



King County

Fred Jarrett

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Dear Puget Sound Partnership and Strategic Initiative Advisory Teams,

On behalf of the South Central LIO, our member organizations, and all of the project sponsors who participated in the recent 2018 Action Agenda update, we would like to commend you on an improved and streamlined Near Term Action Process. NTA owners and reviewers from our LIO appreciated the easy-to-use online tool, the additional time to coordinate with project partners and develop proposals, and the two-step process that allowed for both reviewer feedback and additional collaboration. As a result of an improved process, we felt the overall quality of our NTAs improved as well and we appreciate you incorporating the feedback from local partners into this adaptive process.

In the interest of continuous improvement, we would also like to ask both the Puget Sound Partnership and the Strategic Initiative Advisory Teams (SIATs) that will be ranking the 2018 Near Term Actions (NTAs) to be flexible in how they approach the categorization of NTAs as they pertain to the Regional Priority Approaches. Many NTA owners found it difficult to select the appropriate Regional Priority Approach for their NTA. Significant overlap and duplication between different Regional Priority Approaches made it hard for some project sponsors to find the “best fit”.

The issue was compounded by the fact that NTA owners were encouraged by SIATs to choose only one Regional Priority Approach. As a result, we feel that many of our NTAs are improperly categorized, impacting scores for both alignment and outcome criteria. For example: a Habitat NTA that is miscategorized and therefore ranked by the Stormwater SIAT could have poor alignment *and* bad outcomes for that priority, whereas it might have strong alignment and outcomes for the Habitat Strategic Initiative and vice versa.

Rather than simply filtering the NTAs by their particular Regional Priority Approach, we ask that you consider the intent of the proposal as it pertains to the three Strategic Initiatives, and help ensure that Stormwater, Habitat, and Shellfish proposals are evaluated by the appropriate SIAT team, regardless of which Regional Priority it was filed under. For our part, the LIO will submit comments along with individual NTAs where we identified suboptimal alignment and provide a suggestion of a better suited Regional Priority Approach in hopes that this will be considered during regional review and not negatively impact an NTA’s final score.

This is an adaptive process, and as we strive for continuous improvement, participants at all levels should be flexible when shortcomings of the process come to light. The intent of categorizing NTAs under the appropriate Regional Priority Approach is the right one, but in practice it needs to be clarified how the Regional Priority Approaches relate to the Strategic Initiatives and an added filter is needed so that NTA owners have a clearer understanding of “best fit”. In addition, we believe that it will benefit the review process to be able to compare

similar projects; for example, green infrastructure and similar NTAs are currently attached to several different Regional Priority Approaches.

We appreciate your understanding and willingness to take these comments into consideration as you proceed with the NTA scoring process.

Sincerely,



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Fred Jarrett, Deputy King County Executive
Chair of South Central Action Area Caucus Group
<http://www.govlink.org/sc-puget-sound-action-area/Index.htm>

cc: Gretchen Muller, South Central LIO Coordinator, Cascadia Consulting
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