STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
Northwest Regional Office • 3190 160th Ave SE • Bellevue, WA 98008-5452 • 425-649-7000
711 for Washington Relay Service • Persons with a speech disability can call 877-833-6341

January 17, 2013

Citizens of Kenmore and Lake Forest Park

Subject: Kenmore Area Sediment Sampling Results and Open House January 23, 2013

Dear Kenmore and Lake Forest Park Citizens:

The City of Kenmore (City) and Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) conducted sediment sampling in northeast Lake Washington and the Sammamish River in November 2012. Now, the resulting data are available for public review, and you are invited to an open house to informally discuss these results and ask questions on Wednesday, January 23, 5-7 p.m., at Kenmore City Hall.

In general, the results represent an important and successful step in evaluating the current conditions of the near shore Lake Washington sediments in the Kenmore area. The sampling effort was successful and a worthwhile investment to the region. From Ecology's cleanup action perspective, the results show no immediate threat to human health and the environment.

Kenmore and Ecology funded the evaluation of lake-bottom sediment and water samples from 30 locations at Kenmore Harbor, Log Boom Park, Kenmore Navigation Channel, the lower reach of the Sammamish River and at Lake Forest Parks's Lyon Creek Waterfront Park. The study provided follow-up to a 2011 report of dioxin in the lake sediment at a private moorage in Kenmore.

Dioxin levels in the lake-bottom sediment in most areas at the northern tip of Lake Washington are consistent with background soil and sediment concentrations found in the Seattle-area, according to these results and a Washington state study in 2011.

Sediment samples taken in areas where people and pets may have contact with the lake bottom showed dioxins below the levels Ecology uses to determine if health risks are present from contact with dioxin in soils. Dioxins in sediment at two private marinas exceeded those levels, and Ecology will pursue further investigation of those areas in cooperation with the property owners. Those sediments are in areas not readily accessible to people or pets.

One of the study's goals was to determine potential sediment disposal options for the future maintenance dredging of the Kenmore Navigation Channel for better vessel access to maritime businesses. The channel's sediments contain dioxin similar to other areas outside the two marinas. The Channel is a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers facility.

Federal funding for dredging is an important goal for the City of Kenmore for economic development of the Lakepointe/Kenmore Industrial Park and for existing water dependent Kenmore businesses.

The surface water column is clean and showed no exceedance of state water quality standards. The sediment results from the public parks and boat launch locations show no detection of concern and all chemicals below the state cleanup level with one exception, a phthalate often found as part of urban background.

Ecology and the City are planning an open house to meet and answer questions about these sediment results. You are cordially invited to the open house on Wednesday, January 23 at Kenmore City Hall from 5 to 7 pm. The open house will be an opportunity to pick up a copy of the results and to meet with the city and Ecology staff. No formal presentation is planned, rather it will be a time to talk informally and discuss the sampling results and next steps and answer questions.

The City and Ecology will host an information meeting in April after Ecology completes the sediment study report. Also, Washington Department of Health will prepare a Health Consultation for Log Boom Park and the Lakepointe/Kenmore Industrial Park later this spring.

If you need additional information, please check the Ecology webpages at:

https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=2134

https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=9197

If you need additional information, please contact Maura O'Brien at the Ecology's Northwest Regional Office by email at mobr461@ecy.wa.gov or by telephone at 425-649-7249.