

WATER RESOURCE INVENTORY AREA 9 (WRIA 9) WATERSHED ECOSYSTEM FORUM



Algona
Auburn
Black Diamond
Burien
Covington
Des Moines
Enumclaw
Federal Way
Kent
King County
Maple Valley
Normandy Park
Renton
SeaTac
Seattle
Tukwila

Port of Seattle
Vashon/Maury Island
Community Council
Covington Water District
King Conservation District
Tacoma Public Utilities
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Washington Department
of Ecology
Washington Department
of Fish and Wildlife
Washington Department
of Natural Resources

Washington
Environmental Council
Green/Duwamish
Watershed Alliance
Trout Unlimited/Mid-Sound
Fisheries Enhancement Group

The Boeing Company
Plum Creek Timber Company
Master Builders Association
South County Chambers
of Commerce Coalition
King County Agricultural
Commission

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April 29, 2009

The Honorable Chris Gregoire
Office of the Governor
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002



Dear Governor Gregoire:

On behalf of the diverse membership of the WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum, we are writing to urge your signature of House Bill 2199, which provides regulatory relief for properties impacted by shifts in shoreline location due to habitat restoration projects.

HB 2199 regulatory relief is recommended in our 2005 WRIA 9 Salmon Habitat Plan for the Green/Duwamish and Central Puget Sound Watershed. Our Salmon Habitat Plan subsequently has been folded into the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan and the Puget Sound Partnership's Action Agenda.

The bill's language will make possible or expedite implementation of several high-priority estuarine restoration projects in Tukwila and Seattle. As such, the bill contributes to progress in restoring both our watershed and Puget Sound overall.

The language in HB 2199 was developed through a consensus process that included representatives of the Department of Ecology, the Boeing Company, the City of Tukwila, and People For Puget Sound. This collaborative approach created carefully-drafted language that was truly deserving of the unanimous support the bill enjoyed in its progress through the Legislature.

This bill was so important for watershed recovery that several members of our partnership testified to both the House and Senate in favor of the bill.

We strongly encourage your support for HB 2199. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dow Constantine, Co-Chair
Councilmember, King County

Bill Peloza, Co-Chair
Councilmember, City of Auburn

Cc: WEF Members

*Financial support provided by signers of Watershed Planning Interlocal Agreement for WRIA 9 including:
Algona, Auburn, Black Diamond, Burien, Covington, Des Moines, Enumclaw, Federal Way, Kent, King County, Maple Valley,
Normandy Park, Renton, SeaTac, Seattle, Tacoma, Tukwila*