



Island County
Water Resources Advisory Committee
P.O. Box 5000, Coupeville, WA 98239

Chris Luerkens, Salmon Recovery Coordinator 360-678-7810

July 5, 2012

Salmon Recovery Funding Board
ATTN: Mike Ramsey
WA Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504

RE: Skagit Bay Nearshore Project (SRFB Project #07-1592A) – Support of Request to Allocate Additional Funds (Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration – PSAR)

Dear Mr. Ramsey:

The Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) strongly supports granting the requested \$136,500 of available 2007-2009 PSAR funds to the Skagit Bay Nearshore project (SRFB Project # 07-1592A), sponsored by the Whidbey Camano Land Trust. As the WRIA 6 Lead Entity citizen advisory group, the WRAC fulfills the task of reviewing and approving a list of ranked proposals for SRFB consideration. This high priority acquisition project will provide a significant benefit to the entire Whidbey Basin through both protecting existing nearshore habitat and ensuring future restoration opportunities at the site. Both the *Skagit Chinook Recovery Plan* (2005) and the *WRIA 6 (Island Co) Salmon Recovery Plan* (2005) identify the Skagit Bay Nearshore project area as one of highest priorities areas in WRIA 6.

The Skagit Bay Nearshore project ranked #2 in the WRAC's prioritization for the 2007 SRFB funding cycle. The WRIA 6 Salmon Technical Advisory Group (TAG) reviewed this request at during its June 20 meeting, and found the request consistent with intent with the proposal as written in 2007. Acquisition of the subject properties will fulfill the intent of the original proposal and allow for a fuller range of restoration opportunities to be considered.

The WRAC appreciates the opportunity to demonstrate support for this important opportunity. Please contact Island County Salmon Recovery Program staff (Chris Luerkens, 360-678-7810) with any questions or request for additional information. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Don Lee, Chair
Water Resources Advisory Committee
WRIA 6 Lead Entity

Cc: Tristan Peter-Contesse, Puget Sound Partnership
Chris Luerkens, Island County Salmon Recovery Coordinator
WRIA 6 Salmon Technical Advisory Group