From:	Caromile, Kay (RCO)
To:	Ryan Elting; Brett Shattuck
Cc:	Kaminski, Bridget (RCO); Warinner, Bob (RCO); Krienitz, Jay A (DFW); Conway-Cranos, Tish L (DFW)
Subject:	RCO funding for Livingston Bay acquisition project 20-1461
Date:	Tuesday, December 20, 2022 6:12:42 PM
Attachments:	image001.png image003.png
Importance:	High

Hi Ryan and Brett. I spoke with Ryan earlier on the phone, but wanted to follow up with and email. As we discussed, I met with the RCO Director (Megan Duffy), Marc Duboiski, Jay Krienitz, and Tish Conway-Cranos this week. The Livingston Bay project 20-1461 agreement is currently funded with:

$20,246 State SRFB
$1,500,000 ESRP
$624,871 PSAR
$529,883 Match
$2,675,000 TOTAL

The SRFB/PSAR funds were to acquire the Leque and Livingston Bay Community tideland properties. The ESRP funds were to acquire the same, but also to acquire the Roberge &/or Sherman properties and complete a preliminary design to restore 317 acres.

Decision

At this time, RCO supports proceeding to acquire the Roberge and Leque properties with ESRP funds only, provided you are able to secure clear title and acquisition procedures comply with all RCO policies. However, SRFB and PSAR funds will not be released until the SRFB review panel and lead entity have the opportunity to review the completed restoration feasibility study and clear the acquisitions to proceed.

ESRP's long-term interest is in restoring tidal reconnection to the project area. ESRP staff request the project co-sponsors gather a group of interested parties prior to closing on the acquisitions to discuss your plans for moving ahead, including priority assessments and analyses, landowner outreach, interim land use and project phases, and decision triggers and timelines.

Background

ESRP: ESRP's mission is to restore shoreline and nearshore habitats critical to salmon and other species in Puget Sound. The Livingston Bay restoration project (including tidal reconnection to the project area) supports that mission and is identified as a PSNERP priority project in Puget Sound for its potential to benefit all 8 species of salmonids. The ESRP management team recognizes that the proposed Roberge and Leque acquisitions represent early, but necessary, steps towards achieving future restoration; that additional information is needed to fully determine the feasibility of future restoration in the developed landscape; acquisition of additional properties will be required; full restoration is unlikely to occur within the next 5 years; and that the acquisitions alone offers water quality and waterfowl habitat improvements to Livingston Bay, both of which may be further enhanced with interim restoration measures while awaiting the opportunity for full tidal restoration of the

project area. Considering all of the above, the ESRP team supports moving forward to acquire the Leque and Roberge properties.

SRFB/PSAR: SRFB/PSAR's mission is more narrowly focused on salmon recovery so the waterfowl benefits offered by the acquisition alone (without future restoration) complement, but do not meet the purpose of the funding. Restoring tidal connection to the project area is necessary to meet salmon recovery goals. Although the lead entity ranked the project and the SRFB review panel cleared it without comment, the application did not indicate there was a need for future restoration of the properties and it is unclear if all parties were fully aware of the condition of the properties and needed restoration when they approved project funding. For this reason, I will be reaching out to both groups to gather comments and recommendations for SRFB and PSAR funding.

Please feel free to contact me at any time if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you, Kay

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