



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ENTERPRISE SERVICES

1500 Jefferson Street SE, Olympia, WA 98501

December 30, 2016

The Honorable Senator John Braun
Washington State Senate
PO Box 40445
Olympia, WA 98504-0445

The Honorable Senator Kevin Ranker
Washington State Senate
PO Box 40445
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Dear Members of the Washington State Legislature,

Department of Enterprise Services (DES) is pleased to forward the Capitol Lake/Lower Deschutes Watershed Phase 1 Report, as initiated by proviso in the [2015-17 Capital Budget, Section 1095](#). Through this proviso, state lawmakers directed DES to make progress on reaching a management approach for the waterbody.

Significant collaboration has taken place throughout 2016 between the local and tribal government stakeholders, state agency partners and the community. Those engaged in this effort with DES included the cities of Olympia and Tumwater, Thurston County, the Squaxin Island Tribe, the Port of Olympia and the state departments of Natural Resources, Ecology, and Fish and Wildlife. A number of community members and organizations also participated regularly throughout this process. A joint letter of support from the local and tribal governments is included with this report demonstrating the substantial momentum generated by the process so far and the desire to continue moving ahead beyond this first phase.

The community and coordinating agencies agree on the need to implement a long-term management plan. Such a plan (including actions such as initial dredging) can only be selected for implementation after a project-specific Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is complete, as required by the State Environmental Policy Act. An EIS and associated technical analyses would inform decision-makers on potential project benefits and impacts. An EIS is required before DES can take any action or implement any decision and is therefore included in the agency's capital request for the 2017-2019 biennium.

DES appreciates the participation and engagement of everyone involved in this foundational Phase 1 effort and looks forward to working with the Legislature to continue moving ahead to the next phase required for selecting a management approach with an EIS.

Respectfully,

Christopher Liu
Director



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cc: The Honorable Brad Owen, Lieutenant Governor, Chair, State Capitol Committee
David Schumacher, Director, Office of Financial Management
Dennis Haskell, Chair, Capitol Campus Design Advisory Committee
Sheri Sawyer, Senior Policy Advisor, Governor's Policy Office
Ann Larson, Government Relations Manager, Department of Enterprise Services

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