



July 7, 2010

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Port of Skamania County's Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account Funding Request

Dear Board Members,

The Skamania County Economic Development Council supports the Port of Skamania County in its application for funding through the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account.

Restoration and development of the Port's waterfront property is listed as a priority project in the Economic Diversification Strategy for the City of Stevenson and Skamania County. If funded, the project will provide capital to stabilize a portion of the bank which is experiencing significant erosion. Once stabilized, the shoreline will be enhanced with a trail that will connect the City's pedestrian/bicycle pathway system providing an avenue for citizens and tourists to experience the beauty of the Stevenson waterfront. The trail will connect the City of Stevenson's trail system linking the downtown core with Rock Cove, Skamania Lodge, the Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center and the County's Rock Creek Recreation Center and fairground facilities.

Historically, a thriving waterfront has been a major factor in Skamania County's economy. Tourism has become a significant part of our local economy and with tourism activities related to water access such as windsurfing, kite boarding, kayaking, and boating, a safe, accessible and attractive shoreline is invaluable.

The ALEA funding will improve water quality, increase public safety and enhance economic conditions in Skamania County. The project is located within an Urban Area of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area and supports the purposes of the Scenic Area Act which are to protect the environment and enhance the economy.

Thank you for your consideration of this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peggy Bryan".

Peggy Bryan
Executive Director