City of Stevenson

(509)427-5790

7121 E Loop Road, PO Box 371
Stevenson, Washington 98648

TO:	Whom it may concern
FROM:	Mary Ann Duncan-Cole, City Administrator
DATE:	July 6, 2010
SUBJECT:	Letter of Support for the Port of Skamania County Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account Application #10-1463

The City of Stevenson fully supports the Port of Skamania County's application for capital funding from the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) and has budgeted $100,000 as matching support of the project. It is our understanding that the Port of Skamania County plans on restoring and enhancing aquatic lands along the Columbia River, establishing a trail to connect with the City's pedestrian/bicycle pathway, and providing bank stabilization at critical erosion points.

The ALEA funding is an essential piece to our community's effort to reestablish our historic public access to the Columbia River. The City is one of the few communities along the Columbia River with direct physical access to the river unimpeded by rail or state highway. Located in the center of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area the City is economically dependent on tourism. The project will provide a waterfront restored to more natural conditions that will allow for small boat and pedestrian recreational activities and will help attract visitors to our waterfront. The project's trail will connect to a city wide trail system linking the downtown core with Rock Cove, Skamania Lodge, the Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center and thirteen interpretive signs. This project is a key in the long term plan to enhance recreational access and increase recreational opportunities along this shoreline.

Restoration of the general ecological condition of the bank side habitat is critically needed. Erosion has removed valuable shallow water habitat that the project plans to restore. Public ownership of the entire piece presents an unusual opportunity to ensure the effectiveness of the proposed protection and enhancement measures.

We look forward to a favorable decision regarding the proposed ALEA assistance request and appreciate our partnership with the Port in pursuing this project.

Mary Ann Duncan-Cole