

SPOKANE RIVER REGIONAL TOXICS TASK FORCE
SPOKANE REGIONAL GRASSROOTS STORMWATER STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN LETTER

July 21, 2021

Mr. James George III
City of Spokane
Wastewater Department
909 E. Sprague Avenue
Spokane, WA 99202-2127

Re: Support for the proposed Spokane Regional Grassroots Stormwater Stewardship Campaign

To Whom it May Concern:

The Spokane River Toxics Task Force (SRRTTF) would like to express its support for the cooperative request of the City of Spokane, City of Spokane Valley, and Spokane County's request for a Stormwater Grant of Regional or Statewide Significance (GROSS grant) to fund a multi-media education and outreach campaign. The goal of the SRRTTF is to make measurable progress in finding and reducing PCBs in the Spokane River and other toxics, consistent with our Comprehensive Plan. Improved community involvement in the management of stormwater will benefit the health of the river.

The focus of the proposed outreach campaign is to develop a regional awareness of stormwater influence, and to make clear the opportunities for the community to assist in the management of stormwater with a focus on benefits to the river, which has direct relevance to goals of the SRRTTF. Stormwater is a vehicle for contamination to local water bodies, and generates a lot of discussion during local environmental advocacy, however there is no entity or group solely representing stormwater. The proposed outreach campaign seeking GROSS grant funding has the opportunity to align existing advocacy groups, permitted municipalities, and the represented communities with a focus solely on stormwater. The SRRTTF supports this effort for the benefits that enhancing the community stormwater knowledgebase will provide towards improving river health, and welcomes the opportunity to align advocacy and community discussions on the influence of stormwater and subsequent management approaches.

The SRRTTF encourages the Washington Department of Ecology to fund the proposed stormwater public education and outreach multi-media campaign. As a Task Force we remain committed to making measurable progress in reducing PCB and other toxic risks, and achieving the associated socio-economic and environmental benefits. Thank you for considering our support of this request.