



DRAFT (3)

November 5, 2015

EPA (?)

Re: The Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force (SRRTTF) Letter of Support for The Lands Council's (TLC) Stormwater and LID Education and Outreach in the Spokane River Watershed Project Proposal under EPA Urban Waters Small Grants

To Whom it may concern (?)

The SRRTTF works collaboratively to restore water quality by identifying, characterizing, and reducing sources of toxics to the Spokane River. Our studies show the impact that urbanization has on the river. Education and outreach is an essential way to address this impact and ensure the health of the Spokane River.

The SRRTTF hereby supports the TLC proposal because it educates local residents about stormwater pollution impacts, provides public health and safety information to users of the Spokane River that focuses on immigrant and homeless communities thereby addressing local environmental justice concerns and susceptible populations, instructs underserved student populations on urban water runoff pollution, stormwater and LID concepts, and addresses local environmental literacy, green job preparedness for rehabilitated offenders at local correction centers that is specific to stormwater pollution.

Consistent with the SRRTTF's collaborative efforts, The Lands Councils project will provide needed public education, and engagement to advance the understanding of Spokane River toxics issues. SRRTTF believes that the scope of TLC's proposal will be a major benefit to our region's work on controlling the impacts of stormwater pollution affecting the Spokane River. Moreover the TLC proposal augments local efforts to create healthy and accessible urban waters environment that in turn helps grow local businesses, and enhance educational, recreational, employment and social opportunities for the community.

TLC's Low Impact Development (LID) education will provide a very constructive influence on the safety, improved quality and environmental health of the Spokane River and will be a positive achievement in the interests of public health. Funding the TLC proposal will also provide much needed community education of LID storm water techniques, help promote storm water treatment at its source, and reduce the discharges of contaminated stormwater to the Spokane River.

The SRRTTF in its efforts to address the many challenges affecting the Spokane River and specifically to reduce PCBs from non-point sources such as stormwater believes the TLC Stormwater and LID Education and Outreach in the Spokane River Watershed Project will provide an essential component to achieve that goal. Furthermore the TLC project's focus on providing LID concept education, environmental literacy and green job preparedness strongly complements our region's efforts on environmental sustainability and future workforce development.