



August 11, 2021

Washington Department of Enterprise Services
c/o Ann Larsen – Capitol Lake/Low Deschutes Watershed EIS
Post Office Box 41476
Olympia, Washington 98504

Dear Ms. Larsen:

SUBJECT: Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Capitol Lake – Deschutes Estuary Long-Term Management Project

The City of Olympia appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), for the Capitol Lake – Deschutes Estuary Long-Term Management Project. We understand that careful and thorough analyses and findings are essential to the environmental review process. We thank you for the recent Washington Department of Enterprise Services presentation to City Council and your answers to our questions.

The attached resolution, approved by City Council on August 10, 2021, summarizes the City's concerns and requests. In general, The City finds that the Estuary Alternative would:

- provide the rare opportunity to restore scarce tidelands and estuarian habitat,
- be the most beneficial to tribal populations,
- address social justice and equity impacts associated with the No Action and Managed Lake Alternatives,
- substantially benefit anadromous fish and marine fish,
- be the most beneficial for controlling invasive species,
- be beneficial for reducing downtown Olympia flooding,
- be the most beneficial to Budd Inlet water quality,
- be better aligned with local climate adaptation goals than the Managed Lake Alternative,
- be the least impactful to regional LOTT Clean Water Alliance and stormwater utility ratepayers,
- be the most natural and environmentally sustainable, and
- be the least cost alternative over the 30-year planning horizon.

Given the above findings, the Olympia City Council requests that the Estuary Alternative be selected as the only clear Preferred Alternative for the final Environmental Impact Statement for the Capitol Lake – Deschutes Estuary Long-Term Management Project.

Please accept the enclosed resolution and attached list of comments compiled by City staff as the City of Olympia's response to the draft EIS. We are committed to the EIS process at both the elected official and staff levels. We feel you and your consultant team have prepared a thorough and sincere draft EIS. Let us know how we can help.

If you have questions, please contact Eric Christensen, Water Resources Director, at echriste@ci.olympia.wa.us or 360.570.3741.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Selby
Mayor

Clark Gilman
Mayor Pro Tem

Jim Cooper
Councilmember

Yến Huỳnh
Councilmember

Dani Madrone
Councilmember

Lisa Parshley
Councilmember

Renata Rollins
Councilmember

EC:lm
enclosure