



152 West Cedar Street Sequim, WA 98382  
City Hall (360) 683-4139 FAX (360) 681-3448  
Public Works (360) 683-4908 FAX (360) 681-0552

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July 23, 2012

Francea McNair  
Executive Director  
Olympic Region Clean Air Agency  
2940-B Limited Lane NW  
Olympia WA 98502

Dear Fran,

A majority of the City Council reaffirms the City's earlier request for the location of an air quality monitoring station in the Sequim area.

It seems logical that ORCAA would need background data in order to be able to determine if air quality was presently good in our area and especially to determine if air quality deteriorates in the Sequim area. The Dungeness Valley contains a major population area of about one-half of the Clallam County population.

The location of even a temporary monitoring station would provide "before and after" data. It is respectfully submitted that such data could be of great benefit to ORCAA in the future if other biomass conversion plants are permitted in the region. Such data would show definitively if biomass conversion plants do create air pollution. Perhaps even more important would be assurance of our population that ORCAA is monitoring to protect our health.

Since monitoring in the Sequim area took place from 1976 through 1979 and again for four months in 1992, current monitoring would be able to detect any changes from the 1976-1979 and 1992 levels. If accomplished in the near future, this data might also show deterioration in air quality from sources other than a biomass conversion plant. Such data would be invaluable to Sequim in making decisions regarding such other potential sources.

It is unfortunate that reluctance to monitor the Sequim area air quality may be seen by some as an admission that such monitoring would show that approval of a biomass conversion plant was ill advised. Sequim does not hold that opinion, but Sequim wishes to reassure its citizens with factual data.

We appreciate the cooperation and support your staff has provided to the City. Please let us know what we can do to help resolve this matter.

Sincerely,

Ken Hays, Mayor  
Cc: Sequim City Council, Clallam County Commissioner Mike Doherty, Port Angeles City Councilmember Dan Di Guilio