



Memo for Executive Committee

March 11, 2021

Agenda Topic: Approve Gig Harbor’s request for a letter of support for a Pierce Conservation Futures grant application to acquire and conserve critical salmon habitat

Executive Committee Action Request

Decision None – information and discussion None – written briefing only

Background

The City of Gig Harbor (City) is working with the Puyallup Tribe to submit a Pierce County Conservation Futures grant application to purchase an 11.5-acre undeveloped parcel that includes critical salmon habitat.

North Creek (also known as Donkey Creek) passes through the 11.5-acre undeveloped and forested parcel, which is at risk of development. Juvenile Coho salmon and coastal cutthroat trout have been documented in abundance in the stream reach. Chum salmon and Endangered Species Act-listed Puget Sound steelhead trout have also been documented in the reach.

The owners of the 11.5-acre parcel have indicated they are willing to sell. The City is the agency eligible to receive the property. If purchased, the property would be included in the City’s parks inventory and maintained for conservation and recreation use.

The property’s fair market value is estimated at \$500,000. The grant requires a minimum 10% funding match. The Puyallup Tribe has committed to provide \$50,000 to meet the match requirement. The Gig Harbor City Council approved a resolution authorizing the City to work with the Puyallup Tribe on the grant application and committed to providing an additional \$20,000 in match funding to make the application more competitive.

Question for Consideration

Does the Executive Committee approve Gig Harbor’s request for a letter of support?

Attachment

1. Draft Letter of Support from WSPER Executive Committee

Memo Contacts

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March 11, 2021

Pierce Conservation Futures Program
Pierce County
930 Tacoma Avenue S
Tacoma, WA 98402

The West Sound Partners for Ecosystem Recovery's Executive Committee would like to express support for City of Gig Harbor's request (in partnership with the Puyallup Tribe) for Pierce Conservation Futures funding to acquire and protect an 11.5-acre undeveloped and forested parcel in the North Creek (also known as Donkey Creek) watershed in the City of Gig Harbor.

The West Sound Partners for Ecosystem Recovery is the designated lead entity for salmon recovery in east Water Resource Inventory Area 15 and the designated local integrating organization for Puget Sound ecosystem recovery in North Central Puget Sound Action Area, including North Creek where this project is located. North Creek is identified in the East Kitsap Steelhead Recovery Plan as a Tier 3 Drainage in the Curley Creek-Frontal Colvos Passage sub watershed. Endangered Species Act-listed Puget Sound steelhead trout has been documented in the reach as well as juvenile Coho salmon, chum salmon, and coastal cutthroat trout. North Creek passes through the 11.5-acre undeveloped and forested parcel, which is at risk of development.

The West Sound Partners for Ecosystem Recovery Executive Committee discussed the North Creek acquisition project at their March 11, 2021 meeting and expressed support for City of Gig Harbor's request for Pierce Conservation Futures funding. Preserving the 11.5-acre parcel in North Creek protects salmon and wildlife habitat in West Sound.

Sincerely,

Leonard Forsman
Suquamish Tribe Chairman
Chair, WSPER Executive Committee

Charlotte Garrido
Kitsap County Commissioner
Vice Chair, WSPER Executive Committee