



## THE TULALIP TRIBES

### Board of Directors:

Mel Sheldon - Chairman  
Marie Zackuse - Vice-Chairman  
Chuck James - Treasurer  
Marlin J. Fryberg, Jr., *Skwilus*, Secretary  
Stanley G. Jones Sr., *Scho Hallem* - Board Member  
Glen Gobin - Board Member  
Tony Hatch, Board Member  
Shelly Lacy - *cisania*† General Manager

6406 Marine Drive  
TULALIP, WA 98271-9694  
(360) 651-4000  
FAX (360) 651-4032

The Tulalip Tribes are the successors in interest to the Snohomish, Snoqualmie, and Skykomish tribes and other tribes and band signatory to the Treaty of Point Elliott

March 30, 2015

To whom it concern,

I am pleased to provide this letter of support on behalf of the Tulalip Tribes' Natural and Cultural Resources Department regarding the Meadowdale Beach Park Barrier Removal project.

The Tulalip Tribes fully support daylighting and restoration of Lunds Gulch Creek in Meadowdale Beach Park. Recent research by the Tulalip Tribes<sup>1</sup> has verified that ESA listed juvenile Chinook are present in Lunds gulch Creek and small non-natal streams throughout Possession Sound and the Whidbey Basin. Small coastal streams in the Whidbey Basin provide critical rearing and acclimating habitat for juvenile Chinook as they emerge from larger river systems and transition from freshwater to marine waters. Perched and poorly installed culverts prevent juvenile Chinook as well as other fish species, (coho salmon, cutthroat trout, chum salmon, and steelhead) from accessing this important habitat. The body literature on replacing blocking culverts suggests that in order to restore fish access, natural sediment transport, and tidal flow a bridge or culvert must be installed with a 0% slope at the appropriate tidal elevation, wide enough to accommodate bank full flows, and have natural substrate underneath the span. The Tribes are interested in the process and results of the stream restoration effort and may be able to contribute some pre and post project monitoring to track the results of the restoration efforts. The Tulalip Tribes are committed to protecting natural resources for future generations and recognize the importance of restoring fish access to small coastal streams.

Sincerely,

Daryl Williams  
Environmental Liason  
Tulalip Tribes Natural & Cultural Resources Department

<sup>1</sup> Beamer, E.M., W.T. Zackey, D. Marks, D. Teel, D. Kuligowski, and R. Henderson. 2013. Juvenile Chinook salmon rearing in small non-natal streams draining into the Whidbey Basin. Skagit River System Cooperative, LaConner, WA.  
[http://www.skagitcoop.org/documents/EB2752\\_Beamer%20et%20al\\_2013.pdf](http://www.skagitcoop.org/documents/EB2752_Beamer%20et%20al_2013.pdf)