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

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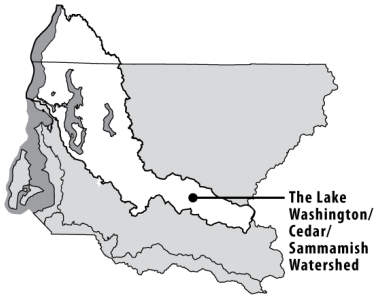
March 12, 2015



The Honorable Andy Hill
Washington State Senate
303 John A. Cherberg Building
PO Box 40445
Olympia, WA 98504

The Honorable John Braun
Washington State Senate
407 Legislative Building
PO Box 40420
Olympia, WA 98504

The Honorable Bruce Dammeier
Washington State Senate
205 Irv Newhouse Building
PO Box 40425
Olympia, WA 98504

The Honorable Jim Hargrove
Washington State Senate
411 Legislative Building
PO Box 40424
Olympia, WA 98504

The Honorable Jim Honeyford
Washington State Senate
107 Irv Newhouse Building
PO Box 40415
Olympia, WA 98504

The Honorable Karen Keiser
Washington State Senate
224A John A. Cherberg Building
PO Box 40433
Olympia, WA 98504

RE: Support for Capital Budget Request to Acquire Wayne Public Golf Course as a Benefit to Chinook Salmon Recovery

Dear Senators Hill, Braunn, Dammeier, Hargrove, Honeyford, and Keiser:

On behalf of the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) Salmon Recovery Council, I wish to convey the potential significance and value of acquiring the Wayne Public Golf Course along the Sammamish River in the City of Bothell to local and regional salmon recovery. The WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council is a partnership of 28 local governments, citizens, community groups, state and federal agencies, and businesses working together to implement the *WRIA 8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan* (WRIA 8 Plan). The City of Bothell—one of our local government partners—submitted a capital budget request targeting protection of the Wayne Golf Course. Fulfilling this request would enable regionally-significant habitat restoration benefitting threatened Chinook salmon and other fish and wildlife.

The Wayne Golf Course, located at 96th Avenue NE in the City of Bothell, extends along the left and right banks of the Sammamish River and has over 4,500 linear

feet of river frontage. The WRIA 8 Plan identifies the Sammamish River as a migratory corridor critical to restoring Chinook to the North Lake Washington basin. In addition to Chinook, the river is also used by coho, sockeye, and kokanee salmon.

Salmon habitat along the Sammamish River is highly degraded, and water temperatures can reach levels lethal to salmon. Acquisition of the Wayne Golf Course is a rare opportunity to protect substantial acreage in a primarily urban area, and protection would provide a significant opportunity to implement the restoration priorities identified in the WRIA 8 Plan on a large scale.

Local salmon recovery funding alone is not sufficient to acquire properties of this size, and we ask you to support this important capital budget request. Acquiring the Wayne Golf Course for the purposes of habitat protection and restoration would contribute significantly to WRIA 8 and Puget Sound salmon and ecosystem recovery objectives. If you have questions, please contact WRIA 8 Watershed Coordinator Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz at jason.mulvihill-kuntz@kingcounty.gov or 206-477-4780.

Sincerely,

Larry Phillips
Chair, WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council
Chair, Metropolitan King County Council

cc: Senate Ways and Means Committee
Brian Sims, Capital Budget Coordinator, House Ways and Means Committee
WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council
Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, WRIA 8 Watershed Coordinator