



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
 Woodinville
 Woodway
 Yarrow Point

Cedar River Council
 Friends of the Cedar River Watershed
 Friends of the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery
 Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce
 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

June 24, 2019

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 Snohomish County's annual WRIA 8 Interlocal Agreement cost share for salmon recovery in 2020 budget

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

On behalf of the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) Salmon Recovery Council, we request the Snohomish County Council include \$64,053 in your 2020 budget for Snohomish County's (the County) annual cost-share to the WRIA 8 Interlocal Agreement (ILA), a long-standing effective and successful regional partnership to coordinate salmon recovery planning and implementation.

In late 2018, the County formally withdrew from the WRIA 8 ILA due to a shortfall in the Surface Water Management budget, the past source of cost-share payments. While we understand and are sympathetic to the County's budget challenges, we believe it is essential to our mutual long-term success that each of the 28 local government partners in the watershed, including Snohomish County, remain committed to implementing salmon recovery in WRIA 8.

Snohomish County is one of the original partners to the ILA, and the County recently ratified the WRIA 8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan Ten-Year Update to guide future recovery actions. Since the time of the County's formal withdrawal from the WRIA 8 ILA, the remaining 27 local government partners have clearly expressed the value they place on Snohomish County's participation in this shared effort. Additionally, the Snohomish County portion of WRIA 8 is important to our salmon recovery goals. **The County has received more than \$2.5 million in WRIA 8-directed grant funding since 2000 (most recently an \$800,000 grant for the Meadowdale Beach and Estuary Restoration Project),** supporting the following County projects:

- Meadowdale Beach and Estuary Restoration
- Clearwater School – North Creek Restoration

- Paradise Valley Protection – headwaters of Bear Creek
- Cottage Lake Creek Forest Protection – headwaters of Bear and Cottage Lake creeks
- Little Bear Creek Invasive Knotweed and Riparian Conditions Assessment

The WRIA 8 ILA was established on the premise that each local government alone cannot effectively manage aquatic resources, like salmon, that cross jurisdictional boundaries. Since 2000, the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council has worked toward the shared goal of recovering sustainable, harvestable populations of Chinook salmon in the watershed. We have made great progress advancing our collective salmon recovery objectives, but much important work remains. This collaborative effort involves partners working toward a common vision and being committed to improving habitat that will benefit the region's salmon populations and improve the quality of life for residents.

Without the County's participation, our ability to implement priority actions and successfully meet recovery objectives comes into question, and other partners may begin to question their own commitment to this effort. We respectfully request that you include funding in your 2020 budget to restore the County as a member in this important partnership. We look forward to working with you in this effort. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact us or 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
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