**Subject:** Request for Letter of Support

**Project:** Filucy Bay Shoreline Armor Removal 23-1890

**Sponsor:** Pierce Conservation District

**Grant:** ESRP Small Grants Program (due February 21, 2024)

**Phase:** Construction phase of an armor removal and shoreline restoration on residential property identified and supported through the Shore Friendly Pierce program.

**Summary:**

Pierce Conservation District proposes to implement a shoreline armor removal and restoration project on residential property on Filucy Bay in Pierce County. This project would remove up to 100 linear feet of creosote-treated wood armor and concrete armor from the nearshore and reestablish riparian vegetation to support natural coastal processes and benefit nearshore habitat. Following removal, the bank will be re-sloped and planted with native shoreline plant species. A significant portion of the current lawn area will be converted to a diverse native plant buffer zone. A low-impact beach access path will be incorporated into the slope, rather than replacing the over-water stair structure. The PSNERP Beach Strategies management recommendation for the drift cell containing the subject property is to “Restore (Moderate)” natural shorelines to resume natural sediment input and transport services that support nearshore habitat. Two species of forage fish spawn in the drift cell, and while forage fish spawning has not been documented on the subject property, WDFW surveys have detected surf smelt spawning within 200 feet of the subject property. The owner of this residential property is committed to taking action to improve habitat and benefit wildlife by returning their shoreline to a natural state. This restoration project will remove creosote from the system and return the subject shoreline to a natural state. The target species of this restoration project are forage fish and Puget Sound Chinook salmon.

**Connection to WSPER Priorities:**

WSPER identified shoreline armor removal and nearshore restoration as a priority in its Ecosystem Recovery Plan published in 2016. The project is in close proximity to previous shoreline projects and property acquisitions completed by South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group and Great Peninsula Conservancy, as shown in the attached vicinity map.

