



August 6, 2025

Department of Ecology  
Water Quality Program  
P.O. Box 47600  
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

**RE: Support for Clark County CBP3 Phase 2 Grant Application**

Dear Grants Manager,

The Clean Water Commission's mission is to work with our community and leadership to improve and protect Clark County watersheds from the impacts of stormwater runoff, point and non-point pollution sources, and other risks to the ecological integrity and quality of our surface water resources. With that in mind, the Clean Water Commission strongly supports Clark County's *Community Based Public Private Partnership (CBP3) Phase 2* grant proposal, which will enable the Clean Water Division to develop and implement a new model for implementing critical stormwater maintenance in Clark County.

Our understanding is that in January 2025, Clark County was offered a grant from Ecology's Stormwater Community-Based Public-Private Partnership Program to improve the performance of existing bioretention facilities through the design of a community-based public-private partnership (CBP3) maintenance program.

Currently, the county maintains its bioretention facilities according to the Western Washington Stormwater Manual and meets Phase 1 Municipal Stormwater Permit maintenance requirements. However, resource constraints and lack of internal horticulture knowledge or landscape expertise have made it difficult to keep bioretention facility maintenance at an optimized level to ensure effective stormwater treatment and aesthetic value to the community.

The first phase of the project was to analyze the feasibility and develop the CBP3 bioretention maintenance program including a draft RFP and contract. This process includes conducting research and developing a series of technical memoranda on legal considerations, procurement policies, financial analysis, and workforce development including training resources and outreach materials to market the new program for implementation in Phase 2.

The new grant proposal for SFY2027 is to implement Phase 2 of this project using the draft RFP and performance-based contract developed during the first phase of this project to hire a contractor to perform maintenance on Clark County's vegetated bioretention facilities. This bioretention maintenance program will serve all unincorporated Clark County with priority to underserved communities. Implementation is scheduled to begin in 2027.

Once implemented, this county-wide program should enhance flow control and improve the removal of total suspended solids (TSS), dissolved metals, and total phosphorous. This optimization of county owned bioretention facilities will lead to improved water quality in multiple Clark County watersheds, including Burnt Bridge Creek, Salmon Creek, and Lacamas Creek.

In addition to participation in Ecology's CBP3 programs, staff have had meetings with reputable CBP3 firms, such as CIS, to learn more about CBP3 program execution. Staff have also hired a local consulting firm to begin developing a bioretention maintenance program through a competitive RFP process in 2024, with the goal that the final bioretention maintenance plan will be shovel-ready to pilot implementation by the time this grant application is funded.

Thank you for taking time to review the Clean Water Commission's letter of support for a future CBP3 program in Clark County. We encourage you to approve this proposal for funding, since it will have a significant and lasting impact not only on our area's water quality, but also on our ability to explore different project delivery models for stormwater maintenance that can result in multiple-benefits for people, fish, and wildlife while also generating social and economic benefits.

Sincerely,

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cc: Devan Rostorfer  
Marlena Milosevich  
Clean Water Commissioners