



Clatsop County
Board of Commissioners

800 Exchange St., Suite 410
Astoria, OR 97103
(503) 325-1000 phone / (503) 325-8325 fax
www.co.clatsop.or.us

February 17, 2022

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ATTN: Michelle Wilcox
300 Desmond Drive SE,
Suite 102
Lacey, WA 98503

Dear Columbia River Basin Restoration Program,

Clatsop County is excited to work with the North Coast Watershed Association (NCWA) on the Lower Columbia Toxins Monitoring and Education Project as part of the EPA's Columbia River Basin Restoration Program. Please accept Clatsop County's letter in support of the project and collaboration with the NCWA.

As part of Clatsop County's support for the project, the county will provide access to Big Creek County Park as a monitoring site and 70 hours of staff time at \$100 an hour as in-kind match for the project totaling \$7,000. This contribution of staff time will allow the NCWA and Clatsop County to work together closely on the project, and the additional Big Creek site will enhance the view of roadway runoff chemicals in our water systems. This collaboration also allows Clatsop County the opportunity to share county planning goals, ideas, and future watershed infrastructure needs that relate to the project with the NCWA in light of their watershed expertise. We anticipate that this cooperation will lead to targeting and implementing future projects relevant to water quality, including improving roads and bridges, bioswale construction, and community education.

Additionally, information gleaned from the study will address data gaps in our knowledge of water quality in Clatsop County, including within the watersheds that provide Astoria and Warrenton drinking water and the greater lower Columbia River. Filling these data gaps will help the NCWA and Clatsop County support the lower Columbia River's diverse populations of salmonid species long associated with the area's salmon fishing culture.

Sincerely,

Mark Kujala

Chair

Clatsop County Board of Commissioners