

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

GREEN / DUWAMISH

AND



CENTRAL PUGET SOUND

WATERSHED

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

King Conservation District

Vashon/Maury Island  
Community Council

Covington Water District

Port of Seattle

Washington Department  
of Ecology

Washington Department  
of Fish and Wildlife

Washington Department  
of Natural Resources

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Washington  
Environmental Council

Green/Duwamish  
Watershed Alliance

Trout Unlimited/Mid-Sound  
Fisheries Enhancement Group

Save Habitat and Diversity of  
Wetlands (SHADOW)

The Boeing Company  
Master Builders Association  
King County Agricultural  
Commission

May 7, 2015

Senator Andy Hill  
Ways & Means, Chair  
303 John A. Cherberg Building  
PO Box 40445  
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Chairman Hill,

We are concerned about the Senate's version of the 2015-17 state capital budget. The Senate striking amendment to EHB 1115, threatens both the pace and scope of Puget Sound recovery. It does this by:

- Funding the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) program at the **\$25 million level**, compared to the \$50 million level requested by Governor Inslee and the \$40 million level passed by the State House of Representatives;
- Authorizing the use of PSAR funds **solely for restoration with no funding for land acquisition**.

The Green/Duwamish and Central Puget Sound Watershed - WRIA 9 is asking legislators to:

- **Support funding for PSAR at the \$50 million level requested by the Governor; and**
- **Eliminate the Senate budget proviso that precludes the use of PSAR funds for land acquisition.**

**Consequences of the Senate's proposed reduced funding for PSAR:** At \$25 million, the Senate capital budget for PSAR delays and increases the cost of Puget Sound recovery by **cutting \$5 million from the \$30 million needed to cover the costs of the highest priority local projects** in watersheds throughout the Puget Sound Basin. These locally developed and vetted projects **enable Puget Sound recovery** by restoring river shorelines, estuary habitat, watershed habitat, and fish passage. In addition, the Senate's budget **provides no funding for any of the 21 large-scale, regionally significant projects that have been proposed for funding.**

**Consequences of adopting the Senate's PSAR budget proviso precludes land acquisition:**

Eliminating funds for land acquisition would substantially reduce the region's capacity to protect and restore habitat through a wide variety of high priority local projects, such as:

- Restore critical habitat that must be acquired before it can be restored;
- Reconnect rivers and side channels to floodplains, the highest priority action in the salmon recovery strategies of many watersheds;
- Enable assemblage of multiple adjacent parcels for greater collective impact from habitat restoration.

We have made tremendous progress toward salmon recovery since adoption of the Salmon Habitat Plan in 2005; please help us continue this work by fully funding the PSAR program and allowing the WRIAs to acquire parcels for critical habitat restoration.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum Co-Chairs:

Marlla Mhoon  
Councilmember, City of Covington

Bill Pelozo  
Councilmember, City of Auburn



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