

1. INTRODUCTION

The 2014/2015 Action Agenda for Puget Sound identifies programs, policies, projects, and other activities needed to achieve a healthy Puget Sound ecosystem by 2020. The Action Agenda is not a regulatory document; it does not establish regulatory requirements. It is a leadership and coordinating document, intended to focus the region around a shared agenda for Puget Sound recovery. The Action Agenda is also a living document that provides the region with a roadmap for the cleanup, restoration, and protection of Puget Sound, including all of the marine waters of the sound, its surrounding uplands, and contributing watersheds. The Action Agenda is meant to be changed and adapted over time, and, according to State law, the Action Agenda and Implementation strategies will be updated every 2 years. The 2012/2013 Action Agenda was built upon the framework, strategies, and actions of the 2008 Action Agenda. The 2014/2015 Action Agenda is a light refresh of the 2012/2013 Action Agenda. The 2014/2015 Action Agenda maintains the Strategic Initiatives, strategies, and sub-strategies from the 2012/2013 Action Agenda but reflects progress on and updates to specific programs and actions since 2012.

Implementation of the Action Agenda is intended to be ongoing, with actions occurring within differing time frames. Some actions have already been completed and other actions are undergoing implementation. These may be nearing completion or intended to be under way for several years. Some actions will require additional environmental review or study by the agencies responsible for taking the actions, and others require legislative action before implementation. The goal of the Action Agenda is to restore the health of Puget Sound by 2020.

The 2014/2015 Action Agenda is scheduled for adoption on May 30, 2014. Implementation, contingent on legislative action where necessary, will follow.

2. PURPOSE OF THE ADDENDUM

Under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), an Addendum is an *environmental document used to provide additional information or analysis that does not substantially change the analysis of significant impacts and alternatives in the existing environmental document* (WAC 197-11-706). The Puget Sound Partnership has prepared this Addendum to address the 2014/2015 Action Agenda. The 2014/2015 Action Agenda builds upon the 2012/2013 Action Agenda, which was published in August 2012¹, and the 2008 Action Agenda, which was published in December 2008². A Programmatic SEPA checklist was prepared for the 2012/2013 Action Agenda³ and a Determination of Nonsignificance (DNS) was issued

¹ http://www.psp.wa.gov/action_agenda_2012-13.php

² http://www.psp.wa.gov/aa_action_agenda.php

³ <http://www.psp.wa.gov/downloads/AASEPA/SEPAChecklistAA2012Update1.pdf>

on April 5, 2012⁴. A Programmatic SEPA checklist was prepared for the 2008 Action Agenda and a DNS was issued on November 6, 2008⁵.

This Addendum has been prepared in accordance with WAC 197-11-625. The revised information in the 2014/2015 Action Agenda does not substantially change the 2012 Action Agenda or the environmental analysis contained in the 2012 Programmatic SEPA Checklist and reflected in the issued DNS.

3. UPDATED MATERIALS

A. Updated Background

Changes in 2014 Action Agenda Update

The 2014/2015 Action Agenda builds on the existing framework of the 2012/2013 Action Agenda with some refinements. There are no new strategic initiatives, priorities, or strategies in this update. The changes are organized into three categories: integration and updates of Local integrating organization (LIO) profiles and near-term actions; incorporation of ocean acidification recommendations from the 2012 Blue Ribbon Panel on Ocean Acidification; and near-term action assessment and updates.

LIO Integration and Updates

The 2014/2015 Action Agenda integrates local actions, as well as existing basin-wide and watershed-scale plans. Groups sponsoring or administering local watershed and nearshore programs are working to implement the Action Agenda.

The primary implementers of many priorities, strategies, and actions identified in the Action Agenda are city and county governments. LIOs are coordinating bodies that consist of local jurisdictions, tribes, and implementing groups. LIOs provide a mechanism for local communities to prioritize actions and implement the Action Agenda at a local level. The purpose is to identify locally relevant strategies and actions to implement the Action Agenda and accomplish the soundwide objectives.

The LIO concept evolved from the action area concept that was established by the legislation that created the Puget Sound Partnership. Seven geographic action areas were identified around the Sound to address problems specific to those areas. While the action area concept is useful for sharing information and working to implement the Action Agenda and priority local actions, the Partnership took the concept a step further by working towards a structure that also integrates local community efforts to advance the Action Agenda. LIOs are organized at a scale that makes the most sense for Action Agenda implementation. In some cases, the LIOs correspond with the action areas, in other cases, LIOs are planning for a subset of an action area.

The LIO near-term actions in the 2014/2015 Action Agenda tend to focus on salmon habitat and stormwater management.

As of May 2014, LIOs have been formed in nine of the 10 local areas.

- Strait of Juan de Fuca: Strait Ecosystem Recovery Network
- Hood Canal: Hood Canal Coordinating Council
- South Puget Sound: Alliance for a Healthy South Sound
- South Central Puget Sound: South Central Action Area Caucus Group

⁴ <http://www.psp.wa.gov/downloads/AASEPA/DNSandNOA2012AAUpdate.pdf>

⁵ http://www.psp.wa.gov/downloads/DRAFT_ACTION_AGENDA_2008/FINAL_SEPA_Checklist__WEB.pdf

- Island County/Watershed LIO
- Snohomish and Stillaguamish Watersheds LIO
- Whatcom County/Nooksack Watershed: WRIA 1 Policy Boards
- San Juan County/Watershed: San Juan Action Agenda Oversight Group
- West Central Puget Sound LIO

An LIO has not formed for the Skagit Watershed.

Since the 2008 Action Agenda, local communities continue to refine strategies and priorities to address pressures on the local ecosystem, identify local actions, and prepare to inform the update of the Action Agenda. The actions identified through this process are important elements of the Action Agenda and reflect the work and partnerships of local implementers. LIOs are expected to update and refine their local strategies and near-term actions as new information becomes available or as implementation strategies advance their work. These changes are captured in the updates to the Action Agenda. Since the 2012/2013 Action Agenda was adopted, there has been considerable work done at the local level to identify specific pressures, near-term actions, and performance measures. Each LIO has developed and prioritized near-term actions for its local area intended to be accomplished over the next 2 years. The proposed local actions within each of these areas are nested into the regional sub-strategies and integrated into the 2014/2015 Action Agenda. Four LIOs had local actions integrated into the 2012/2013 Action Agenda.

- San Juan
- West Central
- Strait Ecosystem Recovery Network
- Hood Canal Coordinating Council

Since the 2012/2013 Action Agenda adoption, an additional five LIOs have developed local actions.

- Island
- Snohomish-Stillaguamish
- Whatcom
- South Central Caucus Group
- Alliance for a Healthy South Sound

The 2014/2015 Action Agenda also includes revised local profiles for the local planning areas. Local profiles include a narrative description and map that summarizes the geography and unique ecosystem characteristics and assets of the area, an overview and status update of the local planning process and the implementation structure, a list of pressures on local ecosystem health, and a list of near-term actions (for the nine areas with LIOs) with performance measures, owners, related pressures, and linked regional sub-strategies. Members may include salmon recovery watershed groups, marine resource committees, tribes, local governments, local utilities, farming interests, and environmental interests.

Incorporation of Ocean Acidification Recommendations

In 2012, Governor Gregoire convened the Washington State Blue Ribbon Panel (Panel) on Ocean Acidification to address the threat of ocean acidification on the marine waters of Washington. The Governor also issued Executive Order 12-07 directing the Puget Sound Partnership to advance the implementation of the Panel's recommendations into the Puget Sound Action Agenda, the Biennial Science Work Plan, and ecosystem monitoring programs, by December 1, 2014. The Panel released its final report in November 2012 – *Ocean Acidification: From Knowledge to Action*. The report

outlines 42 recommendations to respond to ocean acidification and reduce its harmful causes and effects.

The Panel's recommendations are either being incorporated into the 2014/2015 Action Agenda, the Biennial Science Work Plan, or both, depending on the nature of the recommendation. Near-term actions were drafted for many of the recommendations deemed appropriate for the Action Agenda. These are integrated into the existing framework of the Action Agenda, connecting with regional strategies and recovery goals, when appropriate.

Near-Term Action Assessment and Updates

One of the cornerstones of the Action Agenda is the list of near-term actions that were developed to implement strategies and sub-strategies. The objective for the 2014/2015 Action Agenda is to review and revise the previous list of 211 near-term actions to reflect current conditions and needs and to ensure actions would be relevant over the next 2 to 3 years.

The near-term actions in the 2012/2013 Action Agenda were systematically reviewed to assess their current status using the pre-existing Action Agenda Report Card system and input from near-term action owners. Each near-term action was assessed to: a) make sure the existing near-term actions are still current; and b) update them (as necessary) to ensure continued relevance over the next 2-3 years. In a few cases, new regional NTAs were created to advance actions associated with completed NTAs, but the Partnership did not conduct an "open call" for new NTAs, strategies, or sub-strategies during this process. In addition, new local near-term actions from the LIOs were incorporated into the Action Agenda.

The review of near-term actions determined that some near-term actions have already been completed, while others needed refinement or termination. There are 309 near-term actions in the 2014/2015 Action Agenda (152 regional and 157 from LIOs). The 2012/2013 Action Agenda contained 211 near-term actions (176 regional and 35 from LIOs), 46 of which have since been completed and 24 of which have been deleted. The deleted near-term actions were either incorporated into ongoing programs, revised to create multiple, specific near-term actions, or removed due to lack of resources.

B. Updated Environmental Elements

The 2012 SEPA Checklist separately reviewed only those actions with a potential to cause impacts on elements of the environment. The tools and tactics for achieving the Action Agenda priorities have not changed since the 2012/2013 Action Agenda and continue to include: regulations; plans and programs; incentives; capital projects; acquisition; funding; education; and research and monitoring. Consequently, potential impacts on elements of the environment are the same as described in the 2012 SEPA Checklist.

C. Updated Supplemental Sheet for Nonproject Actions

The goals of the Action Agenda and the tools and tactics for achieving the Action Agenda priorities have not changed since the 2012/2013 Action Agenda. Consequently, the effects of nonproject actions are the same as described in the 2012 SEPA Checklist.

4. CONCLUSION

Revisions contained in the 2014/2015 Action Agenda would not substantially change the evaluation of potential impacts described in the 2012/2013 Action Agenda Update Programmatic SEPA Checklist and

reflected in the 2012 DNS. All impacts are of similar type and magnitude as the impacts previously identified, and no new probable significant adverse environmental impacts would result.

5. SIGNATURE

The above information is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

SEPA Lead Agency: Puget Sound Partnership
Responsible Official: Jim Bolger
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Signature:  _____ Date: May 22, 2014 _____