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November 30, 2015

TO: Local Integrating Organizations, Salmon Recovery Lead Entities, and other interested parties

FROM: Jim Bolger, Policy and Planning Program Director
Jeanette Dorner, Local Ecosystem Recovery Program Director

SUBJECT: **Clarification of policies regarding how approved salmon recovery capital projects will be included in the 2016 Action Agenda**

This memo responds to requests to provide additional detail and clarification about how salmon recovery capital projects that have been approved by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) are treated in the 2016 Action Agenda update process. The memo focuses on the eligibility policy for Salmon Recovery Projects. (See page 7 of the Solicitation Requesting Near-Term Action (NTA) Proposals for the 2-year implementation plan component of the 2016 Action Agenda Update.)

Procedures for including salmon recovery capital projects approved by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board as projects adopted by reference and for forwarding projects for inclusion in the ranked NTA list:

<u>December 9 and 10, 2015:</u> Salmon Recovery Funding Board meeting

- SRFB approves ranked salmon recovery lead entity project lists for funding. These lists include both SRFB and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) projects.

<u>By February 1, 2016:</u> The following steps will make a project from the SRFB lists eligible for NEP funds.

- LIOs, in coordination with the LEs within their boundaries, submit to the Partnership the approved SRFB 2015 ranked lists from each of their lead entities. All 2015 SRFB ranked projects will be included by reference in the 2016 Action Agenda. Included by reference does not mean those projects will be automatically considered for National Estuary Program (NEP) funds.

- If LIOs and LEs within their boundaries agree that they would like specific projects from their 2015 SRFB ranked list to be considered for NEP funds, then they should indicate those projects on the lists provided to the Partnership. Projects identified as needing NEP funding consideration will be reviewed by the Habitat Strategic Initiative Transition Team (SITT) and included in the regionally ranked NTA lists for the 2016 Action Agenda.

- Criteria that the LIOs and LEs must use for selecting SRFB/PSAR projects to advance as an NTA to be ranked by the SITT and eligible for NEP funds include:
    - The project is a very high priority in the salmon recovery strategy for listed species or salmon populations important for treaty rights in the watershed.
    - The project is consistent with the sub-strategy priorities as described in the Habitat Strategic Initiative section of the regional NTA solicitation (page 17, Table 4).
    - The project already has at least 85 percent funding from other sources and is in need of no more than 15 percent from NEP to fully fund the project.
    - The project must be ready to begin construction by June 30, 2018 or complete acquisitions by June 30, 2018.

- Project sponsors for those projects identified as NTAs and included in the SITT ranking must submit a letter or email to the LIO acknowledging that they accept the responsibilities associated with being an NTA owner (See page 6 of the Solicitation Requesting Near-Term Action Proposals for the 2-year implementation plan component of the 2016 Action Agenda Update.). **Project sponsors must also complete an NTA submittal form and provide it to PSP through the online NTA submittal portal by February 1st.**

<u>February 2016:</u> Habitat SITT includes 2015 SRFB/PSAR projects that were identified by the LEs and LIOs, and submitted as an NTA, in the ranking of NTAs for the 2016 Action Agenda.

<u>Fall 2016:</u> As per EPA guidance, Puget Sound National Estuary Program funding decisions made for 2016 NTAs

The December 2016 SRFB lists will be considered in a similar manner in 2017, with future details discussed with and provided to LIOs and LEs in the 2016.

SRFB/PSAR projects approved by the SRFB prior to 2015 will not be adopted into the Action Agenda by reference. If LIOs and LEs would like any projects that were approved by the SRFB before 2015 included in the Action Agenda, they should submit those projects as an NTA as part of the regular NTA solicitation process (due December 31st).