3181 / SB 6851, THE CLEAN WATER ACT OF 2010

WHEREAS, Whatcom County and all seven cities in the county (including the City of Bellingham) are required by federal and state law to manage and clean up stormwater. The costs of doing so are ongoing and expected to rise as requirements increase; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bellingham is committed to managing stormwater responsibly. Only by completing infrastructure and retrofit projects now will we be able to pass a cleaner Puget Sound to our children; and

WHEREAS, Bellingham property owners should not be asked to shoulder the whole cost of pollution cleanup – we need a balanced approach that asks polluters to pay their share; and

WHEREAS, over twenty years ago, Washington voters approved the hazardous substances tax (Initiative 97) to clean up toxic pollution. Since then the tax rate has never been raised to meet growing needs and clean-up costs. Extending the tax to cover polluted stormwater is a common-sense solution to the state's biggest water quality problem. The tax is levied upon substances that are the most significant stormwater pollutants: petroleum, pesticides and toxic chemicals; and

WHEREAS, stormwater clean-up projects are labor-intensive – they will put money back in the pockets of workers in our community and throughout the state. This bill will create thousands of jobs across the state and our community, and at the same time we'll be building clean water infrastructure that we'll be proud of for generations;


NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM:

1. We endorse the Clean Water Act of 2010, HB 3181/ SB 6851 and urge its quick passage by the Washington State Legislature during the 2010 session.
2. We urge our local legislators to champion the Clean Water Act of 2010, HB 3181/ SB 6851 that benefits our residents, workers, and quality of life.
3. We recommend amendment of the Clean Water Act of 2010 to increase the percentage of MTCA funds directed toward clean water projects in 2011 through 2013 to better support the voters' will as expressed originally in I-97.

City of Bellingham
City Attorney
210 Lottie Street
Bellingham, Washington 98225
360-778-8270

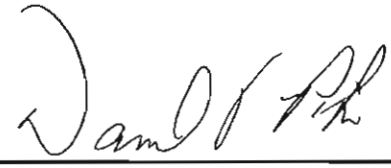
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM:

PASSED by the Council this 23rd day of February, 2010.



Council President

APPROVED by me this 23rd day of February, 2010.

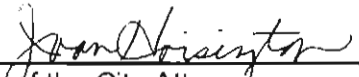


Mayor

ATTEST: 

Finance Director

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Office of the City Attorney

City of Bellingham
City Attorney
210 Lottie Street
Bellingham, Washington 98225
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