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Alliance for a Healthy South Sound  
2000 Lakeridge Drive SW, Building 1  
Olympia, WA 98502

August 8, 2014

David Schumacher, Director  
Office of Financial Management  
PO Box 43113  
Olympia, Washington 98504-3113

Re: Status of McNeil Island Long Range Plan

Dear Mr. Schumacher:

This letter requests an update on the long range planning conducted in your office in 2012 over the disposition of McNeil Island. In particular, I am writing to check in on the status of Parcel 1 appraisal and its next steps.

I am sending this letter on behalf of the Alliance for a Healthy South Sound. The Alliance is an organization of Counties, Tribes, cities, special purpose districts, environmental groups, businesses, health departments and port districts. Our Executive Committee is comprised of elected officials of Pierce, Thurston, and Mason counties and the Nisqually and Squaxin Island Indian Tribes. Kitsap County and the Puyallup Indian Tribe have a standing invitation as well.

During the development of the long range plan scoping document, we sought participation and made it part of our Executive Committee meetings. Project manager Ann Sweeny and her consultant team interviewed and solicited input from our organizations, both collectively and individually. We freely provided that input because of the importance of McNeil Island to our South Puget Sound region.

In early 2012, the Executive Committee adopted by resolution the following objectives as one our Interim Regional Priorities for South Puget Sound:

- **Secure perpetual public ownership of McNeil Island for preservation, restoration and low impact public access.**

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When OFM staff and consultants met with our Executive Committee, we provided additional specific input towards this objective. That input is in an attachment to this letter. Individually, many of our Executive Committee organizations did likewise.

Thus, we are very interested in seeing how the recommendations of the long range plan scoping document are being implemented. And, specifically, we are interested in learning how we can be a part of and help in attaining our adopted priority to secure perpetual public ownership of McNeil for preservation, restoration and low impact public access with the understanding there are a suite of related issues.

Please feel free to call me at (253) 798-7477.

Sincerely,



Pat McCarthy, Pierce County Executive  
Chair

cc: Randy Neatherlin, Mason County Commissioner, Vice Chair  
Sandra Romero, Thurston County Commissioner  
Connie Ladenburg, Pierce County Council Member  
Dave Lopeman, Chair, Squaxin Tribe  
Cynthia Iyall, Chair, Nisqually Tribe  
Jeff Dickison, Squaxin Tribe  
David Troutt, Nisqually Tribe  
John Lane, Legislative and Legal Counsel, OFM  
Anne Sweeny, Enterprise Services



## ATTACHMENT

### Alliance for a Healthy South Sound, Executive Committee input in Development of Long Range Plan for McNeil Island

The Alliance for a Healthy South Sound was created by South Puget Sound tribal representatives and county elected officials in 2010. Made up of an Executive Committee of elected officials and tribal representatives, a broad community-based Alliance Council and working group, the Alliance was recognized by the Puget Sound Partnership Leadership Council as the South Puget Sound organization responsible for Action Agenda implementation in the South Sound. The mission of the Alliance is to support coordinated and collaborative decision making aimed at restoring and protecting the environmental and socio-economic health of South Puget Sound. Find out more about the Alliance at [www.healthysouthsound.com](http://www.healthysouthsound.com).

The Alliance Executive Committee requests that the Alliance itself, as representatives of a collaborative, multi-jurisdictional and multi-tribal voice, be included in any future long-range planning process for McNeil Island. The Alliance further recommends that there be a stronger commitment with tribes through government to government discussion, both of which differ from the current consultation process.

The Alliance Executive Committee acknowledged the cultural, and historic value of McNeil Island to the tribes and requested that that perspective be represented in OFM's report, that it be shared with interested parties and that any long-range planning consider that perspective.

The Alliance Executive Committee requests that any restoration plan that moves forward for the island include analysis and restoration plans for any tanks, or materials in the ground that may or may not be currently documented.

The Alliance Executive Committee recommends a discussion of the wildlife conservation function of the island and a range of management options, including but not limited to, the possibility of a park or refuge that would include limited public access.

The Alliance Executive Committee suggests determining the overall vision and long-range planning goals for the island first, followed by consideration of ownership to implement rather than the other way around.

The Alliance Executive Committee recommends incorporating all of the tidelands surrounding McNeil Island into the boundaries of the current marine aquatic reserve as a starting place for any future planning for the island.