



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

October 25, 2018

The Honorable "First" "Last"
 "Address"
 "Address"
 "City, State, Zip"



RE: Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) Salmon Recovery Council 2019 federal legislative priorities

Dear "Representative/Senator" "Last name":

On behalf of the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) Salmon Recovery Council (Council), we wish to share our enclosed 2019 federal budget and legislative priorities. The Council is comprised of 28 local governments and stakeholder representatives from businesses, community groups, concerned citizens, and state and federal agencies working collaboratively since 2000 to recover Chinook salmon, listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The federal government's leadership is critical to ensuring we can continue our work—and the nation's commitment—to protect and restore habitat for the iconic salmon of the Pacific Northwest, returning them to sustainable, harvestable levels for current and future generations.

Thank you for your past strong support for continued federal investment in salmon recovery and Puget Sound restoration. That support enables our watershed and our local, state, and federal partners to make significant progress on our highest priorities. Salmon habitat restoration supports federal tribal treaty right trust responsibilities, supports local job creation, is a proactive approach to making watersheds and local communities more resilient to changing future conditions, and is key to increasing salmon abundance as prey for Puget Sound's endangered orca whales.

The Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund, administered through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in the Department of Commerce, is the foundation of salmon recovery in Washington State. These critical federal funds help leverage substantial state and local resources and amplify on-the-ground habitat protection and restoration progress. Thank you for your continued support of this vital program for salmon recovery.

In 2019, we encourage you to build on the progress and momentum for salmon recovery and watershed health in Puget Sound and throughout Washington State. Specifically, we ask that you support the following:

- **Support a \$70 million Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) appropriation for Fiscal Year 2019 in Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies budgets, as included in the proposed Senate Appropriations Committee spending bill.** A \$70 million funding level increases resources for the program by \$10 million over the 2018 amount and would increase implementation of critical, science-based habitat protection and restoration projects. These funds allow NOAA to award grants to Washington State, tribes, and local watershed partners to implement salmon recovery priorities through Washington state's Salmon Recovery Funding Board grant round process. Habitat

protection and restoration projects funded by PCSRF are consistent with the Action Agenda for Puget Sound recovery and tribal habitat priorities. The President's proposed FY 2019 budget zeroes out the PCSRF, which is equal to the FY 2016 appropriation. Federal PCSRF funds are matched by state funds.

- **Support funding in the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) budget to implement critical prioritized infrastructure repairs and updates to the Hiram M. Chittenden (Ballard) Locks.** Providing \$11.807 million in the Corps' Fiscal Year 2019 Work Plan will support routine operations and maintenance and advance designs for critical prioritized infrastructure repairs to the Hiram M. Chittenden (Ballard) Locks. Repairs and updates are immediately necessary for continued safe operation of the Locks for navigation, maintaining lake levels (needed for the Interstate 90 floating bridge over Lake Washington), and improving passage for ESA-listed Chinook salmon. Encourage Corps Headquarters to provide funding above routine operations and maintenance activities for identified prioritized projects on the Corps' list of Locks infrastructure improvement projects. The Corps reduced the dam safety rating for the Locks due to their likely failure in a catastrophic event, which would result in significant regional infrastructure and economic impacts.
- **Support the "Promoting United Government Efforts to Save Our Sound Act" (PUGET SOS Act) in communications with the Congressional delegation and EPA leadership.** The bill enhances the federal government's role and investment in Puget Sound by amending the Clean Water Act to add a new section dedicated to Puget Sound recovery, providing lasting and structural recognition of the Puget Sound as a waterbody of national significance on par with the Chesapeake Bay and the Great Lakes.
- **Support proposed federal legislation that seeks to increase funding and incentives for green stormwater retrofits and infrastructure,** in particular the Preventing Pollution through Partnerships Act (H.R. 7041) which would incentivize private investment in green infrastructure through creation of a new category of tax-exempt Green Infrastructure Private Activity Bonds (PBAs) that state and local governments can use to encourage developers to include green infrastructure in development plans.

WRIA 8 appreciates the challenges involved in federal policy and budget decisions and applauds your leadership. Thank you again for your work to continue the federal government's commitment to salmon recovery in Washington State and to restoring the health of Puget Sound.

If you have any questions about specific projects funded in WRIA 8, the connection between local priorities and regional efforts, or the ways in which the above-stated priorities advance our watershed-based salmon recovery objectives, please feel free to contact Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, WRIA 8 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
Recovery Council
Councilmember, City of Bellevue
Park

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

Enclosure: 2019 WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council federal budget and legislative priorities

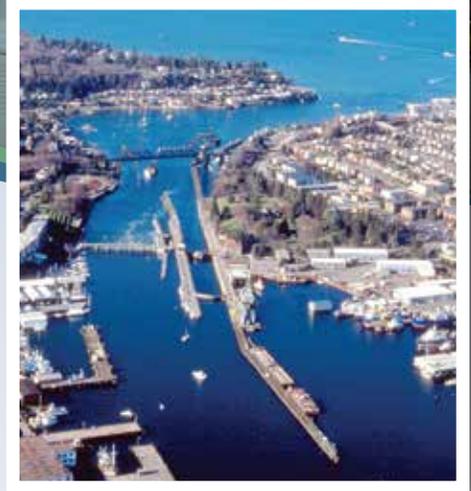
cc: Jay Inslee, Governor, State of Washington
Barry Thom, NOAA West Coast Regional Administrator
Mark Gerald, Colonel, Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District
Justin Parker, Executive Director, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
David Troutt, Chair, Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board
Sheida Sahandy, Director, Puget Sound Partnership
Kaleen Cottingham, Director, Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
Maia Bellon, Director, Washington State Department of Ecology
Kelly Susewind, Director, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
Hillary Franz, Commissioner of Public Lands, Washington State Department of
Natural Resources
Mark Clark, Director, Washington State Conservation Commission
Steve Martin, Executive Coordinator, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office
Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed Salmon Recovery Council members
Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Salmon Recovery
Manager



2019 Legislative Priorities for Salmon Recovery and Puget Sound Watershed Health

Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) Partners

Updated: September 2018



FEDERAL PRIORITIES

- **Support a \$70 million Fiscal Year 2019 appropriations request for the Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) in Departments of Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill.** The PCSRF program is the primary federal funding for salmon recovery, and supports annual grants for priority salmon habitat protection and restoration projects.
- **Support \$11.807 million in the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Fiscal Year 2019 Work Plan to advance design of critical prioritized infrastructure repairs to the Hiram M. Chittenden (Ballard) Locks.** Much of the Locks machinery and facilities are original, have not been upgraded, and are past their design life with some beginning to fail. Repairs and updates are immediately necessary for continued safe operation of the Locks for navigation and other regional safety and economic benefits, maintaining lake levels (needed for the I-90 floating bridge), and providing safe passage for ESA-listed Chinook salmon.
- **Support the “Promoting United Government Efforts to Save Our Sound Act” (PUGET SOS Act), which will establish a Puget Sound Recovery National Program Office in the Environmental Protection Agency to coordinate federal Puget Sound recovery efforts with state, local and tribal recovery efforts and enable greater levels of federal funding for Puget Sound recovery.** The bill enhances the federal government’s role and investment in Puget Sound by amending the Clean Water Act to add a new section dedicated to Puget Sound recovery, providing lasting and structural recognition of the Puget Sound as a waterbody of national significance on par with the Chesapeake Bay and the Great Lakes.



- **Support legislation that seeks to increase funding and incentives for green stormwater retrofits and infrastructure, including:**

Introduced legislation titled, Preventing Pollution through Partnerships Act (H.R. 7041), which would incentivize private investment in green infrastructure through creation of a new category of tax-exempt Green Infrastructure Private Activity Bonds (PBAs) that state and local governments can use to encourage developers to include green infrastructure in development plans. These PBAs enable local governments to leverage private investment in projects that benefit the public interest, while also providing a potential revenue source for developers.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THESE PRIORITIES PLEASE CONTACT:

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www.govlink.org/watersheds/8/