



Island County
Salmon Recovery Lead Entity
PO Box 5000, Coupeville, WA 98239

To: Kay Caromile
Salmon Grants Manager
Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office

January 31, 2023

Dear Ms. Caromile,
The WRIA 6 Salmon Recovery Technical and Citizens Committee (SRTCC) has discussed the concerns you have raised about the Livingston Bay acquisition project and our response to those concerns are listed below.

The original application WCLT submitted for SRFB funding, "Nearshore Protection Tool Implementation," indicated that the proposed project "did not require any restoration actions to complete the project." However, at the request of the RCO the SRFB project has been merged with a companion ESRP project that is contingent upon completing eventual restoration, so as a result restoration actions are now required for completion. The SRTCC is supportive of this change and sees no issues with making this modification to the grant.

All SRTCC members are aware that in 2012 the same land acquisitions for restoration were attempted but ultimately failed when we were unable to secure acquisition of the Nelson and Sherman properties within the Livingston Bay Restoration project area. As a result, it was decided at the time not to pursue the effort any further and to return the funds set to acquire the Leque and Roberge properties to RCO. However, over time the SRTCC has come to recognize that an expectation of simultaneous acquisition of all key properties from multiple landowners at this site is likely not reasonable. While the appropriate pathway for any individual restoration project must be evaluated independently, the SRTCC supports a strategy of opportunistic acquisition for the Livingston Bay project as likely the only feasible pathway towards completing restoration at what is one of the largest salmon habitat sites in WRIA 6.

SRTCC members acknowledge that this strategy may delay or limit the extent of restoration at the site. Nevertheless, the SRTCC supports the current acquisition of the Leque and Roberge properties because it sets the stage for eventual restoration, even if the timeline to doing so is long. Large restoration projects, particularly those involving acquisition of properties with multiple landowners, can take a decade or more to come to fruition, but this must be balanced against the potential habitat gains. The SRTCC believes this is one of the most important restoration projects in Island County and therefore approves of the use of SRFB funds for the acquisition of the currently available Leque and Roberge properties.

The SRTCC considers the Livingston Bay Restoration project to be one of the most significant and important projects in WRIA 6 to further the recovery of ESA listed salmon species. Despite the obstacles of land acquisition and the potential long timelines, we believe the project is worth the wait and will ultimately help with salmon recovery efforts. Please feel free to contact us with any further questions or clarifications. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Barbara Brock, SRTCC Co-Chair

Barbara Brock