

Puget Sound Science Panel Conflict of Interest Statement<sup>1</sup> (DRAFT FINAL FOR APPROVAL)

Puget Sound Science Panel members (Panel members) serve as individual scientists and not as representatives of any organization or constituency. The Science Panel is committed to conducting its business with transparency and full disclosure. The purpose of this conflict of interest statement is to maintain the integrity of Panel opinions and decisions, avoid activities that create a conflict of interest, and activities that may represent an appearance of conflict of interest or otherwise impair the credibility or status of the Panel.

A conflict of interest may be actual or apparent. An actual conflict of interest is any action, decision, or recommendation that would be to the private (distinct from that of the general public) benefit of a Panel member or a relative of a Panel member, or a benefit to a business or organization with which a Panel member is associated. An apparent conflict of interest is any action, decision, or recommendation that would lead a reasonable person to believe that the Panel member stands to benefit from the action, decision, or recommendation, but where no actual conflict exists... Each Panel member will acknowledge any actual or apparent conflict of interest in connection with matters being addressed by the Panel, at the time the matter comes before the Panel for consideration as called for by the Chair. Any Panel member with an actual conflict of interest will announce the conflict and refrain from discussing or voting on the issue. A Panel member with an apparent conflict of interest will publicly announce the apparent conflict and may thereafter engage in discussions and vote on the issue if the member chooses to do so and if a majority of the Panel agrees. The Panel, minus the Panel member(s) with an actual or apparent conflict, decides in circumstances where it is unclear whether a conflict of interest is actual or apparent.

<sup>1</sup> In compliance with Chapter 42.52 RCW (Ethics in Public Service Act) and based largely on materials contained in the Independent Science Panel, State of Washington, Bylaws and Operating Procedures (October 13, 1999) and the National Academy of Sciences Policy on Committee Composition and Balance and Conflict of Interests (May 12, 2003).