



Island County
Salmon Recovery Technical and Citizens Committee
P.O. Box 5000, Coupeville, WA 98239

Amee Bahr
Recreation and Conservation Office
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Carrie Byron
Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Program Manager
326 East D Street
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RE: Letter of Support to for Cost Increase for Seahorse Siesta (16-1306)

As the appointed citizen's advisory board for the WRIA 6 Island Lead Entity, the Salmon Recovery Technical and Citizens Committee (SRTCC) supports the Northwest Straits Foundation request for a cost increase of \$353,000.

A portion of the funds for the increase could come from returned funds from the Sunlight Shores project (17-1064). That project had \$6,000 of 2017-19 PSAR remaining due to completion under budget.

Another portion of funds for the increase could come from the Hidden Beach project (19-1342). The Hidden Beach project has not been started because the matching funds from DNR Aquatic Lands are not currently available due to the COVID-19 emergency. It is unclear when this project will move forward so the Lead Entity proposes to apply the SRFB funds from 19-1342 (\$28,800 of 2019-21 PSAR funds and \$100,000 of PCSRF funds) towards the funding gap of 16-1306. The Lead Entity will allocate future funds to the fully approved 19-1342 project once DNR Aquatic Lands is prepared to move forward.

The Northwest Straits Foundation has requested a cost increase to cover the increase in material that is required to be barged and stored offsite. The original estimation of material assumed that much of the material could be dispersed on site. The amount of potential creosote contamination was underestimated. Removal of the extra amount of material remains within the original scope of the project, which is to remove it from behind the cement bulkhead and then remove the bulkhead.

The completion of 16-1306 remains important to SRTCC because of the benefit to nearshore processes and juvenile salmonid prey resources and out-migration. It is also important to complete the project to deliver on the commitment made to the private landowners who own this property.

SRTCC supports this cost request increase and accompanying amendment. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions at (360)720-1471.

Sincerely,

Dawn Spilsbury Pucci, coordinator
WRIA 6 Lead Entity