

**WHATCOM COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

**Jon Hutchings
Director**



NATURAL RESOURCES

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Satpal Singh Sidhu, County Executive
The Honorable Whatcom County Council Members

THROUGH: Jon Hutchings, Public Works Director *JH*

FROM: Gary Stoyka, Natural Resources Manager *GS*
Erika Douglas, Senior Planner *ED*

DATE: March 10, 2020

RE: 2020 Pollution Identification and Correction (PIC) Introductory Letter

Requested Action

Public Works respectfully requests that the Whatcom County Council authorize the Council Chair to sign the PIC introductory letter to support the Pollution Identification and Correction (PIC) Program.

Background and Purpose

In 2014, the Whatcom County Council adopted Resolution # 2014-044 describing the PIC Program and tiered approach to working with landowners to identify and address fecal bacteria sources impacting surface waters and shellfish growing areas.

Following approval of the resolution, a PIC introductory letter, signed by the County Executive and Council Chair, was developed to be sent to landowners in PIC focus areas. This letter introduced water quality concerns, sources of fecal bacteria, related regulations, and the County's partnership with the Whatcom Conservation District to provide incentive based technical assistance to landowners. The letter is an important element to the community outreach and engagement component of the Whatcom County PIC Program and Whatcom Clean Water Program partnership.

Since 2014, the PIC introductory letter has been updated each year to provide information about successes and remaining concerns. Proposed updates to the 2020 letter include upgrades to Drayton Harbor shellfish growing areas and the reduction of shellfish harvesting restrictions in Portage Bay that were accomplished in 2019.

Please contact Gary Stoyka at extension 6218 or Erika Douglas at 6294 if you have any questions or concerns regarding this updated letter.

Encl.