

WATER RESOURCE INVENTORY AREA (WRIA 8) SALMON RECOVERY COUNCIL



Beaux Arts Village

Bellevue

Bothell

Clyde Hill

Edmonds

Hunts Point

Issaquah

Kenmore

Kent

King County

Kirkland

Lake Forest Park

Maple Valley

Medina

Mercer Island

Mill Creek

Mountlake Terrace

Mukilteo

Newcastle

Redmond

Renton

Sammamish

Seattle

Shoreline

Snohomish County

Woodinville

Woodway

Yarrow Point

Cedar River Council

Friends of the Cedar River Watershed

Friends of the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery

Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce

Long Live the Kings

Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group

Mountains to Sound Greenway

Northwest Marine Trade Association

Sno-King Watershed Council

Trout Unlimited

Water Tenders

Alderwood Water and Wastewater District

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

US Army Corps of Engineers

Washington Departments:

Ecology

Fish and Wildlife

Natural Resources

Washington Association of Sewer and Water Districts

King Conservation District

January 24, 2020

The Honorable Senator/Representative
Olympia, WA 98504



RE: Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) Salmon Recovery Council state legislative priorities

Dear Senator/Representative :

On behalf of the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) Salmon Recovery Council, we wish to share our enclosed priorities for the state supplemental legislative session. Your leadership is critical to ensuring we can continue our efforts—and Washington State's commitment—to protect and restore habitat for salmon listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Salmon habitat restoration supports local economies and construction jobs, provides community benefits, and makes ecosystems more resilient to changing future conditions. Increased salmon abundance also improves the prey source for endangered Southern Resident Orcas.

To date, the state's investment in salmon recovery and Puget Sound ecosystem restoration funding programs has enabled watersheds and the region to make significant progress on our highest priorities. Legislative support for salmon recovery and watershed health programs helps enhance our science-based salmon recovery efforts and implement priority projects that achieve multiple benefits—restored salmon habitat, reduced flood hazards, and improved water quality. State funding also provides important leverage and match to federal and local funding.

Despite these investments and the progress we are making, our state's salmon populations continue to decline. To reverse this trend, we need to increase the pace of protecting and restoring habitat and improving water quality through additional investment. The legislature appropriated funding increases for some important state salmon recovery funding programs during the 2019 biennial budget session, which was helpful in working towards addressing the funding need. Attached are the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council's priorities for the 2020 supplemental legislative session. We encourage you to accelerate the progress and momentum for salmon recovery and watershed health in Puget Sound and statewide. Specifically, we ask that you support the following during the 2020 supplemental session:

- **Support funding for a study of predatory fish populations in the Lake Washington Ship Canal in Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's supplemental budget request**, as part of the \$6.8 million Emergent Need decision package for Monitoring Salmon Fisheries. This work will improve understanding and management of non-native invasive predatory fish populations to reduce their impact on juvenile salmon.

- **Support supplemental Capital Budget funding for Stormwater Financial Assistance Program (SFAP) through the Washington Department of Ecology** to provide additional resources for planning, design and construction of priority stormwater treatment and control facilities and activities that reduce pollution impacts from stormwater runoff, supporting the protection and restoration of Washington waters, including Puget Sound
- **Support Department of Ecology's supplemental funding request for the Local Source Control Partnership (\$750,000 for 2021 and \$550,000 in 2022 and 2023) to replace one-time federal funding and maintain existing program operation.** The program assists local government partners to provide hands-on technical and regulatory assistance to small businesses to manage hazardous waste and protect against stormwater pollution. Businesses are supported with implementing both structural and operational best management practices that reduce pollution entering the storm system.
- Support Southern Resident Orca Task Force funding and policy recommendations, including:
 - **Support Operating Budget funding for Washington Department of Ecology:**
 - Puget Sound Fresh Water Monitoring (\$748,000 and 1.2 FTEs) for continuous freshwater nutrient monitoring for dissolved oxygen, pH, nitrates, turbidity, temperature and conductivity, and targeted storm event sampling at the mouth of the seven largest rivers discharging into Puget Sound. The data collected will support the Puget Sound nutrient reduction strategy and help inform decisions regarding the need for future infrastructure investments across the region.
 - Nutrient Controls for Puget Sound (\$535,000 and 1.2 FTEs) to develop a permitting program that helps control nutrient discharges from wastewater treatment plants in Puget Sound.
- **Support efforts to clarify in statute that recipients of state grant funding for salmon recovery projects should not be subject to sales tax for receipt of the grant or for their direct services to implement the grant.**

WRIA 8 appreciates the challenges involved in making state budget decisions and applauds your leadership. Thank you again for your work to continue Washington State's commitment to salmon recovery and restoring the health of Puget Sound.

If you have any questions about projects funded in WRIA 8 or how these priorities advance our salmon recovery objectives, please feel free to contact Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, the WRIA

WRIA 8 State Legislative Priorities

January 24, 2020

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8 Salmon Recovery Manager, at 206-477-4780 or jason.mulvihill-kuntz@kingcounty.gov.
Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Stokes
Chair, WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council
Councilmember, City of Bellevue

Mark Phillips
Vice-Chair
Councilmember, City of Lake Forest Park

Enclosure: 2020 WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council state legislative priorities

NOTE: This letter was sent to all legislators in the following legislative districts: 1, 5, 11, 21, 32, 36, 37, 38, 41, 43, 44, 45, 46, 48, as well as the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, Senate Energy, Environment, and Telecommunications Committee, House Capital Budget Committee, and House Environment Committee.

cc: Laura Blackmore, Director, Puget Sound Partnership
Kaleen Cottingham, Director, Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
Hillary Franz, Commissioner of Public Lands, Washington State Department of Natural Resources
Laura Watson, Director, Washington State Department of Ecology
Kelly Susewind, Director, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
Carol Smith, Director, Washington State Conservation Commission
Justin Parker, Executive Director, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
Phil Rockefeller, Chair, Salmon Recovery Funding Board
David Troutt, Chair, Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council
Erik Neatherlin, Executive Coordinator, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office
Tricia Snyder, Chair, Washington Salmon Coalition
Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed Salmon Recovery Council members
Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Salmon Recovery Manager