

July 30, 2020

Kurt Nelson  
Director of Environmental Division  
Tulalip Tribes Natural & Cultural Resources Department  
6406 Marine Drive  
Tulalip, WA 98271

Dear Director Nelson:

Snohomish County fully supports Tulalip Tribes' project proposal "Meadowdale Beach Restoration Study" for the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP) Learning Program Project grant. Funding the Tulalip Tribes' study would bring the County's Meadowdale Beach Park & Estuary Restoration project full circle as one of the key instigators for getting that project off the ground was the findings of the "*Juvenile Chinook Salmon Rearing In Small Non-Natal Streams Draining Into the Whidbey Basin*" study by Beamer, Zackey, et al. 2013. The Tulalip Tribes' work along with others who participated in that study provided verification of the presence of ESA-listed Chinook (juveniles) in Lunds Gulch Creek which in turn led to a restoration/ecosystem-focused solution to a multi-faceted problem faced by the County at the park, including interruption of nearshore processes, public safety, ADA saltwater access, flooding and unsustainable maintenance.

Snohomish County has messaged that the Meadowdale Beach Park and Estuary Restoration project is precedent-setting because the project is one of the first to attempt large scale restoration along Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) railroad where the railroad infrastructure is altered and BNSF's operations are impacted during construction. If awarded the ESRP learning grant, Tulalip Tribes will be able to build upon the County's successes to date of collaborating with BNSF. Information received from the Meadowdale Restoration Study will inform whether daylighting streams/restoration of historic embayments is a viable recovery strategy along the railroad corridor and thus provide basis for future projects with BNSF.

ESRP generously awarded Snohomish County \$1,000,000 during the 2018 RCO grant round for implementation/construction of the Meadowdale Beach Park and Estuary Restoration project. Funding the Tulalip Tribe's "Meadowdale Restoration Study" will reinforce the merit founded by ESRP for the County restoration project.

Snohomish County is excited that the Tulalip Tribes has selected Meadowdale Beach park site for this proposal to ESRP for Learning Program Project grant. Acquiring data from an implemented project that is designed to provide essential rearing habitat for juvenile Chinook and other salmonids, and to restore nearshore processes that will also benefit other species including the Southern Resident Orca will either reinforce and solidify the science and assumptions behind this project; or provide valuable input for design of future shoreline restoration projects with the ultimate goal of implementing projects that will have positive impacts on recovery of Puget Sound. We look forward to seeing the results.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dave Somers', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dave Somers  
Snohomish County Executive