



**Washington State
Department of Transportation**

South Central Region
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July 31, 2018

Scott McKinney, Fund Manager – Floodplains by design
Washington Department of Ecology
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

RE: 2019-2021 Floodplains by Design Application

Dear Mr. McKinney:

I am writing in support for the Proposed Yakima River Gap to Gap Section 1135 Ecosystem Restoration Project as proposed by the Yakima County Water Resources Division and the Yakima County Flood Control Zone District.

The proposed project will reconfigure the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps) Yakima Project levees to increase the width of the active floodplain and allow the river to function more naturally with reduced threat to Federal levees and the infrastructure they protect.

This Project is intended to provide benefits for all stakeholders' interests in the river. The goal is to reduce flood hazard risk to adjacent landowners and the Cities of Yakima and Union Gap; maximize flood protection to transportation and irrigation infrastructure; and widen the river corridor to allow natural river function and habitats.

The WSDOT completed a bridge replacement project over the Yakima River on SR 24 that was intentionally expanded to coincide with efforts to setback adjacent levees as indicated in this proposal. One of these projects located north of SR 24 was completed in recent years.

We look forward to working with all parties involved to review and discuss designs as they are formulated and we support funding and implementation of this Project.

Please contact Bill Sauriol, Environmental Manager (509) 577-1752 if you have any questions.


Todd V. Trepanier, P.E.
Regional Administrator
WSDOT South Central Region

cc: Brian White
Bill Sauriol