

## Island County Salmon Recovery Lead Entity

PO Box 5000, Coupeville, WA 98239

Puget Sound Partnership (PSP)

Attn: Marlies Wierenga, PSAR Program Manager

RE: Letter of Support for Race Lagoon Passage - Culvert(s) No. 1893/1894 (PRISM No. 24-1117)

Dear Marlies & PSAR Large Cap Team Members,

Dear Salmon Recovery Funding Boarding Review Panel,

As the appointed citizen's advisory board for the WR/A 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. 24-1117- Race Lagoon Passage - Culvert(s) No. 1893/1894.

This project includes the replacement of two fish barrier culverts and a private crossing immediately downstream. This is part two of a previous project 21-1089 which included planning and initial permit work. 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 removal of a barrier 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.

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Sincerely

Barbara Brock/Todd Zackey Co-Chairs

Salmon Recovery Technical and Citizen Committee (SRTCC) WRIA 6 Lead Entity

Island County