



**Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish (WRIA 8) Watershed**  
201 S. Jackson Street, Suite 600  
Seattle, WA 98104-3855

April 26, 2018

**Re: Meadowdale Beach and Estuary Restoration Project – Link to WRIA 8 Recovery Strategy**

PSAR Large Capital Project Review Team:

The purpose of this letter is to document the Meadowdale Beach and Estuary Restoration Project's connection to priority WRIA 8 recovery strategies. In 2017, WRIA 8 completed an update to its Chinook recovery chapter. This updated plan—the *Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan 10-Year Update*—outlines a suite of 20 recovery strategies thought to be the most important for achieving the watershed's salmon recovery goals. The Meadowdale project directly aligns with several of these recovery strategies:

- Reconnect Backshore Areas and Pocket Estuaries
- Restore Natural Marine Shorelines
- Restore Sediment Processes Necessary for Key Life Stages
- Protect and Restore Channel Complexity
- Protect and Restore Functional Riparian Vegetation

There is an ever-increasing scientific database documenting the use of marine nearshore, estuary, and non-natal stream habitats by juvenile Chinook salmon (e.g., Beamer et al. 2006, Beamer et al. 2013, Brennan 2004, Fresh 2006). These data document the reliance on these habitats by juvenile Chinook during their early marine life stage; therefore, for salmon recovery in WRIA 8, the Meadowdale project's focus on reconnecting backshore areas and pocket estuaries and restoring natural marine shorelines are particularly needed. Recovery work supporting the early marine life stage of juvenile Chinook salmon in WRIA 8 has been a significant challenge due to the railroad present along most of the WRIA's Puget Sound shoreline. As a result, the proposed project's process-based approach to addressing the recovery strategies listed above is noteworthy.

If you have questions, please contact me at [jason.wilkinson@kingcounty.gov](mailto:jason.wilkinson@kingcounty.gov) or 206-477-4786.

Sincerely,

Jason Wilkinson  
Projects and Funding Coordinator, Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8)