

# **Letter of Understanding**

## **Regarding Collaboration on Regional Agriculture Development in South Puget Sound**

This Letter of Understanding outlines the intent of the signatories listed in Exhibit A to collaborate and cooperate in the advancement of the agriculture industry in south Puget Sound by (1), periodically meeting to maintain open lines of communication and cultivate partnerships where possible, and (2), avoiding or otherwise minimizing competition among jurisdictions without hampering the ability to implement individual projects.

The objectives of this Letter of Understanding are to:

- Increase the effectiveness of agricultural development initiatives
- Enhance and improve efficiencies
- Advance a regional strategy aligned with a unified vision for agriculture development
- Maximize public and private funds and finance opportunities by coordinating regionally

This Letter of Understanding encourages the inclusion of additional partners within the South Puget Sound region. As a result, the list of signatories (Exhibit A) can be amended to include entities with direct agricultural connections.

Signatories to the Letter of Understanding commit to working together to identify and coordinate current and future agricultural development, as listed in Exhibit B provided for illustrative purposes. Signatories commit to the spirit and practice of cooperation with the aim of employing a strategic, systems approach to advance agricultural development across multiple jurisdictions. There are no direct financial commitments associated with this Letter of Understanding and there are no provisions for enforcement of noncompliance by any signatory.

**Exhibit A. Signatories\* to Letter of Understanding**

Initial Partners	Signed By	Date
Port of Chehalis		
Thurston EDC		
Thurston Co. WSU Extension		
Port of Olympia		
Thurston County		
Lewis County		
Lewis EDC		
Lewis Co. WSU Extension		
Northwest Agriculture Business Center		
Lewis Farm Bureau		
Centralia Community College		
South Puget Sound Community College		
South Sound Community Farmland Trust		
City of Tenino		
City of Tumwater		
Office of the Chehalis Basin		
Washington State Dept. of Agriculture		
Thurston Farm Bureau		
City of Chehalis		
Thurston Conservation District		
Lewis Conservation District		
Gray Harbor County		
Port of Grays Harbor		
Greater Grays Harbor Inc.		
Grays Harbor Farm Bureau		
Grays Harbor Co. WSU Extension		
Grays Harbor College		

*\*Signatories can change over time. Changes to Exhibit A will not alter understandings within this letter, nor will signatures be renewed upon changes to Exhibit A.*

**Exhibit B. Current\* regional initiatives of interest with cross-jurisdiction impacts**

Initiative	Location	Lead entity
Agriculture business park	Tenino, WA	Thurston EDC
Craft District	Tumwater, WA	City of Tumwater
Grain storage and handling facility	Chehalis, WA	Port of Chehalis
Craft Brewing and Distilling Center	Tumwater, WA	South Puget Sound Community College

*\*Regional initiatives undertaken by signatories will change. Changes to Exhibit B will not alter understandings within this letter, nor will signatures be renewed upon changes to Exhibit B.*