



January 10, 2023

Federal Highway Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Restoring Fish Passage through Barrier Removal Program — The National Culvert Removal, Replacement and Restoration Grant Program

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 Culvert Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) 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.

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Chair, GMVUAC