



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

November 2, 2018

The Honorable John Chelminiak  
 Mayor, City of Bellevue  
 P.O. Box 90012  
 Bellevue, WA 98009



Re: Possible Snohomish County Withdrawal from WRIA 8 Interlocal Agreement

Dear Mayor Chelminiak:

On behalf of the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) Salmon Recovery Council, we are writing to you because we understand Snohomish County (County) has sent a letter to you and other local government partners to the WRIA 8 Interlocal Agreement (ILA) notifying you they intend to withdraw from the WRIA 8 ILA due to budget constraints. While losing the County as a cost share partner is an undesirable outcome, we want to assure you as a fellow partner to the WRIA 8 ILA that the commitment of local governments to our regionally coordinated partnership to recover salmon and improve watershed health remains steadfast.

For your information and reference, please find attached a letter from the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council to the Snohomish County Council, requesting the County find funding to remain a cost share partner to the WRIA 8 ILA. We hope the County is able to remain a cost sharing partner, but if they ultimately are unable to do so, we share the County's hope it is temporary and their budget constraints are resolved such that they are able to resume their cost share after 2019. Now, more than ever, is a time for local governments and our community of partners to increase our resolve to recover salmon. We must continue to provide salmon the opportunity to return to our local streams and continue our investments in the health and sustainability of our communities and the broader Puget Sound.

We look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff to implement salmon recovery in WRIA 8. If you have any questions, please contact Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Manager, at 206-477-4780 or [jason.mulvihill-kuntz@kingcounty.gov](mailto:jason.mulvihill-kuntz@kingcounty.gov).

Sincerely,

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

Mark Phillips  
 Vice-Chair, WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council  
 Councilmember, City of Lake Forest Park

Cc: WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council members  
 Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Manager

Enclosure

WATER RESOURCE INVENTORY AREA (WRIA 8) SALMON RECOVERY COUNCIL



Beaux Arts Village  
Bellevue  
Bothell  
Clyde Hill  
Edmonds  
Hunts Point  
Issaquah  
Kenmore  
Kent  
King County  
Kirkland  
Lake Forest Park  
Maple Valley  
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Sammamish  
Seattle  
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US Army Corps of Engineers  
Washington Departments:  
Ecology  
Fish and Wildlife  
Natural Resources  
Washington Association of Sewer and Water Districts  
King Conservation District

October 24, 2018

Nate Nehring  
Councilmember, Snohomish County, District 1  
3000 Rockefeller, M/S 609  
Everett, WA 98201

Brian Sullivan  
Councilmember, Snohomish County, District 2  
3000 Rockefeller, M/S 609  
Everett, WA 98201

Stephanie Wright  
Councilmember, Snohomish County, District 3  
3000 Rockefeller, M/S 609  
Everett, WA 98201

Terry Ryan  
Councilmember, Snohomish County, District 4  
3000 Rockefeller, M/S 609  
Everett, WA 98201

Sam Low  
Councilmember, Snohomish County, District 5  
3000 Rockefeller, M/S 609  
Everett, WA 98201



Re: Request to restore WRIA 8 Interlocal Agreement cost share for salmon recovery in Surface Water Management budget

Dear Councilmembers Nehring, Sullivan, Wright, Ryan, and Low:

On behalf of the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) Salmon Recovery Council, we are writing to you because Snohomish County (County) has informed us that the Surface Water Management budget being considered by the Snohomish County Council does not include the County's 2019 cost share for the WRIA 8 interlocal agreement (ILA). This amount, \$62,460, contributes meaningful resources to coordinate implementation of salmon recovery in the watershed.

WRIA 8 is an effective, long-standing regional partnership among 28 local governments and stakeholder representatives from business, community groups, concerned citizens, and state and federal agencies in the watershed, working together since 2000 to recover Chinook salmon, listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The County has been an important partner to the WRIA 8 ILA since 2000, and it is important to WRIA 8 partners that the County remain a cost-sharing partner and fund its 2019 ILA cost share as its portion of this shared salmon recovery effort.

Snohomish County comprises an important part of WRIA 8. The southwestern portion of the County is in the watershed, including the cities of Mukilteo, Edmonds, Lynnwood, Mountlake Terrace, Mill Creek, Bothell, Brier, Woodway, and a portion of Everett. The County portion of the watershed also contains the headwaters of North Creek, Swamp Creek, Little Bear Creek, Bear/Cottage Lake Creek, and several coastal streams. The County directly received more than \$1.8 million in WRIA 8-directed grant funding since 2000, with an additional \$800,000 recommended in 2018 to contribute to the County's Meadowdale Nearshore Restoration project construction. WRIA 8 supported the County's successful appeal in resolving state Technical Review Panel concerns with the

Meadowdale project in 2015, and WRIA 8 staff are currently coordinating closely with County staff to resolve additional Technical Review Panel challenges to secure the 2018 funding. We anticipate continuing to support the County in seeking additional funding for project implementation.

The WRIA 8 partnership demonstrates local governments' commitment to salmon recovery to address the ESA listing of Chinook salmon and to improve watershed health, and has been an extremely effective model to demonstrate cross-jurisdictional regional coordination. WRIA 8 offers partner jurisdictions a forum to discuss issues, share information, and coordinate across a broad range of issues that affect salmon, but that also have multiple benefits, including stormwater management; improving streamflow and water quality conditions; reducing flood risk; improving recreational access and opportunities; shaping regional land conservation efforts; sharing public education and outreach strategies; and sharing best practices for regulatory updates, implementation, and enforcement.

All 28 local government partners, including Snohomish County, renewed the WRIA 8 ILA in 2015 for ten more years through 2025 and updated and ratified the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Plan in 2017, setting the stage for recovery actions for our watershed in the coming decade. With salmon populations continuing to decline and the resident orca population that depend on them at grave risk, now, more than ever, is a time to recommit to and increase support for salmon recovery.

We request the Snohomish County Council restore funding in the County budget for the County's annual cost share to the WRIA 8 ILA. Ensuring the County remains a strong partner to the WRIA 8 ILA is important to supporting salmon recovery in the watershed and demonstrates the County's commitment to salmon recovery, watershed health, and orca recovery. Thank you for considering our request. If you have any questions, please contact Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Manager, at 206-477-4780 or [jason.mulvihill-kuntz@kingcounty.gov](mailto:jason.mulvihill-kuntz@kingcounty.gov).

Sincerely,



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



Mark Phillips  
Vice-Chair, WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council  
Councilmember, City of Lake Forest Park

Cc: Dave Somers, Executive, Snohomish County  
WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council members  
Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Manager