March 15, 2013

The Honorable Andy Hill
Washington State Senate
303 John A. Cherberg Building
PO Box 40445
Olympia, WA 98504-0445

RE: Capital Budget Support – Coordinated Investment for Puget Sound Floodplains

Dear Senator Hill:

I am writing you as Chair of the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) Salmon Recovery Council, which is comprised of 27 local governments, businesses, community groups, concerned citizens, and state and federal agencies who have been working since 2000 to recover Chinook salmon in our watershed. We urge your support for the Lower Cedar River Integrated Floodplain Restoration project, which will create jobs and bring multiple benefits to our community.

This project is part of the Capital Budget request for Coordinated Investment for Puget Sound Floodplains. When coupled with the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) Capital Budget request, the result is an efficient investment in Puget Sound that focuses resources on the highest priority projects benefitting people and the environment. Efforts like the Lower Cedar River Floodplain project simultaneously reduce flood risk, restore habitat, and improve water quality.

The Lower Cedar River proposal implements high priority actions identified in the WRIA 8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan and the King County Flood Hazard Management Plan. The project will relocate flood prone residents from a costly flood hazard area, protect critical infrastructure, restore over 40 acres of salmon habitat, and support 57 local construction-based jobs. In tough economic times, this project, in addition to full funding for the PSAR request, is a strategic and effective investment in our local economies, salmon recovery, and the health of Puget Sound.

Again, thank you for your efforts, and for your support of the Lower Cedar River Integrated Floodplain Restoration project.

Sincerely,

Dr. Don Davidson, DDS
Councilmember, City of Bellevue
Chair, WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council
Cc:
Representative Hans Dunshee, 44th Legislative District
Senator Bob Hasegawa, 11th Legislative District
Representative Zack Hudgins, 11th Legislative District
Representative Steve Bregquist, 11th Legislative District
Keith Phillips, Governor’s Executive Policy Office
Mark Isaacson, Director, King County Water and Land Resources Division
Bob Carey, Director of Strategic Partnerships, The Nature Conservancy
Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) Salmon Recovery Council members