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January 27, 2022

Subject: **Support for the Dungeness Streamflow Restoration Off-Channel Reservoir**

To Whom It May Concern:

The City of Sequim is an active water management partner in the Dungeness watershed with Clallam County, the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, the Agricultural Water Users Association, Washington Water Trust, and Clallam Conservation District.

The City also sits on the multi-stakeholder Dungeness River Management Team (DRMT), which has been developing and pursuing long-term solutions to water resource and water quality issues for more than 30 years.

The City, the DRMT, and the community are concerned that reservoirs of water held in annual snowpack and ancient glaciers are decreasing over time, and extreme low-flow conditions on the River are becoming more frequent and exacerbated during drought years. This is an unsustainable situation for both salmon and agriculture.

To improve resiliency for the community and the watershed, the DRMT has discussed and supported various proposals for water storage via reservoirs and aquifer recharge as a **key recommendation in multiple plans and policies over the decades**, including:

- Climate Change Preparedness Plan for the North Olympic Peninsula (2015)
- East WRIA 18 Instream Flow & Water Management Rule and the Dungeness Water Exchange Mitigation Plan (2012)
- Clallam County Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan (2009)
- Puget Sound Chinook ESU Recovery Plan (2007)
- Elwha-Dungeness (WRIA 18) Watershed Plan (2005)

Specifically, in 2018, the DRMT thoroughly vetted the Dungeness Flow Restoration Off-Channel Reservoir proposal and prioritized it over other flow restoration proposals as providing substantial and significant benefit to streamflow for listed and protected species in the Dungeness in the critical season. A benefit-cost analysis using tools developed by FEMA indicate a ratio of more than 10:1 due to increased streamflow (and associated riparian benefit) as well as the value of stored water.

As of 2020, funding for Clallam County to acquire the land and perform final design and permitting was secured and the planning group started identifying models for local cost-share for future operations. The final step in implementation is for our group of stakeholders to find sources of funding for construction of this exciting and popular project. To that end, the City of Sequim secured a FEMA Hazard Mitigation Program grant in 2021 for more than \$1M for design and construction to capture overland flow and infiltrate it a Managed Aquifer Recharge site or store it in the Reservoir.

Please accept this letter indicating City of Sequim's strong support of the Dungeness Off-Channel Reservoir project because of its scale, location, cost/benefit and feasibility. Sequim urges your grant reviewers to fully fund this request.

Sincerely,



Matthew Huish

~~City Manager~~

Acting City Manager

c: Sarah VanAusdle, City of Sequim
Carol Creasey, Clallam County
Hansi Hals, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
Jason Hatch, Washington Water Trust