

## Leadership Council Resolution 2011-16 Adopting a 2020 ecosystem recovery target for on-site sewage systems

**WHEREAS**, RCW 90.71.310(1)(c) states that “The action agenda shall include near-term and long-term benchmarks designed to ensure continuous progress needed to reach the goals, objectives, and designated outcomes by 2020;” and

**WHEREAS**, RCW 90.71.280(3), “the [leadership] council shall confer with the [science] panel on incorporating ... benchmarks into the action agenda;” and

**WHEREAS**, the Partnership has applied the term “targets” to refer to long-term benchmarks designed to ensure progress to designated outcomes by 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the science-policy workshop convened as part of the Science Panel meeting on December 14, 2010 recommended that the Partnership adopt ecosystem recovery targets to address the full breadth of the Partnership’s interests in a recovered ecosystem as part of the 2011 revisions to the action agenda; and

**WHEREAS**, management of on-site sewage systems provides a key indication that “a healthy human population [is] supported by a healthy Puget Sound” (RCW 90.71.300(a)); and

**WHEREAS**, management of on-site sewage systems provides a key indication that “... waters in the region are safe for drinking, swimming, shellfish harvest and consumption, and other human uses and enjoyment, and are not harmful to the native marine mammals, fish, birds, and shellfish of the region” (RCW 90.71.300(1)(f)); and

**WHEREAS**, management of on-site sewage systems has been identified as a key tool for assessing the effects of wastewater on ecosystem condition; and

**WHEREAS**, technical experts convened by Partnership staff have presented analyses to the Partnership about potential ecosystem recovery targets to assess the pressures that wastewater exerts on the Puget Sound ecosystem; and

**WHEREAS**, the Science Panel provided a review of technical materials developed in support of target setting; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ecosystem Coordination Board has discussed potential ecosystem recovery targets, based on the background information presented in advance of their May 24 and 25, 2011 meeting; and

**WHEREAS**, the public and stakeholders were provided an opportunity to weigh in on the options provided; and

**WHEREAS**, a summary of information from these analysis, review, and engagement processes included in the meeting materials for the June 16 and 17, 2011 meeting of the Leadership Council provide sufficient background for adoption of ecosystem recovery targets consistent with the Partnership’s guiding principles for target setting

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Partnership defines a functioning, resilient ecosystem to include:

Management of wastewater in a manner that protects aquatic resources and human health.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Partnership's ecosystem recovery target for management of on-site sewage systems shall be expressed as:

By 2020, all on-site sewage systems in marine recovery areas and other areas with equivalent enhanced operation and maintenance programs are inventoried, 95% are current with inspections, and all failed systems are fixed and expand designations of marine recovery areas or designation of other areas with equivalent enhanced operation and maintenance to 90% of marine shorelines not primarily served by sewers.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Partnership will work collaboratively with local health jurisdictions, Department of Health, and other partners to (a) develop shared expectations about reasonable timeframes for fixing failed on-site sewage systems (i.e., how long after inspection identifies a problem will a system be fixed?) and (b) identify legislative options to increase homeowners responsibility for OSS operation and maintenance.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Partnership will consider adjustments to the target adopted by this resolution based on analyses and decisions related to the effectiveness of on-site sewage system operation and maintenance programs and the need protect resources beyond designated marine recovery areas. Additional reevaluation of the target adopted by this resolution will be triggered at the direction of the Partnership's Science Panel based on their evaluation of scientific information about ecosystem conditions and pressures.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Partnership will work collaboratively with the steering committee of the coordinated ecosystem monitoring and assessment program to develop a robust system of monitoring and indicators to describe to the condition of fresh and marine waters that are affected by on-site sewage systems.

Resolution Moved By:       Diana Gale      

Resolution Seconded By:       Dan O'Neal      

Approved/Denied/Deferred (underline one)

**DATE:**       June 17, 2011