



## City of Edmonds Media Release

Office of the Mayor ~ 121 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, Edmonds

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**To:** Media

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### **Mayor Earling Agrees with Department of Ecology on Proposed Building Setbacks from Edmonds Marsh**

***Mayor Says Ecology's Proposed 65-ft Setback Offers Best Chance to Both Protect and Improve  
Edmonds Marsh Environment***

**(Edmonds, WA)** – In a letter to the director of the Washington State Department of Ecology, Mayor Dave Earling has expressed his support for Ecology's proposed 65-foot building setback (50-foot buffer with a 15-foot building setback) as part of the City's newly revised Shoreline Master Program, citing concerns that the Edmonds City Council's recent alternative for a 125-foot total setback would discourage future redevelopment of adjacent properties that could leverage valuable marsh enhancement measures.

After thoughtfully considering all sides in the issue, Mayor Earling outlined his response to the City Council's recent decision in the attached letter to the Washington State Department of Ecology. His response states that Ecology's proposed requirement for a 50-foot vegetative buffer with a 15-foot additional building setback – which is much greater than existing setbacks along much of the marsh's perimeter – will allow for reasonable development that will trigger much sought-after buffer and habitat enhancements around the marsh. Earling goes on to call Ecology's proposal a "real world solution to protecting and improving our valuable marsh."

The Edmonds City Council recently voted 4-3 to reject Ecology's requested change to the City's Shoreline Master Program (SMP) by approving a total 125-foot setback (110-foot buffer with

15-foot setback) for the Edmonds Marsh. The SMP is how the City is required to define, regulate and protect its shorelines, including the Edmonds Marsh and is currently under review by the Washington State Department of Ecology in accordance with the State Growth Management Act.

For detailed information about the Edmonds Shoreline Master Program, please visit:  
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/shorelines/smp/mycomments/edmonds.html>

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