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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

May 17, 2018

PSAR Program Manager
 Puget Sound Partnership
 326 East D Street
 Tacoma, WA 98421



Dear PSAR Program Manager:

On behalf of the Salmon Recovery Council (Council) for the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8), please accept this letter of support for King County's Riverbend Floodplain Restoration Project on the Cedar River, which is being submitted for Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) large capital project funding consideration.

The Council oversees implementation of the *Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan (WRIA 8 Plan)*, which outlines the actions necessary to recover Chinook in our watershed. In 2017, WRIA 8 completed a 10-year update to the WRIA 8 Plan. The update outlines the most important recovery strategies for Chinook recovery, as well as identifies habitat goals to drive restoration implementation. The Riverbend project directly aligns with high priority WRIA 8 recovery strategies, and implementation of Riverbend will achieve 40% of the near-term floodplain reconnection habitat goal outlined in the updated WRIA 8 Plan.

The primary objective of the Riverbend project is salmon recovery, and we view this as a regionally-significant project due to the extent of habitat enhancement that will be provided for a variety of life stages and for several salmonid species. The project also offers other benefits—providing storage and conveyance capacity for floodwaters and easing erosional forces on critical infrastructure. The project will achieve these objectives through a process-based restoration approach, and King County has direct experience successfully implementing projects of a similar scope and scale—notable examples are the Rainbow Bend Floodplain Restoration Project on the Cedar River and the Porter Floodplain Restoration Project on the Green River.

Thank you for considering the Riverbend project for PSAR large capital funding. For more information or for questions, please contact Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Manager, at jason.mulvihill-kuntz@kingcounty.gov or 206-477-4780.

Sincerely,

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

Cc: WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council members