



SNOHOMISH BASIN SALMON RECOVERY FORUM

November 7, 2019

Snohomish County Council
3000 Rockefeller Ave, M/S 609
Everett, WA 98201

Dear Snohomish County Councilmembers,

The Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Forum (Forum) writes this **letter in support of Budget Ordinance 19-074**, which revises the County's Surface Water Management utility service charges.

The 40+ member Forum is the citizens committee for the Snohomish Basin's salmon recovery lead entity and it includes representatives from Snohomish and King counties, Tulalip Tribes, 14 cities, special purpose districts, interest groups, and citizens. The Forum works collaboratively to protect and restore salmon habitat in the Basin by following and promoting scientifically supported recommendations provided in *the Snohomish River Basin Salmon Conservation Plan* (2005).

The Forum appreciates Snohomish County's contributions as a member of the Forum and the invaluable service the County provides through its Surface Water Management division. SWM's work to implement critical programs and projects that support salmon recovery, such as fixing fish passage barriers, leveraging significant state and federal dollars to implement salmon habitat restoration projects and supporting the operations of the Forum and its committees are integral to recovering salmon in the Snohomish Basin. The Forum is aware that the costs and demands of the services SWM provides continue to increase while the utility fees supporting a large portion of SWM's budget have remained the same since 2009. The Forum understands that SWM has recently faced significant budget challenges which have resulted in a reduction of the salmon recovery-related services SWM provides. The Forum understands that without an increase to SWM's utility rates, further reductions in the services SWM provides to support salmon recovery will occur. The Forum encourages County Council members to support the SWM utility rate increase and stabilize funding for SWM so that further cuts to salmon recovery programs and projects do not occur.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Chair, Terry Williams, Tulalip Tribes

James Miller, Vice-Chair, City of Everett

On behalf of the Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Forum

Cc: Dave Somers, Snohomish County Executive
Gregg Farris, Surface Water Management Director for Snohomish County