

PUGET SOUND PARTNERSHIP

State of Washington

February 10, 2008

Memo to the Puget Sound Coordinated Program Monitoring Governance Committee

To: Members of the Committee through Karen Dinicola, Project Manager

for From: David Dicks, Executive Director, Puget Sound Partnership



The Partnership supports and encourages the efforts of the Puget Sound Coordinated Monitoring Program Governance Committee in exploring governance options for a coordinated monitoring program in Puget Sound. The process described by the Governance Committee will help the Partnership with the larger task of developing a monitoring program as an element of the Action Agenda. Exploring options for the ideal governance structure to carry out these functions is an important step.

A few specific comments:

- The Partnership encourages the Governance Committee to move forward on developing options for a structure that will coordinate all types of monitoring in Puget Sound's action areas. The scope of monitoring should include all topics necessary for assessing ecosystem recovery, including human health and quality of life, fresh and marine water quality, water quantity, species and biodiversity, and habitat. Coordinating and tracking the many types of monitoring required – status and trends, effectiveness, compliance and validation – will be a fundamental role of any entity that manages a comprehensive monitoring program.
- The Governance Committee and Technical Advisory Committee should look for ways to combine and coordinate with on-going monitoring efforts in Puget Sound, to help eliminate duplication of efforts and to improve efficiencies across programs.
- In order to meet the Partnership's needs, the Governance Committee must ensure that the proposed governance structure and emerging monitoring program are consistent and in alignment with the Action Agenda.
- The timeline proposed in your January 7th memo states that the Governance Committee's proposal will include a strategic plan of 'what to accomplish' through 2020. The Partnership's agenda development will include an analysis of the questions we hope to answer through monitoring and design of a monitoring program to support the adaptive management and accountability functions. We ask that you continue to coordinate with the Partnership to determine how your program can best contribute to the overall goals.
- We encourage an opportunity for stakeholders (beyond those already engaged) and the public to comment on the proposed governance structure. The plan should be available for review during the public comment process planned for the Action Agenda.

PUGET SOUND PARTNERSHIP

State of Washington

Sarah Brace and Scott Redman will continue to participate on the Governance Committee, to keep the group informed of progress on the Action Agenda development, and to provide input on the scoping of governance options. Sarah Brace will work with the Science Panel Chair to ensure that the Panel members are engaged and have a clear role in this process. She will work with Karen Dinicola to prepare briefings and summary reports to the Science Panel, Ecosystem Coordination Board, and Leadership Council on the Governance Committee's progress, as needed.

Thank you for your time and effort in initiating and carrying out this early planning work. We need a more coordinated approach to monitoring in Puget Sound, and your work will be a tremendous help in getting us get there.