



## **Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish (WRIA 8) Watershed**

201 S. Jackson Street, Suite 600

Seattle, WA 98104-3855

January 6, 2022

Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board Grant Reviewers:

The purpose of this letter is to provide a statement of support for the City of Sammamish's application for grant funding through the Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board. Sammamish's proposal seeks to remove four fish passage barriers on George Davis Creek, providing over ½ mile of newly accessible spawning habitat to the severely depressed Lake Sammamish kokanee salmon population, and to reroute the lower stream channel to allow increased sediment transport that will facilitate lakeshore delta formation that provides a rest-stop for juvenile Chinook salmon migrating through Lake Sammamish.

The Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) is the local salmon recovery Lead Entity. Removing barriers to fish passage is one of WRIA 8's twenty high priority strategies for Chinook salmon recovery. Our membership is comprised of 28 local governments partners, and representatives from state and federal agencies, non-profit organizations, and other stakeholders with an interest in salmon recovery and watershed health. The Lake Sammamish shoreline is considered a Tier 1 habitat area (i.e., highest priority) for restoration in the *WRIA 8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan* (WRIA 8 Plan). This proposed project is listed on the WRIA 8 Four-Year Work Plan that identifies priority habitat protection and restoration projects for implementation.

The WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council directs state and local grant funds to high priority salmon habitat projects. In 2020, WRIA 8 awarded \$300,000 to support project construction. The current proposal will leverage this significant local investment. Moving forward, WRIA 8 anticipates continuing to work with the City of Sammamish to ensure the project is being implemented in a manner that will result in the best possible salmon recovery outcomes. Thank you for your consideration of the City of Sammamish's funding proposal to address a series of fish passage barriers and improve salmon habitat on George Davis Creek

Sincerely,

Carrie Byron  
WRIA 8 Projects and Funding Coordinator