

SCOG BOARD RESOLUTION 2025-05

A RESOLUTION OF THE SKAGIT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS AMENDING 1998 RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE SKAGIT WATERSHED COUNCIL AS LEAD ENTITY FOR WRIAS 3 AND 4 PURSUANT TO RCW 77.85.050

WHEREAS, the Salmon Recovery Act, Chapter 77.85 RCW, envisions that counties, cities and federally-recognized tribes within each watershed will designate an entity to prepare an annual project list, thereby prioritizing proposed habitat restoration projects for state salmon recovery funding; and

WHEREAS, the central purpose of this structure is to achieve watershed-specific Endangered Species Act recovery goals through strategic, coordinated action, see, RCW 77.85.005; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, the SCOG Board of Directors, acting on behalf of Skagit County and Skagit cities, designated the Skagit Watershed Council, a private nonprofit organization, as RCW 77.85 lead entity for Water Resource Inventory Areas (“**WRIA**”) 3 and 4, the Upper and Lower Skagit watersheds, with the Skagit Watershed Council to be responsible for “coordinating habitat restoration activities in the Skagit River watershed”; and

WHEREAS, the Skagit Watershed Council (“**SWC**”) has allocated approximately \$5.4 million per year since its inception toward habitat projects and activities; and

WHEREAS, consistent with the SCOG board’s directive that SWC “coordinate habitat restoration activities in the Skagit River watershed,” SWC and its board significantly influence which restoration projects receive public funding in the Skagit watershed; and

WHEREAS, the agency-adopted 2005 Skagit Chinook Recovery Plan and ensuing agreements have identified specific, major restoration projects necessary to achieve ESA recovery goals in the Skagit that, in virtually all cases, involve or impact critical County or dike/drainage district infrastructure, such as dikes, roads, levees, bridges, tide gates, and pump stations; and

WHEREAS, such projects are significantly concerned with the Skagit Delta’s marine dike edge, which invokes significant policy matters beyond salmon recovery, including sea level rise considerations and farmland preservation; and

WHEREAS, projects involving both regulatory obligations and modification/impact to critical local government infrastructure are inherently an executive local government function; and

WHEREAS, as such, the conditions to which the RCW 77.85 lead entity is responding and the purposes for which it was designated by the SCOG board have fundamentally changed since SCOG's 1998 designation of the Skagit Watershed Council as RCW 77.85 lead entity.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

1. The SCOG Board of Directors hereby amends its 1998 Resolution establishing the Skagit Watershed Council as RCW 77.85 lead entity, adding the following paragraph:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED this designation is contingent on the Skagit Watershed Council's consent to the terms of an interlocal agreement providing for a board consisting of relevant tribal and local governments no later than October 31, 2025.

2. Skagit County and other interested parties shall discuss and seek to reach agreement on an appropriate interlocal, reporting on their progress at the August 2025 SCOG board meeting and each quarterly SCOG board meeting thereafter until such time as an interlocal agreement consistent is reached with SCOG board approval.

Adopted May 21, 2025

Matt Miller, City of Anacortes
SCOG Chair

Kevin Murphy
Executive Director