



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

May 14, 2019

Clallam County Board of Health
Commissioner's Board Room #160
Clallam County Courthouse
223 East 4th Street
Port Angeles, WA 98362

RE: Support for the Establishment Stable Funding for Onsite Septic System Operation and Maintenance

Dear Clallam County Board of Health (Board of Health):

The Dungeness River Management Team (DRMT) appreciates this opportunity to express its support for full implementation of Clallam County's Onsite Septic System Management Plan (OSS Plan), which the Board of Health adopted in 2007. At this time, we specifically would like to emphasize our support for the establishment of stable, long-term funding for Onsite Septic System Operation and Maintenance (O&M). We consider this to be a preventative action against septic system failures and associated health and environmental risks due to septic-related pollution.

As you know, DRMT brings many diverse groups together to collaboratively address issues related to the Dungeness Watershed. Our 30-year effort on this front has seen many ups and downs. Related to water quality, we've experienced expansive shellfish growing area downgrades (over 1,600 acres by 2003) due to elevated fecal coliform levels in Dungeness Bay. Since the last shellfish closure, many overlapping efforts have worked to reverse those declines: planning by the Clean Water Work Group (a subcommittee of the DRMT); development and partial implementation of TMDL, Clean Water Strategy, WRIA 18, Clallam County OSS, and Pollution Identification and Correction plans; Targeted Watershed Grants awarded to the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe and Clallam County; monitoring efforts by Streamkeepers; and many water quality improvement actions by the Clallam Conservation District and the Water Users Association.

We are proud of the various partnerships that have formed and water quality successes that have occurred along the way. However, the fact remains that septic system failures continue to threaten public health, lead to water pollution, are costly and require significant County resources to ensure repair. We know that often times, regular septic O&M can stave off such failures. Rather than relying on grant funding, which is never guaranteed, a stable funding source is needed to continue this important septic O&M work now and into the future.

Sincerely,

Hansi Hals, Chair, DRMT
On behalf of DRMT

Cc: Andy Brastad, Director, Clallam County HHS, Jennifer Garcelon, Director, Clallam County EH, Jacob Melly, Clallam County EH

2019 DRMT Membership

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