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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

September XX, 2018



The Honorable Jay Inslee
 Office of the Governor
 PO Box 40002
 Olympia, WA 98504-0002

RE: Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) Salmon Recovery Council State Legislative Priorities

Dear Governor Inslee:

On behalf of the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) Salmon Recovery Council, I wish to share our enclosed priorities for the upcoming state fiscal biennium. 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. Additionally, salmon habitat restoration is essential to ensuring the long-term availability of Chinook as a prey resource for critically endangered Southern Resident Orcas. Our priority restoration work also benefits streamflows, supports tribal treaty fishing rights, and makes our watersheds and communities resilient to a changing climate.

The state’s investment in salmon recovery and Puget Sound ecosystem restoration for the current 2017-2019 biennium is enabling watersheds and the region to make significant progress on our highest priorities. Your support for the ***Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration*** and ***Salmon Recovery Funding Board*** programs helps watersheds enhance our science-based salmon recovery efforts and implement priority habitat restoration and protection projects. Funding in the current biennium for the ***Floodplains by Design*** program is advancing implementation of multiple benefit projects that restore critical salmon habitat, reduce flood hazards, and improve water quality. Thank you for supporting these programs, the results of which are in progress.

Attached are the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council’s priorities for the 2019-2021 biennium. 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:

- **\$XX million** for the ***Salmon Recovery Funding Board*** capital request in the Recreation and Conservation Office budget, which funds habitat protection and restoration projects statewide.
- **\$XX million** for ***Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration*** capital request in the Recreation and Conservation Office budget, which will fund a prioritized list of large salmon recovery projects around Puget Sound and provide funding to each Puget Sound watershed for smaller-scale—but critically important—habitat projects.

- **\$XX million** for *Floodplains by Design* capital request in the Department of Ecology's budget, which will implement a prioritized list of multi-benefit floodplain projects around the state that enhance salmon habitat while also protecting public health and safety.
- **\$XX million** for *Lead Entity program* operating request in the Recreation and Conservation Office budget, which continues base funding for Lead Entities to maintain locally-supported, watershed-based salmon recovery in Washington, garnering local support for habitat projects, prioritizing projects to maximize the public's investment, and ensuring investments in salmon recovery are scientifically-valid and efficient.
- **\$XX million** for *Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program* in the Recreation and Conservation Office budget, which supports priority habitat protection.
- **\$XX million** for *Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account* in the Recreation and Conservation Office budget, which supports aquatic lands protection and restoration and improved public access.
- **\$XX million** for *Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program* in the Recreation and Conservation Office budget, which supports nearshore protection and restoration.
- **\$XX million** for *Fish Barrier Removal Board* in the Recreation and Conservation Office budget, which supports removal of barriers to fish passage.
- **\$XX million** for *Stormwater Financial Assistance Program* capital request in Department of Ecology's budget to support local stormwater pollution prevention.

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 and orca recovery, restoring the health of Puget Sound, and working to address effects of climate change.

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 Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed 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

Enclosure

cc: Sheida Sahandy, Director, Puget Sound Partnership

Kaleen Cottingham, Director, Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
Maia D. Bellon, Director, Washington Department of Ecology
Kelly Susewind, Director, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Hillary Franz, Director, Washington Department of Natural Resources
Justin Parker, Executive Director, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
David Troutt, Chair, Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board
JT Austin, Natural Resources Policy Advisor, Governor's Office
Jim Cahill, Senior Budget Assistant, Natural Resources, Office of Financial Management
Leslie Connelly, Budget Assistant, Natural Resources, Office of Financial Management
Myra Baldini, Capital Budget Assistant, Office of Financial Management
Linda Steinmann, Budget Assistant, Natural Resources, Office of Financial Management
Steve Martin, Executive Coordinator, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office
Alicia Olivas, Chair, Washington Salmon Coalition
Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed Salmon Recovery Council members
Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Salmon Recovery Manager