



Deschutes Estuary Resolution of Support

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Today's Presentation

Advisory Only

- Background and history
- Explanation of the Resolution's intent
- Questions and next steps

Deschutes Estuary Project

- In 2022, the Department of Enterprise Services decided the best long term management option for Capitol Lake is to return it to a free-flowing estuary.
- In 2023, the Port Commission passed a resolution supporting this watershed-wide coordinated approach to restoring the Deschutes River, Deschutes Estuary and Budd Inlet.





Deschutes Estuary ILA

- Entered into on November 12, 2024, by:
 - State of Washington,
 - Squaxin Island Tribe,
 - Thurston County,
 - City of Olympia,
 - City of Tumwater,
 - Port of Olympia and
 - LOTT
 - (Collectively the Regional Partners).
- Confirms support for the Deschutes by providing financial support to the long-term maintenance of West Bay (dredging).



Deschutes Estuary ILA – Port Obligations

- Managing sediments in the vessel berths;
- Making annual payments to fund joint dredging;
 - First payment \$207,000
 - Rising to \$571,000 in 2050
- Coordinate on Budd Inlet cleanup



September 2026

- The Regional Partners drafted a joint resolution supporting state and federal funding to implement the Deschutes Estuary Restoration Project.
- Resolution shows support for:
 - The project as a whole
 - Transfer of management of project to Ecology
 - State funding
 - Federal funding
 - Continued local support

Next Steps

Other Funding Partners have already approved the Resolution:

- **LOTT Board** – approved September 9th
- **Olympia City Council** – approved September 15th

Remaining Funding Partners are scheduled to consider the Resolution:

- **City of Tumwater** – October 20th
- **Thurston County** – October 20th

Staff will bring the Resolution back for decision October 13th

Questions and Comments