

## Island County Salmon Recovery Lead Entity

PO Box 5000, Coupeville, WA 98239

Recreation and Conservation Office Attn: SRFB Review Panel PO Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Letter of Support for Race Lagoon Passage – Culvert(s) No. 1893/1894 (PRISM No. 21-1089)

Dear Salmon Recovery Funding Boarding Review Panel,

As the appointed citizen's advisory board for the WRIA 6 Island Lead Entity, the Salmon Recovery Technical and Citizens Committee (SRTCC) supports Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group (SFEG) applying for SRFB funding for PRISM No. 22-1089 – Race Lagoon Passage – Culvert(s) No. 1893/1894.

This project includes the replacement of two fish barrier culverts and a private crossing immediately downstream. The removal of these fish passage barriers will restore connectivity for critical rearing habitat for juvenile salmonids including ESA-listed Threatened Chinook, as well as Pink, Coho and Chum. The subject culverts were identified during the Culvert Prioritization Inventory conducted by Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group. This proposal will also include the design of a small bridge crossing and channel meander immediately downstream of culvert 1894 to enhance fish passage. The Race Lagoon Passage project advances priority restoration efforts described in WRIA 6 Salmon Recovery Plan (SRP) through the protection and restoration of pocket estuaries within the Whidbey Basin. Thank you for your consideration of this proposal. Please let me know if you would like any additional information.

Sincerely,

Todd Zackey

Co-Chair

Salmon Recovery Technical and Citizen Committee (SRTCC)

WRIA 6 Lead Entity Island County