SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBE

December __, 2026

Christopher Kloss
Director- Water Permits Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Wastewater Management - Water Permits Division (Mail Code 4203M)
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Proposed 2027 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction General Permit (CGP) for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activities

Dear Mr. Kloss:

Pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act ("CWA"), the Squaxin Island Tribe's Natural Resources Department certifies that the proposed 2027 "National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction General Permit (CGP) for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activities" will comply with the applicable provisions of Sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 of the CWA and the Tribe' s Water Quality Standards, provided that the conditions listed below are implemented. Areas covered under this permit include reservation and tribal trust lands. This certification is valid for five years from the date of this letter and subject to the following conditions:

I. The operator shall be responsible for achieving compliance with the Squaxin Island Tribe (SIT) Water Quality Standards.
II. The operator shall submit a copy of the Notice of Intent (NOI) to be covered by the general permit to the SIT Natural Resources Department at the address below, at the same time it is submitted to EPA.
III. The operator shall be responsible for submitting all Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPP) required under this general permit to the SIT Natural Resources Department for review and determination that the SWPPP is sufficient to meet Tribal Water Quality Standards, prior to the beginning of any discharge activities taking place.
IV. The operator shall be responsible for reporting an exceedance of Tribal Water Quality Standards to the SIT Natural Resources Department at the same time it is reported to EPA.
Squaxin Island Tribe
Natural Resources Department
200 Billy Frank Jr Way
Shelton, WA 98584
360-432-2805
V. The Squaxin Island Tribe Cultural Resources Department (CRD) will be provided 30 days to comment on the area of potential effect (APE) as defined in the permit application.

VI. If the project is an undertaking, a cultural resource assessment must occur. All fieldwork must be permitted by the CRD (as appropriate), conducted by qualified personnel (as outlined by the Secretary of Interior's Standards and Guidelines[1]; http://www.nps.gov/history/local- law/arch_stnds_0.htm) and documented according to the current Washington Reporting Standards[2]. The resulting report must be submitted to the CRD and the CRD must concur with the finding of effect and recommendations before any ground disturbing work can occur. The CRD requires 30 days to review all reports.

VII. The operator must obtain CRD concurrence in writing. If historic properties are present, this written concurrence will outline measures to be taken to prevent or mitigate adverse effects to historic properties.

VIII. The operator shall submit a signed copy of the Notice of Termination (NOT) to SIT Natural Resources at the same time it is submitted electronically to the EPA and shall provide SIT Natural Resources the EPA acknowledgement of receipt of the NOT.

The Squaxin Island Tribe's Public Notice Process:

On October 15, 2026, the Tribe received a request for certification from the Environmental Protection Agency. On November 23, 2026, the Tribe issued a public notice regarding the proposed project and provided the opportunity for the public to submit comments until December 23, 2026. The notice was posted on our website:
https://squaxinisland.org/squaxin-clean-water-act-section-401-certification-decisions/
Public comments were received, and responded to in written form. [Insert description of public notice and comment process, including if there was a public hearing and/or if the Tribe received any public comments. Include any information in response to public comments.]

If you have any further questions, please contact me at awhitener@squaxin.us and emarbet@squaxin.us.

Sincerely,

Andy Whitener
Director
Squaxin Island Tribe
Natural Resources Department

[1] https://www.nps.gov/subjects/historicpreservation/upload/standards-guidelines-archeology-historic-preservation.pdf
[2] https://dahp.wa.gov/sites/default/files/CR Update December 2025_1.pdf