April 10, 2024

Director David Schumacher  
Office of Financial Management  
PO Box 43113  
Olympia, WA 98504-3113

Representative Jake Fey, Chair  
House Transportation Committee  
PO Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Senator Marko Liias  
Senate Transportation Committee  
PO Box 40444  
Olympia, WA 98504-0444

RE: Reporting on federal grants received for fish passage barrier projects

Dear Director Schumacher, Senator Liias and Representative Fey:

The 2023 Transportation Budget (ESHB 1125, Sec. 305(12)(e)) requires the Washington State Department of Transportation to report semi-annually on federal grants received for fish passage barrier projects.

There has been no additional funding received since October 31, 2023, as no additional calls for projects have been issued by the Federal Highway Administration since fall of 2022. Currently one project has received a grant through the National Culvert Removal, Replacement, and Restoration Grant program:

SR 166 Johnson Creek Fish Barrier Culverts Removal and Estuary Restoration -- $4.1 million

Please contact me at suingt@wsdot.wa.gov if you have questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

[Troy Suing, Director  
Capital Program Development and Management  
Washington State Department of Transportation]
Director Schumacher, Senator Liias and Representative Fey  
April 10, 2024  
Page 2  

TS:aa  
Enclosure  

cc: Erik Hansen, OFM  
    Maria Thomas, OFM  
    Kelly Simpson, Senate Transportation Committee  
    Mark Matteson, House Transportation Committee  
    Megan Cotton, WSDOT
(12)(a) $300,000,000 of the coronavirus state fiscal recovery fund—federal appropriation, $312,653,000 of the motor vehicle account—federal appropriation, $427,459,000 of the move ahead WA account—state appropriation, and $1,293,000 of the motor vehicle account—state appropriation are provided solely for the Fish Passage Barrier Removal project (0BI4001) with the intent of fully complying with the federal U.S. v. Washington court injunction by 2030.

(b) The fish passage barrier removal program, in consultation with the office of innovative partnerships, shall explore opportunities to employ innovative delivery methods to ensure compliance with the court injunction including, but not limited to, public-private partnerships and batched contracts. It is the intent of the legislature that appropriations for this purpose may be used to jointly leverage state and local funds for match requirements in applying for competitive federal aid grants provided in the infrastructure investment and jobs act for removals of fish passage barriers under the national culvert removal, replacement, and restoration program. State funds used for the purpose described in this subsection must not compromise full compliance with the court injunction by 2030.

(c) The department shall coordinate with the Brian Abbott fish passage barrier removal board to use a watershed approach by replacing both state and local culverts guided by the principle of providing the greatest fish habitat gain at the earliest time. The department shall deliver high habitat value fish passage barrier corrections that it has identified, guided by the following factors: Opportunity to bundle projects, tribal priorities, ability to leverage investments by others, presence of other barriers, project readiness, culvert conditions, other transportation projects in the area, and transportation impacts. The department and Brian Abbott fish barrier removal board must provide updates on the implementation of the statewide culvert remediation plan to the legislature by November 1, 2023, and June 1, 2024.

(d) The department must keep track of, for each barrier removed: (i) The location; (ii) the amount of fish habitat gain; and (iii) the amount spent to comply with the injunction.

(e) During the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium, the department shall provide reports of the amounts of federal funding received for this project to the governor and transportation committees of the legislature by November 1, 2023, and semiannually thereafter.