



Governor Jay Inslee
Office of the Governor
P. O. Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Maia Bellon
Director
Washington State Department of Ecology
P. O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Dear Governor Inslee and Director Bellon:

The Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force urges you to support and explore innovative financial partnerships with the City of Spokane to implement its Integrated Clean Water Plan. The Task Force includes all dischargers to the Spokane River within Washington State. In lieu of working through a traditional TMDL process, we work collaboratively with each other and Ecology on a direct-to-implementation approach to speed results and avoid legal expenses.

The Task Force supports the City of Spokane's plan and the exploration of financial partnership with Ecology and the state as it would greatly help the Task Force achieve its goal of demonstrating "measurable progress" towards reducing PCBs and toxics entering the Spokane River. Improving the health of the Spokane River provides a statewide benefit. Considering that the Spokane River empties into the Columbia River, this plan would positively influence two of the four priority water basins listed on the Department of Ecology's web site.

Addressing PCBs is very difficult. PCBs are measured in very small quantities and are ubiquitous in our environment. Approximately 57 percent of PCBs entering the Spokane River come from unknown sources. The Task Force has embarked on extensive research to help determine where PCBs are coming from in order to begin to address them.

The City of Spokane proposes to deal with known river sources of PCBs and toxics. In its plan, the City of Spokane has included projects that are required by its NPDES permits as well as other voluntary projects that provide even greater pollutant reduction.

The City of Spokane's proposed Integrated Clean Water Plan offers five times more the PCB reduction for the River than its current required CSO plan which would only address combined sewer overflows, and meet its statutory requirements.

The median household income in Spokane is just 70 percent of the state average. The additional, voluntary work is not affordable for the citizens of the City of Spokane without some assistance. The Spokane River is not just a Spokane asset and responsibility, but a statewide one.

Spokane's plan represents the innovative, collaborative, and cost-effective solutions we are seeking as a state to address pollutants of concern in our waterways. We believe it's time to invest in this plan and get the results we all desire and are working hard to achieve.

Sincerely,