

An Accord between Squaxin Island Tribe and LOTT Clean Water Alliance

Whereas the Squaxin Island Tribe are descendants of the maritime people who lived along the shores and watersheds of the southernmost inlets of the Salish Sea for many thousands of years. The ancestral families who lived and thrived here named it Steh-Chass and occupied prosperous villages along the shores. Archeological findings of ancestral artifacts in the area suggest habitation by Squaxin ancestors since the retreat of the glaciers during the last Ice Age; and

Whereas today, the Squaxin people continue stewardship of these ancestral lands, including the Steh-Chass (Budd Inlet) and Noo-Seh-Chatl (Henderson Inlet) watersheds. The Steh-Chass (Squaxin) continue to call themselves “People of the Water” because of the bounty of the region’s waterways and artesian waters, which have sustained the people for millennia; and

Whereas the LOTT Clean Water Alliance mission is to protect public health and the environment by cleaning water and recovering resources for the communities of Lacey, Olympia, Tumwater, and Thurston County. LOTT’s central Budd Inlet Treatment Plant provides high-level wastewater treatment, including nutrient removal, prior to discharge of treated water to Budd Inlet. LOTT produces Class A reclaimed water for beneficial reuse and groundwater recharge that supports streamflows and water sources. LOTT implements a variety of community programs to further protect water quality and quantity in local watersheds; and

Whereas both the Squaxin Island Tribe and LOTT Clean Water Alliance honor the Medicine Creek Treaty and have established a strong working relationship between the sovereign nation and the non-profit governmental corporation; and

Whereas the Squaxin Island Tribe and LOTT Clean Water Alliance share common goals of improving water quality, contributing to sustainable management of water resources, and taking climate action; and

Whereas the recovery of Budd Inlet and the Deschutes River are necessary to restore treaty-protected salmon populations, a mutual goal of Squaxin Island Tribe and LOTT Clean Water Alliance as demonstrated by our support for the restoration of the Deschutes Estuary and water quality and habitat enhancement projects within the Deschutes and associated watersheds;

Now therefore the Squaxin Island Tribe and LOTT Clean Water Alliance, in the spirit of understanding and mutual respect, commit to the following long-term actions:

- Coordinate and cooperate to support and protect natural resources and respond to climate change.

- Identify and pursue completion of projects that benefit water quality, quantity, habitat, climate action, sea level rise adaptation, and community resilience within the Steh-Chass (Budd Inlet) and Noo-Seh-Chatl (Henderson Inlet) watersheds.
 - LOTT has reserved funds totaling up to \$525,000 for the period 2025-2030 to support this effort subject to the established Board approval process.
 - Squaxin Island Tribe and/or LOTT may seek additional funding from outside sources to optimize investments and maximize project benefits.
- Recognize LOTT's high degree of wastewater treatment and excellent compliance record in meeting the most stringent discharge permit limits in the Puget Sound region and support LOTT's continued discharge of treated water to Budd Inlet and reuse and recharge of Class A reclaimed water as consistent with mutual goals of environmental protection and sustainable water resource management.
- Acknowledge LOTT's commitment to water quality improvement and climate action as demonstrated through additionally dedicated funding in the 2025-2030 period for separate efforts, including:
 - Approximately \$817,580 to support long-term maintenance of a restored Deschutes Estuary through a separate interlocal agreement.
 - Up to \$1,200,000 to encourage conversion of on-site septic systems to LOTT sewer service to provide a higher level of wastewater treatment than can be provided by septic systems.
 - Up to \$1,500,000 to encourage development of low income housing which can reduce incidence of homelessness and associated non-point pollution.
 - Up to \$390,000 to support water stewardship programs such as the Public Health Emergency Support Program, water conservation, and source control efforts.
 - Up to \$300,000 to support project implementation by the regional Sea Level Rise Collaborative to complete near-term measures identified in the Olympia Sea Level Rise Response Plan.
 - Approximately \$1,419,000 for energy conservation and emissions reduction efforts to shift LOTT operations toward carbon neutrality.
- Seek opportunities for collaborative public art, education, and community service that will promote a healthy exchange of cultures.
- Establish enduring channels of communication at both the Executive level and through a staff-level Technical Team to advance these commitments.
- Conduct occasional joint meetings of the Squaxin Island Tribal Council and the LOTT Board of Directors to maintain a shared vision, address issues of mutual concern, develop strategies and agreements, and overcome obstacles.
- Renew this accord every six years to celebrate our achievements, evaluate our processes, and update our priorities and actions. This accord shall continue in effect through December of 2030, unless terminated earlier by either the Squaxin Island Tibe or the LOTT Clean Water Alliance upon 30 days written notice.

This Accord is entered into by the Squaxin Island Tribe and the LOTT Clean Water Alliance to achieve mutual goals through an improved relationship between the sovereign government and the non-profit governmental corporation.

We affirm these principles and resolve to move forward with positive, constructive, and collaborative actions as outlined above.

SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBE

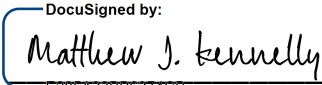
Signed by:


Kristopher Peters, Chairman

12/18/2024

Date

LOTT CLEAN WATER ALLIANCE

DocuSigned by:


Matthew J. Kennelly, Executive Director

12/18/2024

Date

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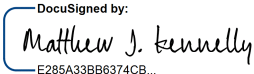
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<div>Matthew J. Kennelly</div> <div>mattkennelly@lottcleanwater.org</div> <div>Executive Director</div> <div>LOTT Clean Water Alliance</div> <div>Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)</div>	<div><div>DocuSigned by:</div><div></div><div>E285A33BB6374CB...</div></div> <div>Signature Adoption: Pre-selected Style</div> <div>Using IP Address: 45.143.82.26</div> <div>Signed using mobile</div>	<div>Sent: 12/18/2024 2:21:02 PM</div> <div>Viewed: 12/18/2024 2:24:44 PM</div> <div>Signed: 12/18/2024 2:24:54 PM</div>
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