

***DRAFT Model Resolution***

A RESOLUTION/ORDINANCE RATIFYING THE  
2021 UPDATE TO THE GREEN/DUWAMISH AND CENTRAL PUGET SOUND  
WATERSHED OR WATER RESOURCE INVENTORY AREA (WRIA) 9  
SALMON HABITAT PLAN, MAKING OUR WATERSHED FIT FOR A KING

WHEREAS, the 2021 Update to the WRIA 9 Salmon Habitat Plan (“WRIA 9 Plan”) is an addendum to the 2005 WRIA 9 Salmon Habitat Plan, and includes new science, revised habitat goals and recovery strategies, an updated capital project list, and a monitoring and adaptive management plan; and

WHEREAS, 17 local governments in WRIA 9 (“Parties”) have partnered through an inter-local agreement (ILA) (2001-2006, 2007-2015, 2016-2025) to jointly fund development and implementation of the WRIA 9 Plan to address shared interest in and responsibility for long-term watershed planning and salmon recovery in the Green/Duwamish and Central Puget Sound Watershed (“watershed”); and

WHEREAS, in March 1999, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries listed the Puget Sound Chinook salmon evolutionary significant unit, including the Green River Chinook salmon population, as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA); and

WHEREAS, local jurisdictions have authority over some habitat-based aspects of Chinook survival through land use and other policies and programs; and the state and tribes, who are the legal co-managers of the fishery resource, are responsible for addressing harvest and hatchery management; and

WHEREAS, the WRIA 9 partners recognize participating in the ILA and implementing priorities in the WRIA 9 Plan demonstrates their commitment to proactively working to address the ESA listing of Chinook salmon; and

WHEREAS, coordination and cooperation among federal, state, and local agencies, tribes, businesses, non-governmental organizations, landowners, community members, and other interests are essential to implement and adaptively manage a salmon recovery plan; and

WHEREAS, the Puget Sound Partnership serves as the Puget Sound regional organization and lead agency for planning and implementing the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan, approved by NOAA Fisheries; and

WHEREAS, the WRIA 9 Plan is one of fifteen watershed-based chapters of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan; and

WHEREAS, the *(City/County)* supports cooperation at the WRIA level to set common priorities for actions among partners, efficient use of resources and investments, and distribution of responsibility for actions and expenditures; and

WHEREAS, habitat protection and restoration actions to increase Chinook salmon productivity trends are necessary throughout the watershed, in conjunction with other recovery efforts, to avoid extinction in the near term and restore WRIA 9 Chinook salmon to viability in the long term; and

WHEREAS, salmon recovery is interrelated with flood risk reduction, water quality improvement, open-space protection, recreation, economic development, and tribal treaty rights; and

WHEREAS, the *(City/County)* has a strong interest to achieve multiple benefit outcomes for people and fish across the watershed; and

WHEREAS, the WRIA 9 Plan recognizes that salmon recovery is a long-term effort, and focuses on a 10-year implementation time horizon to allow for evaluation of progress and adaptation of goals and implementation strategies; and

WHEREAS, it is important to provide jurisdictions, the private sector and the public with certainty and predictability regarding the course of salmon recovery actions in WRIA 9; and

WHEREAS, if insufficient action is taken at the local and regional level, it is unlikely Chinook salmon populations in WRIA 9 will improve and it is possible the federal government could list Puget Sound Chinook salmon as an endangered species, thereby decreasing local flexibility.

WHEREAS, the Parties previously took formal action to ratify the 2005 Salmon Habitat Plan, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE (CITY OR COUNTY):

The (City/County) hereby ratifies the *Green/Duwamish and Central Puget Sound Watershed, Water Resource Inventory Area 9 Salmon Habitat Plan Update, Making Our Watershed Fit for a King*, dated February 2021. Ratification is intended to convey the (City/County)'s support for the following:

1. Protecting and restoring habitat based on best available science with the intent to achieve sustainable, resilient, and harvestable populations of naturally spawning Chinook salmon.
2. Pursuing a multi-benefit approach to WRIA 9 Plan implementation that integrates salmon recovery, flood hazard reduction, water quality improvements, open space and recreation, and equity and social justice to improve outcomes for people and fish.
3. Utilizing the WRIA 9 Plan as a source of best available science to inform local government actions, including, but not limited to land use, shoreline, and transportation planning/permitting.
4. Utilizing capital project concepts, programmatic actions, and policies outlined within the WRIA 9 Plan to inform local priorities for implementation and funding via grants, capital improvements, ordinances, and other activities. Ratification does not obligate any partner to implement any specific actions or adhere to specific timelines for such actions
5. Working collaboratively with local, state, and federal partners and tribes to support and fund implementation of the WRIA 9 Plan, including monitoring and adaptive management to address scientific uncertainty, tracking and communicating progress, and refining strategies to ensure cost-effective investments.