



Deschutes Estuary Joint Resolution of Support

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Today's Presentation

Action Item – Approval Requested

- Background
- Joint Resolution of Support
- Regional Partner approvals
- Options A and B
- Recommendation

Background

Deschutes Estuary Restoration Project

- **2022:** State Department of Enterprise Services (DES) chose restoring a free-flowing estuary as the best long-term option for Capitol Lake and Budd Inlet water quality
- **2024:** Port Commission approved the Deschutes Estuary Restoration Project Interlocal Agreement (ILA)
 - ILA commits the Port and other jurisdictions to support the restoration
 - Partners contribute funds toward maintaining West Bay water depths after removal of the Fifth Avenue Dam
 - Regional Funding Partners: City of Olympia, City of Tumwater, Thurston County, Squaxin Island Tribe, LOTT Clean Water Alliance, and the Port

The Joint Resolution

- Supports state and federal funding to implement the restoration project; confirms support for:
 - The project as a whole
 - State funding and federal funding for the project
 - The Regional Partners' commitment to the project's success and continued support
- Port requested language supporting funding for the Budd Inlet cleanup, which the ILA recognizes as a prerequisite
 - Other Partners objected (dilutes estuary focus, mixed messages); Resolution advanced without it

Regional Partner Approvals

Status of the Joint Resolution

Regional Partner	Action	Date
LOTT Clean Water Alliance	Approved by LOTT Board	September 9
City of Olympia	Approved by City Council	September 15
City of Tumwater	Committee agenda; full Council consideration	October 8; October 20
Thurston County	On Board of Commissioners agenda	October 20

Alternatives Presented

Two Options for Commission Consideration

Option	Pros	Cons
Option A Adopt as agreed by Partners	• Unified message: matches Partners' joint language • Single vehicle: one identical Resolution for all funding requests	• Omits Port priorities from the Resolution
Option B Adopt with two Port amendments • Budd Inlet cleanup first (per ILA) • Ecology's management authority	• Port priorities: includes Partner-agreed Port language • Funder clarity: states cleanup must come first • Tracks legislative language with respect to Ecology's management authority	• Breaks uniformity with the Partners' Resolution

Impacts and Alignment

Financial, Environmental, and Vision 2050

- Financial: no direct financial impact to the Port
- Environmental: no direct impact to the Port; supporting the Estuary will improve conditions for Budd Inlet and Thurston County residents
- Vision 2050 alignment:
 - Make the Port Peninsula a premier destination with a clean and safe environment
 - Emphasize sustainability in all planning and actions and update the community

Staff Recommendation

Decision Needed – Action Item

- Other Regional Partners have adopted, or signaled intent to adopt, the Resolution
- Staff recommend the Commission likewise adopt the Joint Resolution at tonight's meeting

Questions and Comments

Suggested Motion...

"...move to adopt the Joint Resolution of Support for the Deschutes Estuary Restoration Project [as agreed by the Regional Partners (Option A) / with the Port's two proposed amendments (Option B)]."