

**Proposal To The Leadership Council  
South Central Action Area Local Integrating Organization**

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## **LIO Proposals to the Leadership Council**

### **PSP Staff Analysis - South Central Action Area**

- 1) Describe geographic range  
*South Central Action Area (portions of King and Pierce counties), including the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish, Green/Duwamish, and Puyallup/White watersheds*
  
- 2) Does the proposed organization have broad support from the local community?  
*The South Central Action Area Caucus Group is a small, broadly inclusive group that builds on well-functioning, coordinated efforts to restore and protect habitat and reduce sources of water pollution. Establishing the Caucus Group involved communication with and input from multiple community stakeholders and implementer groups. The Caucus Group includes participation from elected officials and staff from local governments, watershed groups, tribes, business community, agricultural community, and environmental community.*
  
- 3) Do they have the ability/capacity/authority to execute roles and responsibilities inherent to a Local Integrating Organization, such as:
  - a. Advising the Partnership on Action Agenda Priorities?  
*The Caucus Group is currently working through a process to prioritize and sequence actions for local implementation of the Action Agenda. These local priorities will inform the Partnership about what actions the South Central Action Area considers to be the most urgent and important priority actions*
  
  - b. Providing assistance to enhance implementation work by local groups?  
*The Caucus Group is working to identify local actions that are most urgent to accomplish now, which will inform regional priorities and identify opportunities for more effective and efficient local integration and coordination of efforts*
  
  - c. Working cooperatively to implement strategic actions in the AA?  
*Caucus Group participants understand the needs of local groups to implement actions, and have a good sense for how to coordinate and integrate efforts and to most effectively deploy resources.*
  
  - d. Basing their work in the best scientific information available?  
*As part of its effort to identify the most urgent priority local actions for implementation, the Caucus Group adopted guiding principles to evaluate actions and strategies that emphasize the need to base actions on scientific input and an understanding of ecosystem functions.*
  
  - e. Evaluating progress in implementing the AA at the local scale?

*The Caucus Group is focused on identifying the most urgent priority actions to implement Puget Sound recovery, and has not endeavored to evaluate progress. This may be a function the Caucus Group can serve in the future, as priority actions they identify are completed.*

4) Is their structure conducive to actualizing the above roles and responsibilities?  
*As a small, broadly representative group, including participation from many key local implementer groups, the Caucus Group is uniquely organized to serve the proposed roles and functions to advance local implementation of the Action Agenda. Their capacity to function effectively in this role would be substantially enhanced by operating funds.*

5) What ability does this proposed organization have to receive grants and other funds to support staff and to assist in the implementation of the local Action Agenda priorities?  
*The Caucus Group currently operates informally, at the will of its participants. To receive money the group would need either to formalize or enable one of its participant groups to serve as a fiscal agent.*

6) What are the first steps the organization will take, or has taken, toward implementing the Action Agenda?  
*Based on the actions and strategies in the Action agenda, the Caucus Group is currently working through a process to prioritize and sequence actions and strategies for local implementation of Puget Sound recovery. These local priorities will inform the Partnership about what actions the South Central Action Area considers to be the most urgent and important to advance across all Action Agenda priorities (protect, restore, reduce sources of pollution, and work together more effectively and efficiently).*

7) What are the major challenges this group faces? What is being done to address those challenges?

- Operational Support: Currently the group relies on the at will engagement of its participants. Given the time constraints and substantial funding challenges of many participant, the group would benefit greatly from additional operational funding and support.*
- Funding: The informal operation of the Caucus Group does not currently enable it to accept or direct funding.*

8) Will this group evolve/change over time?  
*The Caucus Group is expected to change over time according to the emerging needs to support and guide local implementation of Puget Sound recovery.*

9) Other Considerations?

## **South Central Action Area Caucus Group Purpose and Operating Guidelines**

**Proposal to the Leadership Council of the Puget Sound Partnership to be considered the South Central Action Area local integrating group for Action Agenda implementation**

### **South Central Action Area Coordination and Integration Approach**

The goal and charge of the Puget Sound Partnership is to coordinate recovery of the health and function of Puget Sound ecosystems. Integrating and implementing the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan and the Action Agenda are the basis for achieving Puget Sound recovery, and provide direction for the Partnership's work with local communities. As part of the Partnership's effort to work with local communities to implement the Action Agenda, the South Central Action Area proposes to form a caucus group to advise the Partnership on local priorities and implementation strategies.

The South Central Action Area contains well-functioning, coordinated efforts to restore habitat, protect habitat, and reduce water pollution. To build on and support the work of existing groups and to improve action area communication, coordination, and integration among these different efforts, a small, broadly inclusive caucus group will be identified to help refine and confirm action area priorities using input from constituents. The South Central Action Area Caucus Group will also help identify opportunities to improve local coordination and integration of Puget Sound recovery efforts and update and inform the action area representative to the Ecosystem Coordination Board.

The South Central Action Area representative on the Ecosystem Coordination Board (ECB), or other Caucus Group participant designated by the Caucus Group, will chair the Caucus Group with support from the Puget Sound Partnership's Ecosystem Recovery Coordinator for the South Central Action Area. The South Central Action Area ECB representative will represent the Caucus Group to the ECB.

### **Purpose**

To help refine and confirm Action Area priorities and implementation strategies using input from constituents, and to help identify opportunities to become more efficient and effective through coordination and integration of Puget Sound recovery efforts.

### **Membership**

The Caucus Group will be composed of elected officials and staff from key implementer groups, including local jurisdictions, watershed groups, tribes, business, and non-governmental organizations. Participating groups include (see Appendix for participant list):

- King and Pierce counties
- Cities of Seattle, Tacoma, and Bellevue

- Suburban Cities Association of King County (City of Burien and City of Kenmore)
- Pierce County Cities and Towns Association (City of Fife)
- Ports of Seattle and Tacoma
- Muckleshoot Indian Tribe
- Puyallup Tribe of Indians
- Public Health – Seattle and King County
- Tacoma – Pierce County Health Department
- WRIA 8 (Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed) Salmon Recovery Council
- WRIA 9 (Green/Duwamish Watershed) Ecosystem Forum
- WRIA 10/12 (Puyallup/White and Chambers Clover Watershed) Citizen Advisory Committee
- Environmental constituency (Citizens for a Healthy Bay and Cascade Land Conservancy)
- Agricultural constituency (WSU Pierce County Extension)
- Business constituency (Boeing and Tacoma Chamber of Commerce)
- Puget Sound Regional Council
- Puget Sound Partnership (state agencies rep)
- ECO Net (King and Pierce counties' education, communication, and outreach networks)

### **Functions and Scope**

- Build strong community support and represent interests of constituents.
- Invigorate Action Area coordination, communication, and integration. Share information with and seek input and feedback from constituents.
- Advise the Partnership on local priorities in the Action Agenda.
- Recommend to the Partnership direction and allocation of resources.
- Provide assistance to enhance implementation work by local groups.
- Work cooperatively to implement strategic actions in the Action Agenda.
- Base work on the best scientific information available, including from tribal, local, state, federal and Partnership scientific staff, and the Science Panel.
- Evaluate progress implementing the Action Agenda at the local scale. Report on implementing the Action Agenda at the local scale.
- Update and advise the South Central Action Area representative to the Ecosystem Coordination Board.

### **Operating Guidelines**

The following are proposed guidelines for how the group will discuss issues and operate to provide advice and recommendations to the Partnership:

#### **1. *Meetings and Meeting Groundrules:*** Caucus Group meetings will:

- Focus on reviewing and acting on timely information and ideas brought forward by work groups/subcommittees, giving further direction to work groups/subcommittees, and crafting outcomes in the form of advice and recommendations to the Partnership.
- Occur at least quarterly, prior to ECB meetings. As necessary, more frequent meetings may be scheduled.
- Be based on meeting agendas and materials that are distributed in a timely fashion, and at least a week prior to meetings.

- Be planned and managed by the Chair in consultation with supporting staff and work groups/subcommittees.
- Function with Caucus Group members agreeing to interact with each other with respect, and with a focus on trying to find creative, collaborative ways to maximize the interests of each participant.
- Be chaired by the South Central Action Area ECB representative, or other Caucus Group member as designated by the group.
- Operate transparently, including regular communication with constituencies, use of email distribution lists for materials and meeting announcements, etc.
- Communicate constituent concerns and input with Caucus Group, and communicate Caucus Group discussions with constituents.

2. ***Creation of work groups/subcommittees:*** The Caucus Group may decide to form work groups/subcommittees, comprised of interested Caucus Group participants, on specific topics or issues to enable more detailed discussion or development of a draft work product in preparation for presenting it to the full Caucus Group.

3. ***Decisions:*** Decisions will be made with efficiency and fairness. Caucus Group participants recognize there is a direct relationship between the strength of local implementation of the Action Agenda and the number of participants who can agree on recommendations and advice to the Partnership for local implementation of the Action Agenda. Therefore, the Caucus Group will strive for consensus on advice and recommendations to the Partnership. Consensus will be defined as the lack of dissent. In the absence of consensus, a majority of members present at any meeting of the Caucus Group will prevail. Minority opinions, along with the reason for the dissent, will be noted in any advice or recommendations submitted to the Partnership. The Chair will be responsible for gauging the degree of consensus, and for calling the question to vote. The Caucus Group may authorize the Chair to communicate advice and recommendations to the Partnership on its behalf, expressing the concerns, desires, and opinions of the Caucus Group regarding local implementation of the Action Agenda.

**Appendix: South Central Action Area Caucus Group Participant List  
(updated December 2009)**

<b>Participant Name</b>	<b>Caucus Group Constituency</b>
Norman Abbott <i>Puget Sound Regional Council</i>	Puget Sound Regional Council
Chris Benedict <i>WSU Pierce County Extension</i>	Agricultural Constituency
Joanne Buselmeier <i>Tacoma Chamber of Commerce</i>	Business Constituency
Dow Constantine <i>King County Executive</i>	South Central Action Area Representative to the Ecosystem Coordination Board
Don Davidson <i>Mayor, City of Bellevue</i>	City of Bellevue
Sherrie Duncan <i>Citizens for a Healthy Bay</i>	Environmental Constituency
Larry Fay <i>Public Health - Seattle and King County</i>	Public Health - Seattle and King County
Don Fiene <i>Councilmember, City of Lake Forest Park</i>	Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) Salmon Recovery Council
Rich Godwin <i>Councilmember, City of Fife</i>	Pierce County Cities and Towns Association
Debby Hyde <i>Pierce County</i>	Pierce County
Shaunta Hyde <i>Boeing</i>	Business Constituency
Fred Jarrett <i>Deputy King County Executive</i>	Alternate South Central Action Area Representative to the Ecosystem Coordination Board and Caucus Group Chair
Stephanie Jones Stebbins <i>Port of Seattle</i>	Port of Seattle
Martha Kongsgaard <i>Puget Sound Partnership Leadership Council</i>	Leadership Council liaison to the South Central Action Area
Jane Lamensdorf-Bucher <i>King County</i>	King County

John Sherman <i>Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department</i>	Tacoma - Pierce County Health Department
Sue Mauermann <i>Port of Tacoma</i>	Port of Tacoma
Joan McGilton <i>Mayor, City of Burien</i>	Green/Duwamish Watershed (WRIA 9) Ecosystem Forum
Joan McGilton <i>Mayor, City of Burien</i>	
Bob Hensel <i>Councilmember, City of Kenmore</i>	Suburban Cities Association (King County)
Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz <i>Puget Sound Partnership</i>	State Agencies
Alisa O'Hanlon <i>City of Tacoma</i>	City of Tacoma
Susan Saffery <i>City of Seattle</i>	City of Seattle and Alternate Representative to the Ecosystem Coordination Board
Dave Seabrook <i>Puyallup/White and Chambers/Clover Watershed Citizen Advisory Committee</i>	Puyallup/White and Chambers/Clover Watershed (WRIA 10/12) Citizen Advisory Committee
Dan Stonington <i>Cascade Land Conservancy</i>	Environmental Constituency
To be determined	Muckleshoot Indian Tribe
To be determined	Puyallup Tribe of Indians
To be determined	ECO Net (education, communication, and outreach)