MEMORANDUM

TO: WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum ("Forum")

FR: Matt Goehring, WRIA 9 Salmon Recovery Manager

RE: **WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum Meeting – Thursday, November 13, 4-6:00 p.m.**

It was great to see everyone in person at our August meeting. Special thanks again to the City of Burien for hosting. Next week's meeting marks our return to virtual meetings for the Fall and Winter meetings! The agenda includes partner updates from the (1) King County Conservation Futures program on recommended 2027 awards to protect open space within the watershed; and the (2) Flood Control District on the Lower Green River Flood Hazard Management Plan. WRIA 9 staff will also present the annual Client Satisfaction Survey, 2027 legislative priorities, an overview of the 2027 Grant round, and a Chinook salmon status update.

Meeting Packet materials: *(All meeting materials are also attached to your Outlook invitation)*

1. WEF Agenda
2. WEF August 13 Meeting Summary
3. 2027 King County Conservation Futures Funding Recommendations
4. 2027 Draft Legislative Priorities
5. Draft State & Federal Legislative Outreach Letters

Review of Agenda Items:

King County Conservation Futures Program

Jasmin Ka, Conservation Future Program Planner, will join us to highlight the Conservation Futures Program and 2027 recommendations for grant awards within the Green/Duwamish and Central Puget Sound watershed. The Conservation Futures Advisory Committee is recommending $38M (21 projects) in funding to support open space conservation across King County.

Flood Control District Lower Green River Flood Hazard Management Plan

In August, the King County Flood Control District released the Lower Green River Corridor Flood Hazard Management Plan (Plan). FCD representatives will provide an update on the Plan which outlines a long-term strategy for reducing flood risks along the 21-mile stretch of the Lower Green River that runs through parts of Auburn, Kent, Renton, SeaTac, Tukwila, and unincorporated King County. They will also discuss potential next steps associated with the Plan, including potential action by the Board of Supervisors and the development of a Capital Investment Strategy.

Annual Client Satisfaction Survey

WRIA 9 conducts an annual client satisfaction survey to collect partner feedback on the salmon recovery services provided by the team under the ILA contract. The survey is intended to provide information to improve watershed services in future years. As part of an effort to increase participation, time will be provided for Forum members to complete the online survey.

2027 Legislative Priorities

Staff are seeking approval of the draft 2027 Legislative Priorities. At the state level, priorities include appropriations for core salmon recovery programs, protecting Climate Commitment Act funding, streamlining regulatory review for habitat projects, and phasing out the toxic 6PPD chemical in automobile tires. At the Federal level, budget priorities continue to focus on fully funding fish passage at Howard Hanson Dam, maintaining funding levels for the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund and National Estuaries Program, and restoring Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group funding.

2027 WRIA 9 Grant Program
WRIA 9 projects available funding the Flood Control District Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) and Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB). Tentative funding estimates of $4.6M in CWM and $296k in SRFB funding are subject to approval of the 2027 Flood Control Budget and 2027 state capital budget appropriations.

I look forward to seeing everyone next week!

Regards,

Matt Goehring

Matt Goehring, Salmon Recovery Manager
Green/Duwamish & Central Puget Sound Watershed (WRIA 9)
mgoehring@kingcounty.gov, (206) 263-6826

WRIA 9 WATERSHED ECOSYSTEM FORUM

November 12, 2026 --- 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Join the meeting now | ID: 219 370 817
064 46 Passcode: Hp2ap27g

AGENDA

I.	**Welcome & Introductions**		Toni Troutner, Co-Chair, Councilmember, Kent	**4:00-4:10**
II.	**Public Comment**		Councilmember Troutner	**4:10-4:15**
III.	**Approval of Meeting Summary** *Action: Approve August 13, 2026 meeting summary*		Councilmember Troutner	**4:15**
IV.	**Salmon Recovery Manager Report** • Watershed Updates • WRIA Leadership *Action: Confirm 2027/28 leadership appointments*		Matt Goehring, WRIA 9 Salmon Recovery Manager	**4:15-4:20**
V.	**King County Conservation Futures** • Program Update • 2027 Awards		Jasmin Ka, King County Conservation Futures Program Planner	**4:20-4:35**
VI	**Flood Control District Lower Green River Flood Hazard Management Plan** • Plan Overview • Next Steps		TBD	**4:35-4:50**
VII.	**WRIA 9 Annual Client Satisfaction Survey** • Overview • Complete Survey		Renee Leichliter, WRIA 9 Administrative Coordinator	**4:50-4:55**
VIII.	**Legislative Priorities** • Legislative Session Overview • Draft Legislative Priorities *Action: Approve 2027 Legislative Priorities*		Matt Goehring	**4:55-5:05**
IX.	**2027 Grant Round Overview** • Funding Update • Timeline		Suzanna Smith, WRIA 9 Habitat Projects Coordinator	**5:05-5:15**
X.	**2026 Chinook Status Update** • Adult returns / Juvenile outmigration • Research updates		Iris Kemp WRIA 9 Technical Coordinator	**5:15-5:55**
XI.	**Wrap Up/Next Steps**		Matt Goehring	**5:55-6:00**
XII.	**Adjourn**		Councilmember Troutner	**6:00**

Next Watershed Ecosystem Forum Meeting: Thursday, February 11, 2027 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. (virtual)

WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum (WEF) Meeting Summary

Burien Library || August 13, 2026, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Members Present		
#	**Name**	**Affiliation**
1)	Councilmember (CM) Jennifer Harjehausen, Co-Chair	City of Covington
2)	CM Hanan Amer	City of Auburn
3)	Mayor Sarah Moore	City of Burien
4)	CM Pierre Blosse	City of Des Moines
5)	CM Kate Kruller	City of Tukwila
6)	Molly Taptich	The Boeing Company
7)	Steve Lee	Covington Water
8)	Stewart Reinbold	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Alternates Present		
9)	Mike Mactutis	City of Kent
10)	Halley Kimball	City of Maple Valley
11)	Jessie Medrow	City of Normandy Park
12)	Ron Straka	City of Renton
13)	Dan Smith	City of SeaTac
14)	Kyle Iron Lightning	City of Seattle
15)	Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz	King County
16)	Steven Schauer	King County Flood Control District
17)	Tracy Banaszynski	Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group
18)	Jenn Stebbings	Port of Seattle
19)	Brian Ballard	Tacoma Public Utilities
Other Attendees		
20)	Jeron Griffin	City of Des Moines
21)	Margaret Wagner	City of Kent
22)	Ash Gould	King County
23)	Alicia Kellogg	King County
24)	Antonia Jindrich	Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group
25)	Alison Thomas	Tyee High School
WRIA 9 Staff		
26)	Matt Goehring	WRIA 9 Salmon Recovery Manager
27)	Iris Kemp	WRIA 9 Technical Coordinator
28)	Renee Leichliter	WRIA 9 Administrative Coordinator

I) Call to Order / Introductions

Councilmember Jennifer Harjehausen, Co-Chair, called the Watershed Ecosystem Forum (WEF) meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Co-Chair Harjehausen asked for introductions to establish quorum.

II) Public Comment

Antonia Jindrich shared Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group is now the official convener of the South Central LIO. They are looking to share more and collaborate with folks at the meeting. Reach out to Antonia, antonia@midsoundfisheries.org, if you want to be involved or to learn more.

III) Meeting Notes

The May 14, 2026, WEF meeting summary was discussed, Co-Chair Harjehausen asked Forum members if there were any revisions to the meeting summary prior to requesting a motion to approve the WEF meeting summary.

CM Hanan Amer, City of Auburn, moved to approve the meeting summary and Mayor Sarah Moore, City of Burien, seconded.

Action: WEF approved meeting summary for May 14, 2026 WEF meeting.

IV) Salmon Recovery Manager Report – *Matt Goehring, Salmon Recovery Manager*

Matt provided an update on Howard Hanson Dam. Construction has started and there is a lot of optimism around the project, bad news is the WRIA can't do a site visit soon since it is now an active construction site. As legislative priorities start to get refined, there is still another $300 million needed for this project.

The Salmon SEEson program has started for its 20th year! This program highlights and promotes opportunities for the public to see salmon in local streams and rivers when they return this summer and fall. Matt highlighted locations that offer opportunities to see salmon in the WRIA 9 watershed including, Flaming Geyser State Park, Kanaskat State Park, and Duwamish River's People Park. Visit the Salmon SEEson website to learn more about these sites and other sites that offer self-guided viewing opportunities as well as in-person interpretive viewing opportunities.

King County Flood Control District released their Flood Hazard Management Plan at the end of July. The WRIA has been heavily involved in the whole process, starting with scoping this project back in 2019. Matt encouraged meeting attendees to review the plan. It is anticipated that the Board of Supervisors will review it and take action on it in the fall.

V) 2027 Budget and Workplan – *Matt Goehring, Salmon Recovery Manager*

Matt presented the proposed 2027 budget which is status quo and has no major shifts proposed. The ILA cost shares are projected to go up about $20,000 total and is reflective of the 3.8% CPI-W rate. One change is the CWM lead entity grant was approved by King County Flood Control District (KCFCD) for $200,000, which is up from the typical allocation of $150,000, most of this goes to help support the habitat projects coordinator position. There is no proposed shift to staffing and still includes staffing of 3 full-time employees, a Salmon Recovery Manager, a Habitat Projects Coordinator, and a Technical Coordinator and .4 of an Administrative Coordinator. Additionally, the budget includes ¼ of a full-time employee for the Lower Green Basin Steward and ¼ of a full-time employee for the Duwamish Basin Steward, which needs to be approved by the Forum annually to stay included in the budget. Support for the Duwamish Basin Steward is paid for with carry forward funds and as it stands there is enough to get through 2027 and 2028. If funding the Duwamish Basin Steward at this capacity remains a priority, feasibility may need to be revisited in 2028 for the 2029 budget. The Management Committee has requested to see some options brought forward on how to balance the budget and not continue to overspend, so expect to see scenarios put together by staff for preliminary input in 2027.

Matt shared the WRIA 9 2027 work plan which is largely consistent with the 2026 work plan. The main points of the work plan focus on regional salmon recovery, outreach and strategic partnerships, capital project and program coordination/implementation, and stewardship, and program administration.

Co-Chair Harjehausen asked Forum members for a motion to approve the presented draft WRIA 9 2027 budget and work plan. CM Kate Kruller, City of Tukwila moved to approve the 2027 WRIA 9 budget and work plan and CM Amer, City of Auburn, seconded.

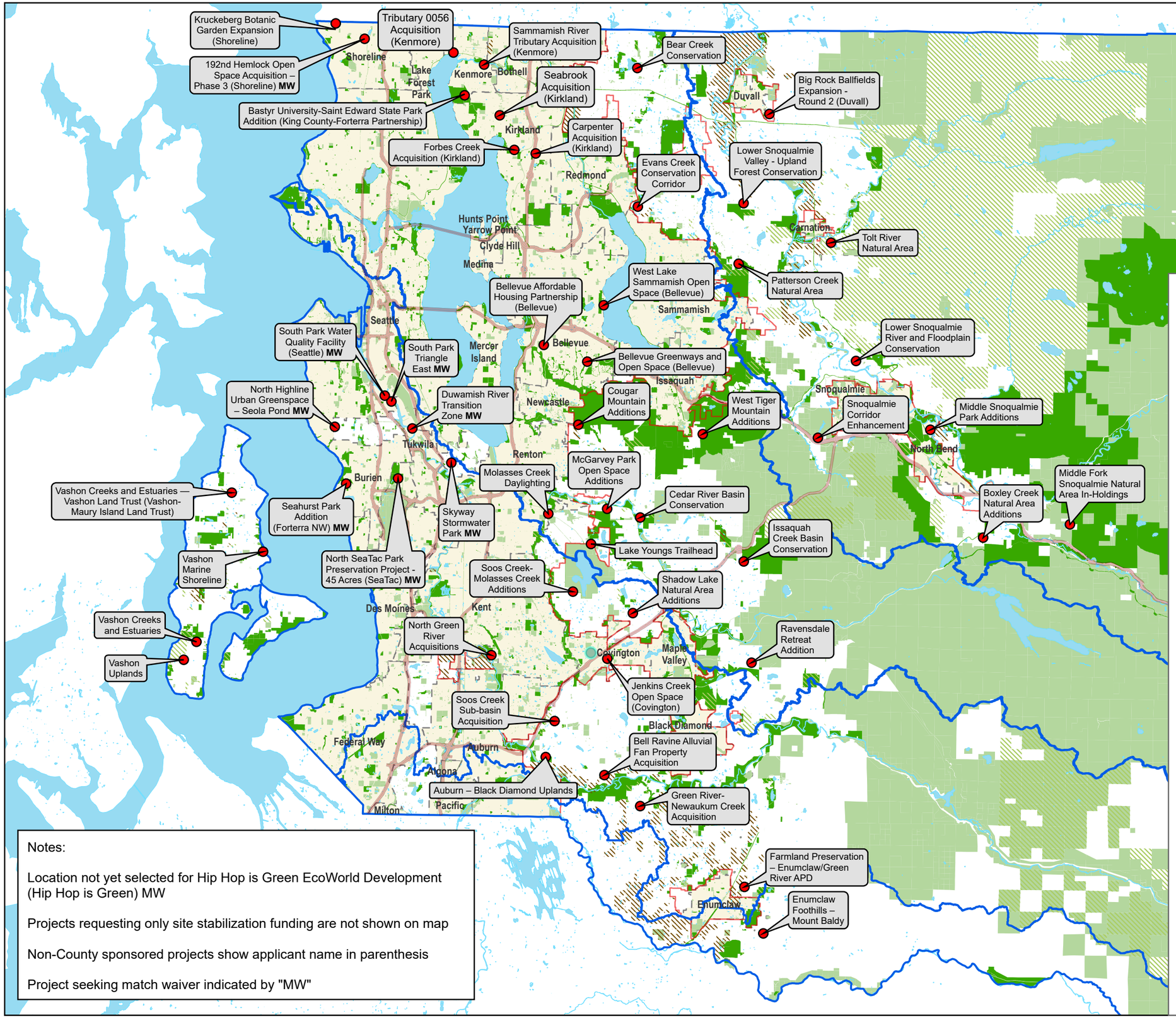
Action: WEF approved the 2027 WRIA 9 budget and work plan as presented.

VI) Miller Creek Trail Tour – *Dan O'Brien, City of Burien and Iris Kemp, Technical Coordinator*

The business portion of today's meeting concluded at 5:00 p.m. All present were led to the nearby site at Miller Creek Trail for a tour led by Dan O'Brien and Iris Kemp.

VII) Adjourn: Co-Chair Harjehausen thanked everyone for attending and is looking forward to joining everyone at the next meeting on November 12, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.

Business portion of the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m. Site tour concluded at 6:00 p.m.



Notes:

Location not yet selected for Hip Hop is Green EcoWorld Development (Hip Hop is Green) MW

Projects requesting only site stabilization funding are not shown on map

Non-County sponsored projects show applicant name in parenthesis

Project seeking match waiver indicated by "MW"

2026 APPLICATION ROUND

REQUESTS FOR 2027 CONSERVATION FUTURES & PARKS LEVY FUNDS

3/26/2026

LEGEND

- Watershed Boundaries
- Urban Growth Area Boundary
- Farmland Easements
- Other Conservation Easements
- Parks in King County
- Public Parcels in King County
- Incorporated Cities

King County

0 2.5 5 10 Miles

The information included on this map has been compiled by King County staff from a variety of sources and is subject to change without notice. King County makes no representations or warranties, express or implied, as to accuracy, completeness, timeliness, or rights to the use of such information. This document is not intended for use as a survey product. King County shall not be liable for any general, special, indirect, incidental, or consequential damages including, but not limited to, lost revenues or lost profits resulting from the use or misuse of the information contained on this map. Any sale of this map or information on this map is prohibited except by written permission of King County.

Conservation Futures Advisory Committee
2027 Funding Recommendations - WRIA 9

				ACQUISITION FUNDING						SITE STABILIZATION COST (SSC) FUNDING			
Sponsor Type	Agency/ Nonprofit Name	Project Name	Match Waiver Recommended	Conservation Futures (CFT) Requested - Acquisition	CFT Recommended - Acquisition	Parks Levy County Open Space (PL) Requested	PL Recommended	Total Acquisition Funding Requested	Total Acquisition Funding Recommended	CFT Requested - SSC	CFT Annual Recommended - SSC *	Acres in Scope**	KC Council District
City	Covington	Jenkins Creek Open Space		$3,588,750	**$2,462,063**	$0	**$0**	$3,588,750	**$2,462,063**	$281,250	**$281,250**	13	9
City	SeaTac	North SeaTac Park Preservation Project - 45 Acres	Yes	$10,000,000	**$8,000,000**	$0	**$0**	$10,000,000	**$8,000,000**	$0	**$0**	45	5
City	Seattle	South Park Water Quality Facility	Yes	$2,000,000	**$2,000,000**	$0	**$0**	$2,000,000	**$2,000,000**	$0	**$0**	0.4	8
Nonprofit	Forterra NW	Seahurst Park Addition	No	$949,200	**$711,900**	$0	**$0**	$949,200	**$711,900**	$0	**$0**	13	8
Nonprofit	Vashon-Maury Island Land Trust	Vashon Creeks and Estuaries — Vashon Land Trust		$195,000	**$195,000**	$0	**$0**	$195,000	**$195,000**	$0	**$0**	31	8
Nonprofit	Watershed Community Development	The Bend Live-Work District Park - SSC	Has waiver	$0	**$0**	$0	**$0**	$0	**$0**	$250,000	**$250,000**	N/A	8
King County	KC - WRIA 9	Auburn - Black Diamond Uplands		$1,327,500	**$900,000**	$442,500	**$300,000**	$1,770,000	**$1,200,000**	$0	**$0**	31	9
King County	KC - WRIA 9	Bell Ravine Alluvial Fan Property Acquisition		$240,675	**$240,675**	$0	**$0**	$240,675	**$240,675**	$0	**$0**	1.2	9
King County	KC - WRIA 9	Duwamish River Transition Zone	Yes	$2,464,250	**$2,464,250**	$0	**$0**	$2,464,250	**$2,464,250**	$0	**$0**	2.7	8
King County	KC - WRIA 9	Farmland Preservation – Enumclaw/Green River APD		$2,435,250	**$1,514,469**	$0	**$0**	$2,435,250	**$1,514,469**	$0	**$0**	74	9
King County	KC - WRIA 9	Green River-Newaukum Creek Acquisition		$5,265,000	**$3,000,000**	$1,755,000	**$1,000,000**	$7,020,000	**$4,000,000**	$0	**$0**	48	9
King County	KC - WRIA 9	North Green River Acquisitions		$2,543,448	**$1,275,000**	$847,816	**$425,000**	$3,391,264	**$1,700,000**	$0	**$0**	21	7
King County	KC - WRIA 9	North Highline Urban Greenspace – Seola Pond	Has waiver	$700,000	**$700,000**	$0	**$0**	$700,000	**$700,000**	$0	**$0**	0.9	8
King County	KC - WRIA 9	Shadow Lake Natural Area Additions		$952,500	**$952,500**	$317,500	**$317,500**	$1,270,000	**$1,270,000**	$0	**$0**	35	9
King County	KC - WRIA 9	Skyway Stormwater Park	Has waiver	$1,000,000	**$1,000,000**	$0	**$0**	$1,000,000	**$1,000,000**	$0	**$0**	0.2	2
King County	KC - WRIA 9	Soos Creek Sub-basin Acquisition		$1,770,000	**$1,212,198**	$590,000	**$404,066**	$2,360,000	**$1,616,264**	$0	**$0**	8.9	9
King County	KC - WRIA 9	Soos Creek-Molasses Creek Additions		$1,575,000	**$1,575,000**	$525,000	**$525,000**	$2,100,000	**$2,100,000**	$0	**$0**	61	9
King County	KC - WRIA 9	South Park Triangle East	Yes	$307,500	**$307,500**	$0	**$0**	$307,500	**$307,500**	$0	**$0**	0.4	8
King County	KC - Vashon	Vashon Creeks and Estuaries		$926,250	**$611,250**	$308,750	**$203,750**	$1,235,000	**$815,000**	$0	**$0**	61	8
King County	KC - Vashon	Vashon Marine Shoreline		$776,250	**$776,250**	$258,750	**$258,750**	$1,035,000	**$1,035,000**	$0	**$0**	2.0	8
King County	KC - Vashon	Vashon Uplands		$6,592,941	**$3,892,941**	$2,007,059	**$1,107,059**	$8,600,000	**$5,000,000**	$0	**$0**	133	8
Count 21			**Total**	$45,609,514	**$33,790,996**	$7,052,375	**$4,541,125**	$52,661,889	**$38,332,121**	$531,250	**$531,250**	**583**	

***"Acres in Scope": Acres listed above are the total acres eligible for acquisition within the project scope. Many projects are multiple-parcel/multiple-year efforts. Not all the acreage will be purchased in one year, but partial progress can be made. Partial funding awards typically result in fewer acres acquired than listed above. Please see the committee's report for project-specific discussions and*

Total CFT	**$34,322,246**
Total Parks Levy	**$4,541,125**
Total Awards	**$38,863,371**

Green/Duwamish & Central Puget Sound Watershed
2027 Legislative Priorities

WASHINGTON STATE 2027-29 BUDGET PRIORITIES

CAPITAL BUDGET

$113 Million – Puget Sound Acquisition & Restoration *(Recreation & Conservation Office)*
Biennial investments in locally and regionally significant salmon habitat projects within Puget Sound watersheds. Also provides Lead Entity program funding for coordinating salmon recovery efforts.

$110 Million – Salmon Recovery Funding Board *(Recreation & Conservation Office)*
Foundation of statewide salmon recovery efforts. Supports implementation of watershed-based salmon recovery plans and half of operating costs for the Lead Entity Program.

$147 Million – Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board *(Recreation & Conservation Office)*
State-wide removal of identified and prioritized fish passage barriers.

$39 Million – Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program *(Recreation & Conservation Office)*
Nearshore ecosystem restoration and protection grant program within Puget Sound.

$90 Million – Floodplains by Design *(Department of Ecology)*
State-wide multi-benefit floodplain projects that enhance salmon habitat and protect public health and safety.

$25 Million – SRFB Riparian Program *(Recreation & Conservation Office)*
Enhance salmon recovery by accelerating protection and restoration of riparian habitats.

$80 Million – Stormwater Financial Assistance *(Department of Ecology)*
Financing for local government sponsored stormwater retrofit projects that treat polluted stormwater in priority areas.

WASHINGTON STATE POLICY PRIORITIES

Climate Commitment Act Funding
Avoid repurposing CCA funding and restore critical bond capacity for ecosystem recovery capital programs. The CCA was intended as a temporary plus-up funding source to drive investment in climate resilience and pollution reduction initiatives within our local communities. Repurposing CCA revenue undermines collective efforts to achieve established climate goals.

Streamline Regulatory Review and Permitting for Salmon Habitat Restoration
Accelerate project delivery by reducing the regulatory burden for ecologically beneficial projects – especially those posing no adverse impacts to existing development. Renew the Fish & Wildlife Habitat Recovery Pilot Program (exp. June 2025) and explore additional opportunities for improved coordination between local, state and federal agencies (e.g., National Flood Insurance Program).

Mitigate Impacts from 6PPD-Q and Accelerate Phasing Out 6PPD in Tires
Support ongoing efforts to both accelerate phasing-out 6PPD and minimize exposure pathways for aquatic ecosystems. Despite recent investments in monitoring and treatment, 6PPD remains a major threat to salmon.

Improve Regulatory Habitat Protections
Build on previous legislative initiatives around riparian buffer protections and the concept of "net ecological gain" to address stakeholder concerns and strengthen the regulatory protections for salmon habitat.

Shoreline Master Program Buffer Relief *(proposed for addition after Management Committee review)*
Support efforts to modify the buffer relief statute (RCW 90.58.580) to improve regulatory certainty for landowners who may experience hardship due to a landward shift in the ordinary high-water mark as a result of shoreline restoration in Urban Growth Areas. Improving long-term assurances around approved requests for buffer relief would reduce landowner concerns around, and improve the viability of restoration projects in highly urban areas, like the Duwamish River.

Green / Duwamish & Central Puget Sound
MAKING OUR WATERSHED
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Green/Duwamish & Central Puget Sound Watershed
2027 Legislative Priorities

FEDERAL BUDGET PRIORITIES

Downstream fish passage facility at Howard A. Hanson Dam (HAHD)

Support necessary funding for the U.S. Army Corps to ensure design and construction remains on track for the 2030 deadline. Salmon reintroduction into the upper watershed is essential for recovery efforts in the Green/Duwamish Watershed. Fish passage at HAHD will restore access to more than 100 miles of salmon spawning and rearing habitat and represents one of the single largest potential habitat gains for Puget Sound Chinook salmon and southern resident orca whale recovery.

Federal salmon and Puget Sound Recovery Funding Programs

Federal programs play a key role in helping Washington fund implementation of recovery plans and complements other state initiatives to improve salmon habitat.

- **$100 million - Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund** (PCSRF) in the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. PCSRF supports state and tribal recovery efforts for Pacific salmon and steelhead in California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Alaska. The PCSRF program is the primary federal funding for salmon recovery and supports annual grants for priority salmon habitat protection and restoration projects.
- **$75 million - Puget Sound Geographic Program funds** in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency budget. The program funds local and regional Puget Sound recovery efforts (e.g., Marine Resources Committees) and supports innovative approaches to addressing stormwater, habitat, shellfish, flooding, water quality and quantity, and endangered species recovery.
- **$50 million – National Estuary Program** funds supports core funding for 26 estuary restoration programs nationwide, including the Puget Sound Partnership and associated recovery grants.
- **$3.8 million – WA State Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups (RFEGs)** in the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service budget. RFEGs are critical to community-driven salmon recovery efforts, creating thousands of jobs and spurring millions of dollars in economic development.

FEDERAL POLICY PRIORITIES

Floodplain Enhancement and Recovery Act

This bill would modernize FEMA's approach to ecosystem restoration by streamlining permitting of salmon projects in floodplains. Specifically, it would provide more flexibility under FEMA's "No- Rise" rule to execute floodplain restoration projects that pose no adverse impact to critical infrastructure or insurable structures. No-rise analysis requirements contribute to an average project delay of 17 months and have postponed expenditure of over $128.5 million in federal funding.

Advance Stormwater Solutions

Advancing research and policy changes to address impacts of the tire dust chemical 6PPD-quinone on salmon survival is also needed to ensure long-term viability of salmon in urbanized watersheds.

Green / Duwamish & Central Puget Sound

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WATER RESOURCE INVENTORY AREA 9 (WRIA 9) WATERSHED ECOSYSTEM FORUM

Making Our Watershed Fit For A King

Green / Duwamish & Central Puget Sound

Algona
Auburn
Black Diamond
Burien
Covington
Des Moines
Enumclaw
Federal Way
Kent
King County
Maple Valley
Normandy Park
Renton
SeaTac
Seattle
Tacoma
Tukwila

American Rivers
The Boeing Company
Covington Water District
Green/Duwamish Watershed Alliance
Green River Coalition
King Conservation District
King County Flood Control District
Master Builders Association
Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group
Port of Seattle
Save Habitat and Diversity of Wetlands (SHADOW)
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Green-Duwamish Urban Waters Partnership
Washington Department of Ecology
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Washington Department of Natural Resources

November 5, 2026



The Honorable Bob Ferguson
Office of the Governor
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Re: Green/Duwamish & Central Puget Sound Watershed Watershed Ecosystem Forum 2027 Legislative Priorities

Dear Governor Ferguson:

On behalf of the Green/Duwamish & Central Puget Sound Watershed Ecosystem Forum (WRIA 9), we urge your support of the attached legislative priorities. We believe these priorities reflect the bold actions necessary to advance recovery of Puget Sound salmon populations.

First, we want to extend our appreciation for your commitment to salmon recovery and restoring the health of Puget Sound. Salmon are central to the environment, culture, and economy of the Pacific Northwest, weaving together the region's natural landscapes and human communities. Investments in habitat restoration not only support salmon recovery – they support jobs, local economies, tribal treaty fishing rights, flood risk reduction, climate resilience, and open space and recreation.

The state's investments in salmon have enabled significant progress on some of our region's highest priorities. However, funding needs continue to far outpace available funding and salmon populations remain significantly below recovery targets. Lead entities, including WRIA 9, have worked hard to develop technically vetted, shovel-ready capital projects included on the various capital project lists pursuing state funding. As we approach the 2027 legislative session, we need to elevate the sense of urgency – and funding – behind habitat restoration to meaningfully move the needle on our collective salmon recovery objectives.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions regarding our legislative priorities or habitat projects, please contact Matt Goehring, WRIA 9 Salmon Recovery Manager, at (206) 263-6826 or mgoehring@kingcounty.gov.

Sincerely,

DRAFT

Financial support provided by signers of Watershed Planning Interlocal Agreement for WRIA 9 including: Algona, Auburn, Black Diamond, Burien, Covington, Des Moines, Enumclaw, Federal Way, Kent, King County, Maple Valley, Normandy Park, Renton, SeaTac, Seattle, Tacoma, Tukwila

WATER RESOURCE INVENTORY AREA 9 (WRIA 9) WATERSHED ECOSYSTEM FORUM

Making Our Watershed Fit For A King

Green / Duwamish & Central Puget Sound

Algona
Auburn
Black Diamond
Burien
Covington
Des Moines
Enumclaw
Federal Way
Kent
King County
Maple Valley
Normandy Park
Renton
SeaTac
Seattle
Tacoma
Tukwila

American Rivers
The Boeing Company
Covington Water District
Green/Duwamish Watershed Alliance
Green River Coalition
King Conservation District
King County Flood Control District
Master Builders Association
Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group
Port of Seattle
Save Habitat and Diversity of Wetlands (SHADOW)
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Green-Duwamish Urban Waters Partnership
Washington Department of Ecology
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Washington Department of Natural Resources

November 5, 2026

The Honorable Senator Maria Cantwell
915 2nd Ave, Suite 3206
Seattle, WA 98174



Re: Green/Duwamish & Central Puget Sound Watershed Watershed Ecosystem Forum Legislative Priorities

Dear Senator Cantwell:

On behalf of the Green/Duwamish & Central Puget Sound (WRIA 9) Watershed Ecosystem Forum, we urge your support for our 2027 legislative priorities. The Forum is comprised of 17 local governments and stakeholder representatives from businesses, community groups, concerned citizens, and state and federal agencies working collaboratively to recover ESA-listed salmon.

We applaud your continued commitment to salmon recovery and restoring the health of Puget Sound - the federal government's leadership is critical to our collective success. Salmon are central to the environment, culture, and economy of the Pacific Northwest, weaving together the region's natural landscapes and human communities. Investments in habitat restoration not only support salmon recovery – they support jobs, local economies, tribal treaty fishing rights, flood risk reduction, climate resilience, and open space and recreation.

Thanks to your support, we have seen robust investments in salmon recovery despite a difficult political and economic landscape. In addition to maintaining recent funding levels for the core salmon recovery programs, we urge your continued support for fully funding the downstream fish passage facility at HHD to ensure construction remains on schedule to meet the 2030 deadline. This regionally significant project will restore access to over 100 miles of high-quality habitat and is a cornerstone of Puget Sound salmon recovery efforts. It is also critical to regional water security and flood protection.

We appreciate the challenges involved in federal policy and budget decisions and applaud your leadership. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Matt Goehring, WRIA 9 Salmon Recovery Manager, at (206) 263-6826 or mgoehring@kingcounty.gov.

Sincerely,

DRAFT

Financial support provided by signers of Watershed Planning Interlocal Agreement for WRIA 9 including: Algona, Auburn, Black Diamond, Burien, Covington, Des Moines, Enumclaw, Federal Way, Kent, King County, Maple Valley, Normandy Park, Renton, SeaTac, Seattle, Tacoma, Tukwila