



## **King County**

**Shannon Braddock**  
King County Executive

401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 800  
Seattle, WA 98104

**206-296-9600** Fax 206-296-0194  
TTY Relay: 711  
[www.kingcounty.gov](http://www.kingcounty.gov)

September 30, 2025

The Honorable Girmay Zahilay  
Chair, King County Council  
Room 1200  
C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Zahilay:

This letter transmits a Fish Passage Restoration Program Strategic Plan, including a fish passage capital projects work plan, and a summary of changes made to public-facing materials, as called for by Work Plan Action 10 in the 2024 King County Comprehensive Plan (Comprehensive Plan), which is Attachment A to Ordinance 19881, and a proposed Motion that would, if approved, accept the plans. These plans provide a summary of the background and proposed actions King County plans to restore passage for salmon and steelhead to habitats that are currently blocked by non-natural obstructions in county streams.

The Fish Passage Restoration Program is a key element of King County's commitment to the protection and restoration of salmon stocks. It also reflects King County's recognition of Tribal Treaty rights. Launched in 2018, the Fish Passage Restoration Program seeks to restore fish passage through strategic interventions. To date, the program has assessed more than 3,000 potential barriers, identified roughly 1,000 County-owned barriers, and restored access to more than 40 miles of upstream habitat blocked by County barriers. Other notable accomplishments include construction of 27 fish passage projects since 2019 and establishment of capital project teams, comprised of staff in three divisions, focused on delivery of fish passage projects.

The strategic plan integrates program accomplishments since 2018 with updated data, Tribal input, clear goals and objectives, new performance metrics, and implementation actions to set a foundation for outcome-driven restoration efforts. The strategic plan also responds to a 2024 King County Auditor's report recommending the clarification of program goals and the consolidation of processes.

The strategic plan helps address recommendations of the 2024 audit. The strategic plan establishes three key goals: (1) accelerate salmon habitat restoration, (2) streamline project delivery by standardizing permitting, design, and construction processes, and (3) emphasize partnerships to expand fish passage restoration efforts throughout King County.

The strategic plan includes a capital projects work plan, identifying dozens of fish passage projects slated for completion by the County by 2039, a planning horizon consistent with the goals of the strategic plan. The work plan incorporates feedback from workshops held with each of the five county Tribes, updated data from inventory and prioritization, and an assessment of progress on fish passage projects since 2019. When complete, the work plan will achieve at least half of the total County habitat gain potential from the entire County barrier inventory. The strategic plan also includes a summary of changes made to public-facing materials.

Thank you for your consideration of the Fish Passage Restoration Program Strategic Plan, and proposed motion. These plans will help protect and restore salmon stocks.

If your staff have questions, please contact Josh Baldi, Division Director, Water and Land Resources Division, Department of Natural Resources and Parks, at 206-477-9440.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shannon Braddock', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Shannon Braddock  
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers  
    ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff, King County Council  
        Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council  
Karan Gill, Deputy Executive, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive  
Stephanie Pure, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive  
John Taylor, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)  
Josh Baldi, Division Director, Water and Land Resources Division, DNRP