

Jefferson County
Board of Commissioners
Agenda Request

To: Board of Commissioners
Philip Morley, County Administrator

From: Frank Gifford, Public Works Director

Agenda Date: January 23, 2012

Subject: Comment Letter on Draft Puget Sound Partnership Action Agenda

Statement of Issue:

The Puget Sound Partnership is accepting comments on their December 2011 draft Action Agenda update of the 2008 plan document. The Puget Sound Action Agenda is "the plan for cleaning up, restoring, and protecting Puget Sound by 2020". It was noted that the Port Hadlock Wastewater Facility Project was omitted from the updated Hood Canal action list.

Analysis/Strategic Goals/Pro's & Con's:

The comment letter requests edits to the draft Action Agenda to reestablish the project on the list of action agenda projects.

Fiscal Impact/Cost Benefit Analysis:

The Action Agenda list could be used in the future to prioritize projects for funding.

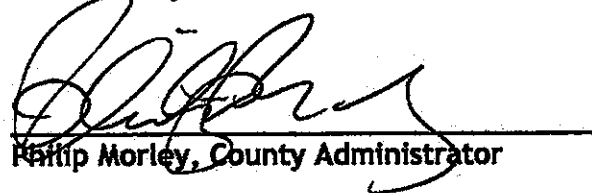
Recommendation:

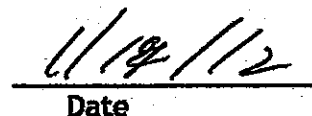
Please provide signatures from Board members and send correspondence under County Commission letterhead.

Department Contact:

Joel Peterson, x173

Reviewed By:


Philip Morley, County Administrator


Date



**1820 Jefferson Street
P.O. Box 1220
Port Townsend, WA 98368**

Phil Johnson, District 1 David W. Sullivan, District 2 John Austin, District 3

January 23, 2012

Puget Sound Partnership
326 East D Street
Tacoma, WA 98421

Dear Puget Sound Partnership Leadership Council:

We are writing to request your assistance to have the Port Hadlock Wastewater Treatment Facility Project relisted on the Puget Sound Partnership's Action Agenda list. Until now, the project has been on the Action Agenda list, which has emphasized the project's importance for local government support and also helped us to receive a federal State and Tribal Assistance Grant (STAG) with Congressman Dicks' support. Further, the fact that the project has been on the list has enabled us to highlight the Action Agenda, and provides important recognition of the planned facility at public meetings where we have gained citizen support and built momentum for the project.

Jefferson County has been a responsible leader in developing this project as a means of environmental restoration and of managing the growth that is occurring in the County. The project is active and moving forward and the community has made a very strong commitment of tax dollar support to the project, including sale of a \$2.2 million bond package in 2011 to advance the project.

Project milestones that the County has reached to date include:

- Considerable outreach has taken place in the community to build local public support.
- With Congressman Dicks support for the project, Jefferson County was able to secure a \$1,000,000 STAG grant.
- Significant County tax dollars have been dedicated to the project including a \$2.2 million bond sale in 2011.
- The project received a \$10,000,000 dollar loan from the Public Works Trust Fund.
- The County has acquired much of the land needed for the project and is pursuing the remainder.
- Just in the last month the project met a major milestone when it delivered the 30% plans, specifications, and estimates for the Water Reclamation Facility.

The project makes a significant contribution in the effort to clean-up Hood Canal and the environment. In addition to substantially addressing fecal coliform, nitrates, and other pollutants, the project recharges water into the Chimacum Creek aquifer that will help with salmon restoration.

It was our understanding that the Port Hadlock Wastewater Treatment Facility Project would remain on the list as long as it was an active project, so we were surprised to find out that it may not be listed on the Action Agenda in the future.

Please act to restore the Port Hadlock Wastewater Treatment Facility Project to the Action Agenda list. Your action will make a difference for Jefferson County residents and for the long-term clean-up of Hood Canal.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Austin, Chair
Chair

Phil Johnson, Member

David Sullivan, Member

cc: Scott Brewer, Hood Canal Coordinating Council