

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



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  
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

\*Management Committee

May 26, 2020

Supervisor Dave Upthegrove, Chair  
King County Flood Control District  
516 3rd Avenue, Room 1200  
Seattle, WA 98104

RE: Water Resource Inventory Area 9 Forum of Local Governments Funding  
Recommendations for Cooperative Watershed Management Grants

Dear Chair, Upthegrove and Flood Control District Board members,

The Green/Duwamish and Central Puget Sound (WRIA 9) Watershed Ecosystem Forum (WEF) unanimously approved the presented list of funding recommendations for the 2019 Cooperative Watershed Management Grant (CWM) Program at its May 14, 2020 meeting. The projects implement priority elements of the WRIA 9 Salmon Habitat Plan and meet the highest level of technical rigor.

The WRIA 9 allocation of \$3,629,073 from the Flood Control District provides critical funding for eight high priority capital projects including Lones Levee Setback (King County), Downey Farmstead Restoration (City of Kent), Flaming Geyser State Park Cultural Resources and Revegetation (King County), and Gilliam Creek Culvert Removal (City of Tukwila). These capital projects will reconnect the Green River with the historic floodplain, create nearshore refuge and freshwater rearing habitat for Chinook and other salmonids, enhance riparian vegetation, increase the ability to pass in small streams, and increase prey availability for Southern Resident orca.

In addition to eight high priority capital projects, CWM funding will support fourteen community-based revegetation projects, education and stewardship programs, monitoring and research initiatives that support effective and strategic implementation of the Habitat Plan.

The CWM Program will leverage over \$9.7 million in funding from federal, state and local sources to implement the WRIA 9 projects and programs. In addition to being consistent with WRIA 9 salmon recovery priorities, the projects and programs proposed for CWM funding are consistent with regional Habitat Strategic Initiatives of the Puget Sound Action Agenda.

The WRIA 9 WEF greatly appreciates district support of high priority salmon recovery projects and programs. Increased funding has allowed our partners to amplify and accelerate their work on behalf of ecosystem restoration and salmon recovery. With your vote of support, we have completed the funding package for one major project, Lones Levee Setback, which can now go to construction in 2021. These projects not only restore the highest priority habitats in the Green River system but create new and sustained jobs and generate roughly \$2.5 million for every \$1 million invested.

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

We look forward to presenting these projects to the Board. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "NTosta".

Nancy Tosta  
Co-Chair  
Councilmember, City of Burien  
Watershed Ecosystem Forum

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lisa A. Herbold".

Lisa Herbold  
Co-Chair  
Councilmember, City of Seattle  
Watershed Ecosystem Forum