CITY OF ELLENSBURG

Mike Helgeson – Assistant Public Works Director
501 North Anderson Street; Ellensburg, WA 98926
PH: (509) 962-7133 FAX: (509) 925-8661

Landon Shaffer, Stewardship Coordinator
Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group
413 N. Main Street, Suite K
Ellensburg, WA 98926

Dear Mr. Shaffer,

The City of Ellensburg is supportive of the Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group's "Mercer Creek Floodplain Restoration Project" and the "Supporting Volunteers in the Mid-Columbia Region" grant applications. The City is pleased to be a partner on this proposal. The City has been working to improve habitat and water quality within the city limits for many years.

Beginning in 2017, the City began working with the Kittitas County Flood Control District and Mid-Columbia Fisheries to plan for restoration on Mercer Creek and continues to actively support the work. The City also has responsibilities to ensure that stormwater standards are met. This year, the City awarded Mid-Columbia Fisheries a small community grant to help improve water quality through community involvement, tree planting, and litter removal. We believe the community grant will further the work proposed in this grant application.

The City of Ellensburg has a complex network of streams flowing through and under the town. These streams are a unique community resource, improving parks, community areas, and private property. They also provide habitat to native fish and other aquatic life. Funding from the 5-Star Grant Program will provide valuable support to the Mercer Creek Floodplain Restoration Project and for the ongoing effort within the city to educate community members about the importance of riparian buffer health.

The City of Ellensburg will continue our partnership with Mid-Columbia Fisheries through providing input to habitat restoration project plans. Please feel free to contact me at any time if you have questions about the City's involvement in this project or our partnership with Mid-Columbia Fisheries.

Sincerely,

Mike Helgeson
City of Ellensburg
Assistant Public Works Director
(509) 962-7133

KITTITAS COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Mark Cook, Director

February 19, 2021

Landon Shaffer, Stewardship Coordinator
Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group
413 N. Main Street, Suite K
Ellensburg, WA 98926

Dear Mr. Shaffer,

Kittitas County Public Works is supportive of Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group's (MCF) "Mercer Creek Floodplain Restoration Project" and "Supporting Volunteers in the Mid-Columba Region" proposal. These proposals seek to improve water quality through habitat restoration actions and community outreach in and around the City of Ellensburg. These proposals fit well into Kittitas County Flood Control Zone District's flood reduction, water quality, and riparian buffer goals.

Kittitas County Flood Control Zone District partnered with the City of Ellensburg and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife in the fall of 2017 removing crack willow and aggraded sediments on a portion of Mercer Creek. This project marked the beginning of a larger effort to restore floodplain and riparian function to urban waterways in Ellensburg. Following this initial project, MCF secured Department of Ecology funding for the Mercer Creek Floodplain Restoration Project, a key restoration component for this current grant proposal.

Ellensburg has a complex network of streams flowing through and under the town. These streams are a unique community resource, improving parks, community areas, and private property. They also provide habitat to native fish and other aquatic life. Funding from the Coastal Water Protection and Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account programs will provide support for the Mercer Creek Floodplain Restoration Project and for the ongoing effort within the city to educate community members about the importance of riparian buffer health and water quality.

We look forward to our continued partnership with Mid-Columbia Fisheries on this project. Please feel free to contact me at any time if you have questions about our involvement in this project or our partnership with Mid-Columbia Fisheries.

Sincerely,

Mark R. Cook
Director

411 N. Ruby, Suite #1
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State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

Mailing Address: Ellensburg District Office, 1130 W University Way, Ellensburg WA
Main Office Location: Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia WA

February 19, 2021

Landon Shaffer, Stewardship Coordinator
Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group
413 N. Main Street, Suite K
Ellensburg, WA 98926

Dear Mr. Shaffer,

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is supportive of Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group's "Mercer Creek Floodplain Restoration Project" proposal for the 2021 Coastal Water Protection Program. We understand that the project goal is to support ongoing efforts to improve water quality through restoration of the riparian buffer and floodplain on a 1200-foot reach of Mercer Creek and provide valuable support to local community outreach programs in Ellensburg, Washington.

Mercer Creek is a distributary stream on the alluvial fan of the Wilson-Naneum Watershed. It currently supports spawning and rearing steelhead and Coho salmon, juvenile Chinook salmon, resident trout, and many other native fishes despite its urbanized and degraded condition. MCFEG's proposal to increase riparian buffers, restore native riparian species, and improve floodplain and in-channel habitat across multiple properties is an outstanding example of community-based salmon and steelhead recovery that will provide meaningful biological benefits to fish, wildlife, and water quality within the city limits of Ellensburg. The project will have the additional benefit of reducing and mitigating flood risks on surrounding properties and infrastructure.

WDFW is in support of your proposal to create a more functional stream channel, floodplain, and riparian buffer on Mercer Creek and for continued environmental outreach in our region. Additionally, we hope that this project will serve as a potential pilot project to encourage more people to implement restoration projects in urban riparian environments. We look forward to our continued partnership and the further development and implementation of this project.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Torrey
Assistant Regional Habitat Program Manager
Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife