



August 2, 2022

NOAA – Office of Habitat Conservation
1314 East-West Highway, 14th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Re: *Restoring Fish Passage through Barrier Removal Program* — Jenkins Creek Fish Passage Barrier Removal Project

Grant Review Board Members,

The Greater Maple Valley Unincorporated Area Council (GMVUAC) supports the City of Maple Valley's application for the Jenkins Creek Fish Passage Barrier Removal Project under NOAA's "*Restoring Fish Passage through Barrier Removal*" program.

The GMVUAC (<http://gmvuac.org/>) is a State of Washington non-profit organization established in 1977. It is a community council of volunteer citizens who reside in the unincorporated areas (116 sq mi) surrounding the City of Maple Valley. We represent over 18,000 unincorporated area citizens and advocate for them with King County, Regional, and State officials, as well as other organizations.

Jenkins Creek courses through our territory and, as such, our Environment Committee and Growth Management Committee have direct concerns with protecting and enhancing its environmental benefits for both people and fish.

The City of Maple Valley's Jenkins Creek Fish Passage Barrier Removal Project will replace multiple culverts that currently prevent fish passage due to their size and deterioration and also cause flooding of public roads and homes. The proposed project would help to enhance habitat along Jenkins Creek. Benefits also will impact the Green River watershed through reduced flooding. We strongly support this effort.

Thank you.

Steve Hiester
gmvac_chair@hotmail.com
Chair, GMVUAC