



January 19, 2017

Mr. Dennis McLerran
Region 10 Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98101

Mr. Barry A. Thom
Regional Administrator
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
West Coast Region
1201 NE Lloyd Boulevard
Suite 1100
Portland, Oregon 97232

Dear Mr. McLerran and Mr. Thom:

The National Puget Sound Task Force has reviewed and accepts the Interim Draft of the Puget Sound Federal Task Force Action Plan FY 2017-2021.

The Interim Draft you submitted on January 17, 2017, is consistent with our October 2016 Puget Sound Federal Task Force Memorandum of Understanding Among Federal Agencies, and, per that memorandum, we look forward to coordinating with the Regional Implementation Team toward final approval by June 1, 2017. By accepting rather than approving the draft plan, the Task Force is preserving continued work toward approval in June, and we understand that the Regional Implementation Team will operate under the Interim Draft until final approval.

We would like to recognize the federal staff and managers whose efforts have led the work to put together this draft. By coordinating among agencies, with the Puget Sound Management Conference, and with Tribes, the federal staff and managers of the Regional Implementation Team have produced an Interim Draft that will help to realize our shared vision of a healthy and sustainable Puget Sound ecosystem that provides for a high-quality and resilient long-term ecological and economic state.

Our sincere thanks for your service and leadership in the region and steadfast efforts to advance the work in Puget Sound.

Please direct any comments or questions to Tim Male at the Council on Environmental Quality. Tim can be reached by email at Timothy_D_Male@ceq.eop.gov or (202) 456-3486.

Sincerely,



Christy Goldfuss
Managing Director
Council on Environmental Quality
National Puget Sound Taskforce, Co-chair



A. Stanley Meiburg
Acting Deputy Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
National Puget Sound Taskforce, Co-chair