



Dungeness River Management Team
Cooperative Management of Our Watershed's Resources
Coordinated by Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe and Clallam County
1033 Old Blyn Highway • Sequim, WA 98382 • (360) 683-1109

March 30, 2018

RE: Support for Clallam County Seawater Intrusion Assessment Near Term Action (NTA)

To Whom It May Concern:

The Dungeness River Management Team (DRMT), celebrating 30 years of Dungeness Watershed planning this summer, has consistently promoted wise water use and ecosystem protection and management to the mutual benefit of fish, wildlife and human residents. Clallam County presented its NTA proposal to conduct an assessment of seawater intrusion along Clallam County coast lines to the DRMT. The project area for the proposal includes a portion of the DRMT's geographic area of concern. The DRMT voted its approval of the NTA at its March monthly meeting, and this letter serves to express that support.

The purpose of the seawater intrusions assessment would ultimately be to compile data for use in making policy decisions and regulations regarding sea water intrusion in order to protect drinking water, as well as aquatic ecosystems, which aligns well with the DRMT's mission and goals. Further, the WRIA 18 Watershed Plan (2005), which the DRMT helped develop and approved, includes discrete recommendations for counties and cities to develop seawater intrusion policies and plans, and for updating related monitoring and assessments.

Previous studies in the area, during the 1980s, suggested areas of vulnerability to sea water intrusion, and the most current data is almost ten years old. Considering what we now know about sea level rise and storm surge risk, along with the amount of development that has occurred since these earlier studies, it is prudent to obtain updated information on wells in the area for making comparisons with past data, short- and long-term projections of salt water intrusion and impacts, and appropriate preparations.

Sincerely,

Hansi Hals, Chair, DRMT
On behalf of the DRMT

2018 DRMT Membership

<i>Clallam Conservation District</i>	<i>Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe</i>
<i>Clallam County</i>	<i>North Olympic Land Trust</i>
<i>Clallam PUD #1</i>	<i>Protect the Peninsula's Future</i>
<i>City of Sequim</i>	<i>Riverside Property Owners</i>
<i>Dungeness Beach Association</i>	<i>Water Users Association</i>
<i>Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge</i>	<i>Sports Fisheries</i>
<i>Dungeness River Audubon Center</i>	<i>US Forest Service</i>
<i>Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society</i>	<i>WA Department of Ecology</i>