



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAR 02 2016

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Robert Cope  
Chair  
Small Community Advisory Subcommittee  
206 Courthouse Drive  
Salmon, Idaho 83467

Dear Mr. Cope:

Thank you for your letter on December 21, 2015, to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy providing recommendations from the Local Government Advisory Committee on the options presented in the EPA's proposed rule to revise the regulations for small MS4s in response to a remand to the EPA from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in *Environmental Defense Center, et al. v. EPA*, 344 F. 3d 832 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2003). The recommendations also provide advice on making available financial and technical assistance for small communities and on considering ways to use the Integrated Planning Framework for small MS4s.

We will evaluate and consider your thoughtful input as part of our development of the final rule. In addition, if the LGAC's recommendations are not already in the docket, we will ensure that they are added. The preamble for the final rule will summarize comments received and describe any changes that are made between the proposed and final rule based on comments received. The EPA will post in the docket for the final rule a "Response to Comment" document that will provide a response to all comments.

We appreciate your comments on issues of concern to local communities and expect to have continuing discussions with the LGAC about how the EPA and its partners can assist small communities affected by the final rule achieve our common interest in water quality protection. If you have further questions about the proposed rule, please contact Deborah Nagle in the Water Permits Division at 202-564-1185 or [nagle.deborah@epa.gov](mailto:nagle.deborah@epa.gov)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joel Beauvais".

Joel Beauvais  
Deputy Assistant Administrator