

October 21, 2022

To the LIO Coordinators and LIO Committees:

The Puget Sound Partnership, through its agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency, is developing a Strategic Funding Team to accelerate and scale the implementation of the Action Agenda. This team will be committed to supporting actions and initiatives Local Integrating Organizations (LIOs) identify as their priorities. These include (1) removing common barriers to ecosystem recovery which they identify; and (2) advancing priorities the LIOs identify for implementing the Action Agenda and achieving multi-benefit outcomes.

Between now and January, the Partnership will work with LIO Coordinators to create a set of initiatives for the Strategic Funding Team. This team's work will emphasize priorities and benefits shared by multiple LIOs, but we will also incorporate priorities unique to individual LIOs or that are shared only by some LIOs, as capacity allows. LIO Coordinators are currently prioritizing the top actions from the Action Agenda to indicate which actions are timely to implement within their LIO geography. The Partnership will work with this information and the LIO Coordinators to create work plans for the Strategic Funding Team. If additional prioritization or sequencing of this initial exercise is necessary, we will work together to continue refining the priorities and informing the team's work plan. Because the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funds the Strategic Funding Team, the team's work must fall within the guidance EPA has developed for BIL funding. The Partnership will work with LIO Coordinators to select LIO priorities that align with the EPA guidance.

Thank you for your partnership in this important effort. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me (larry.epstein@psp.wa.gov, 360.480.0487) or Stephanie Suter (stephanie.suter@psp.wa.gov, 360.791.3154) with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Larry Epstein

Larry Epstein
Deputy Director