8.0 Engagement with Work Groups, Community Sounding Board, & State Government

Capitol Lake – Deschutes Estuary is a public resource. Since the 1970s, governmental partners, agencies, and the community have been engaged in planning efforts for the Capitol Lake – Deschutes Estuary. This chapter describes specific engagement efforts with these stakeholder groups throughout the EIS process.

8.1 HOW WERE STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED IN THE EIS?

Enterprise Services has facilitated transparent and robust stakeholder engagement throughout the EIS process. The commitment to engagement that extends beyond the requirements of SEPA recognizes that governmental partners and the Squaxin Island Tribe have jurisdiction over elements of, and express interest in, the Project Area. These entities have actively collaborated on shared funding and governance for the long-term management project; and, under the Estuary Alternative, they are committed to participating in long-term management. State resource agencies also have expertise in many of the resource areas that would be impacted by or benefit from the project, and would issue permits and approvals for project implementation. Representatives from the Squaxin Island Tribe, governmental and agency partners, and the community were convened into Work Groups (Sections 8.2 and 8.3) and a Community Sounding Board (Section 8.4) for the EIS.

Enterprise Services solicited input from this range of stakeholders, not only during scoping and at the Draft EIS comment period, but throughout the EIS process. This allowed Enterprise Services and the EIS Project Team to collect input as the scope of the EIS was being developed, and as technical methodologies and project alternatives

What specific activities were used to engage the public during the EIS process?

- A project-specific website updated regularly throughout the EIS process
- Regular e-newsletter updates and meeting notifications
- Participation in community events including:
  - Harbor Days (Summer 2018)
  - Olympia Arts Walk (Fall 2018)
  - Capital Lakefair (Summer 2019)
- Briefings with local stakeholder groups during scoping and the Draft EIS comment period
- Informational campaigns and advertisements (print and digital media, flyers, and signage)
- Comment opportunities at Work Group and Community Sounding Board meetings

were established. This engagement reflects the understanding that the Capitol Lake – Deschutes Estuary is a shared resource, and long-term management planning should be a collaborative process that includes potential beneficiaries and key stakeholders.

Figure 8.1.1 on the following pages depicts the sequence and timing of engagement with project Work Groups and the community. This is referred to as the project Process Map. It provided transparency and predictability about how and when the stakeholders would be engaged, and potential discussion topics.

Enterprise Services facilitated more than 40 meetings with the Work Groups and Community Sounding Board. All of these meetings were open to the public, and every meeting ended with an opportunity for public comment. The project website was updated with notifications prior to each meeting, and materials and meeting notes were also posted online. This chapter provides an overview of the Work Group and Community Sounding Board meetings, focusing on the substantive discussion topics. Shortly after the Final EIS is issued, Enterprise Services will meet with the Work Groups and Community Sounding Board to provide an overview of the Final EIS and its key content.

The following sections discuss the engagement processes in more detail.

Meeting Documentation

A full set of meeting documents, including agendas, summaries, presentations, and videos, are available on the project website: https://capitollakedeschutesestuaryeis.org/meetings.

Figure 8.1.1 Project Process Map (page 1)

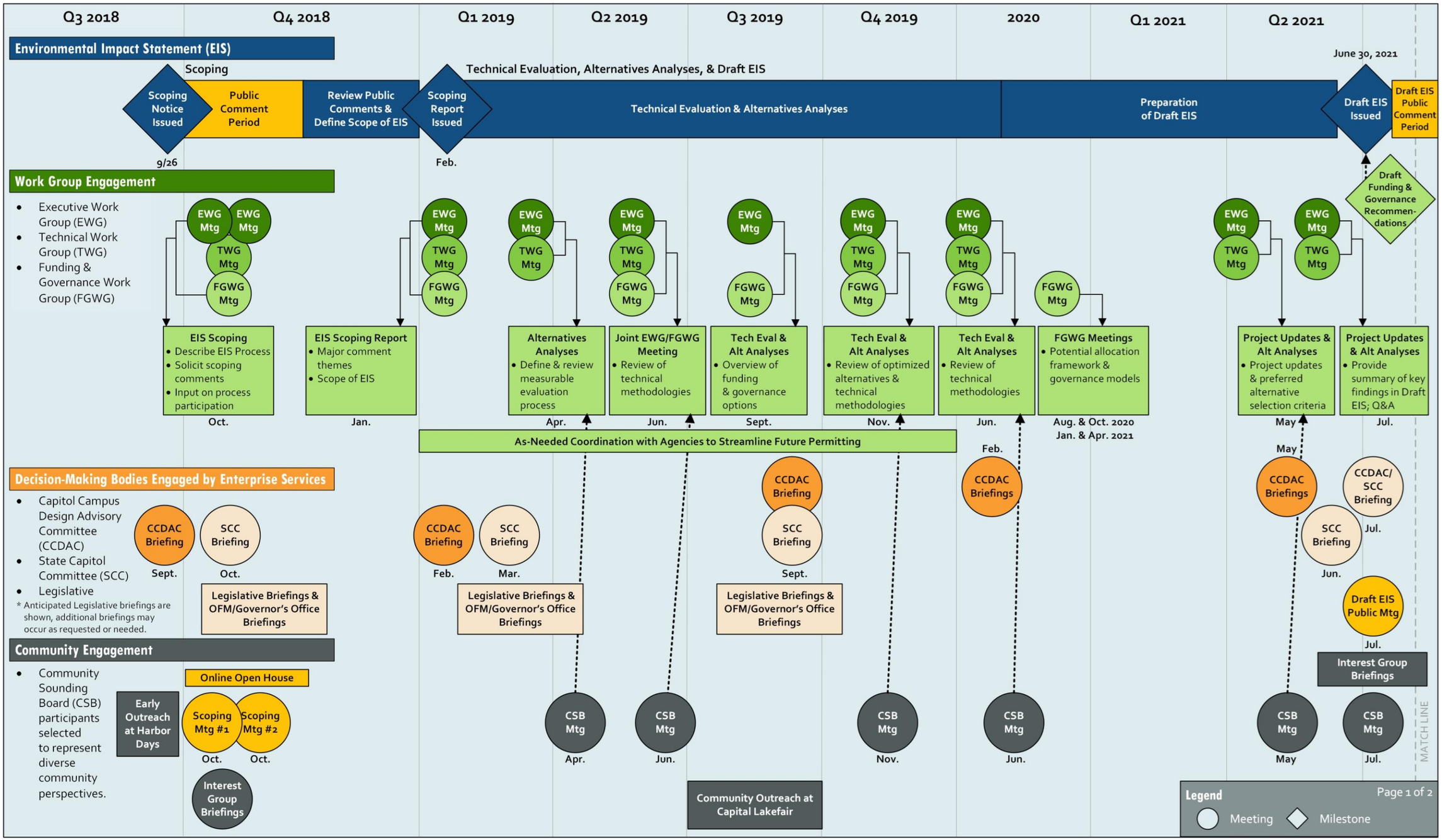
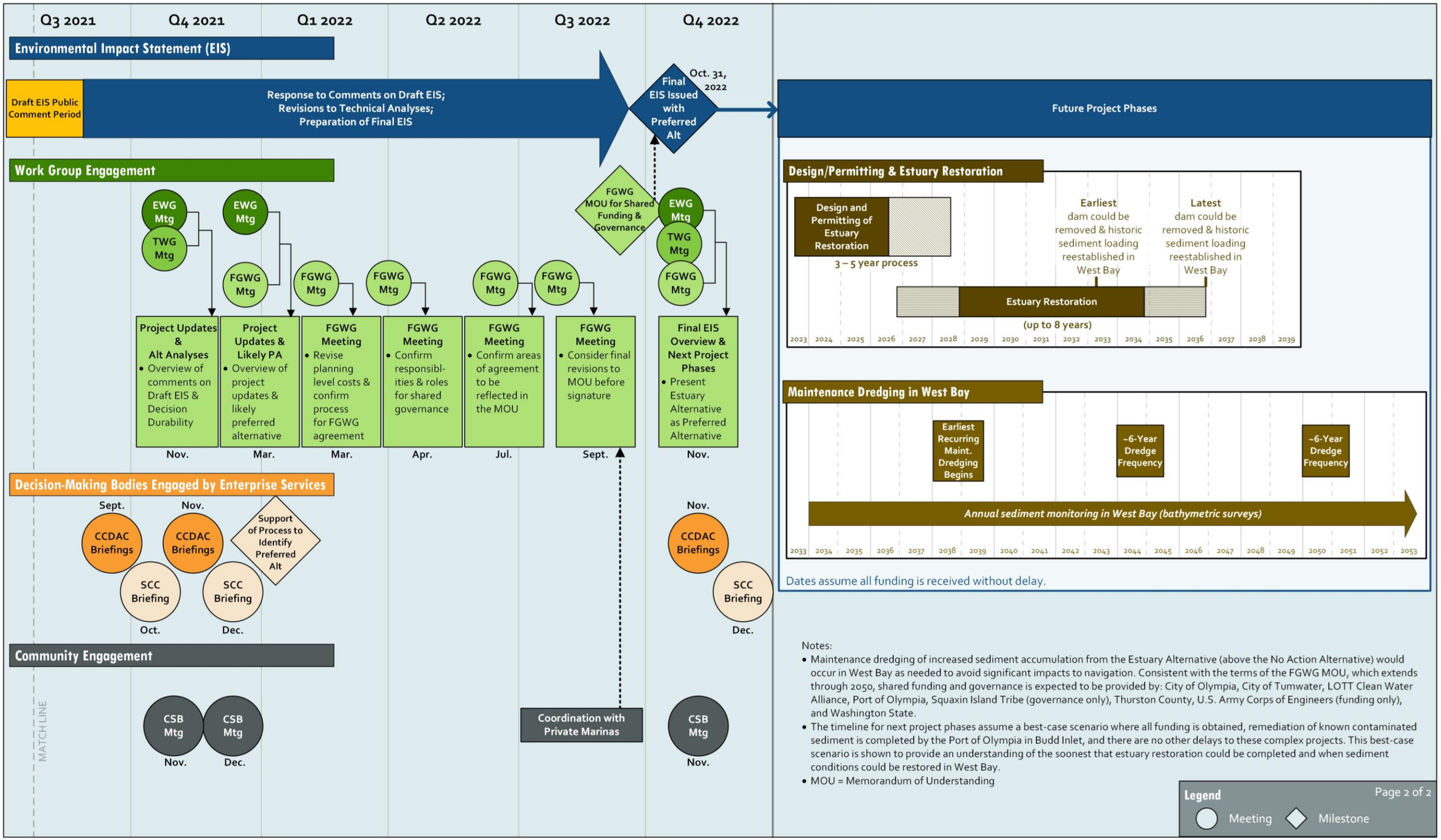


Figure 8.1.1 Project Process Map (page 2)



8.2 WHAT ARE THE ROLES OF THE EXECUTIVE & TECHNICAL WORK GROUPS?

Meetings with Executive and Technical Work Groups ensured ongoing coordination with leaders of the three municipalities within which the project is located, governmental consultation with the Squaxin Island Tribe, and coordination with the two quasi-governmental entities that could be impacted by project implementation. It also engaged the agencies that have jurisdiction over environmental resources within the Project Area.

The Executive Work Group included representation from the governmental partners. The members shared policy-level feedback and ensured that the interests of their constituents were considered. They considered policy, community, and technical aspects of the project.

The Technical Work Group included representation from the resource agencies, the Squaxin Island Tribe, and other entities that would have regulatory authority during design and permitting of the Preferred Alternative after the EIS, or would require close coordination regarding potential significant impacts and mitigation measures. Technical Work Group members provided natural resources expertise and technical review of project topics related to long-term management. This ongoing consultation had three key benefits:

1. Ensured that the methodologies for the technical analyses were sufficient in scope for a defensible alternatives analysis, and covered potential impacts that would be reviewed by the agencies during the future permitting effort
2. Potentially increased the ability to permit the long-term management alternatives
3. Avoided assumptions that are not consistent with agency guidance and avoidance of project components that would not be approved by the agencies

Importantly, the Executive and Technical Work Groups served in an advisory role. They did not make decisions for Enterprise Services; rather, they have supported Enterprise Services in informed decision-making and provided input specific to the decision-making process.

Sections 8.2.1 through 8.2.7 summarize the topics discussed in the Executive and Technical Work Group meetings. Although the meetings were held separately, the agenda items were consistent across these Work Groups. In addition to the primary agenda items,

Executive Work Group Members

- City of Olympia, Mayor
- City of Tumwater, Mayor
- Enterprise Services, Director
- LOTT Clean Water Alliance, Board Member
- Port of Olympia, Commissioner
- Squaxin Island Tribe, Assistant Director of Natural Resources
- Thurston County, Commissioner

Technical Work Group Members

- City of Olympia
- City of Tumwater
- Enterprise Services
- LOTT Clean Water Alliance
- Port of Olympia
- Squaxin Island Tribe
- Thurston County
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
- Washington State Department of Ecology
- Washington State Department of Natural Resources
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ad hoc)

Enterprise Services briefed the Executive and Technical Work Group on discussions with and input from the Community Sounding Board. The italicized text provides information on how the topic has been addressed by the EIS Project Team, describes where the information can be found in the EIS, or provides brief supplementary information, if needed.

8.2.1 October 2018: Summary of Primary Meeting Topics

Project Overview: A brief project overview, with focus on project goals, was provided to Work Group members. The majority of Work Group members had familiarity with the project, and many had participated in past planning processes.

Work Group Role in the EIS: Enterprise Services confirmed participation from an Executive Work Group and Technical Work Group and defined their advisory role throughout the EIS process. The EIS Project Team shared the process map that generally outlines the engagement approach through the EIS.

EIS Scoping: The EIS Project Team provided an update on primary themes from recent public meetings during the scoping process. Public comment opportunities and additional public engagement was discussed.

8.2.2 January 2019: Summary of Primary Meeting Topics

Overview of Scoping Comments and EIS Scope: The EIS Project Team provided an overview of comments received during scoping, and an initial framework for the EIS. Several clarifying questions were asked of the EIS Project Team, including:

- How would opposing opinions around water quality be resolved? Will water quality samples be taken in Budd Inlet and Capitol Lake as part of the EIS?
    - *See the Water Quality Discipline Report (Attachment 7) for water quality data that were collected from Capitol Lake and Budd Inlet, and for an analysis on the potential benefits and effects on water quality from the long-term management alternatives.*

- Will Enterprise Services sample sediment as part of the EIS?
    - *See the Sediment Quality Discipline Report (Attachment 15) for results of the sediment sampling that was conducted as part of the EIS.*
- Will the EIS evaluate potential impacts to recreation in West Bay, not just in Capitol Lake?
    - *See Chapter 4.0 (Sections 4.2, Navigation, and 4.8, Land Use, Shorelines, & Recreation) for an evaluation of potential impacts to recreation in West Bay from sediment deposition.*

Agency Coordination: The EIS Project Team described that they had recently met with each agency represented on the Technical Work Group to identify agency programs or projects with a nexus to the EIS (see Chapter 6.0, Cumulative Effects). These meetings helped to ensure that the EIS Project Team was aware of relevant information at the onset of the EIS.

Representatives from LOTT and DAHP were also welcomed as Technical Work Group members. Enterprise Services explained that an invitation had been extended to the USACE but they are not able to participate full time due to resource limitations.

8.2.3 April 2019: Summary of Primary Meeting Topics

Measurable Evaluation Process: The EIS Project Team presented the Measurable Evaluation Process that had been created to develop the long-term management alternatives for evaluation (see Chapter 2.0, Project Alternatives & Construction Approach, for more detail). Several questions were asked to clarify the proposed screening process, including:

- Can a component be part of multiple alternatives?
    - *Yes – a component that best achieves project goals can span across the alternatives.*
- Who is doing the screening?
    - *The screening was done by the EIS Project Team, in coordination with Enterprise Services.*

- Will sediment management extend into West Bay?
  - *Yes – under the Estuary and Hybrid Alternatives, sediment management is assumed in impacted areas of West Bay.*
- Can you evaluate regulatory feasibility relative to other components?
  - *Based on this feedback, regulatory feasibility was evaluated relative to the other components during the screening completed as part of the Measurable Evaluation Process.*

Third-Party Review Process: Enterprise Services explained that there had been several requests for specific technical analyses to be reviewed by third-party experts. The purpose of the third-party review would be to ensure that industry-recognized best practices were used and a reasonable level of analysis was provided to help compare the long-term management alternatives.

Enterprise Services asked the Executive Work Group members for recommendations. The majority of the third-party experts that were subsequently engaged by Enterprise Services to review the Hydrodynamic and Sediment Transport Numerical Modeling Methodology and Analysis, Water Resources Methodology and Analysis, and Economic Methodology and Analysis were recommended by the Work Groups.

8.2.4 June 2019: Summary of Primary Meeting Topics

Measurable Evaluation Process Update: The EIS Project Team described updates to the Measurable Evaluation Process as a result of input from the Work Groups and Community Sounding Board. Specifically, the EIS Project Team determined they would conduct a relative comparison. The components that best achieved project goals relative to the other concepts would be assembled into the long-term management alternatives for evaluation in the EIS.

Third Party Review Process Update: Enterprise Services notified the Work Groups that methodology memoranda had been prepared for the Hydrodynamic and Sediment Transport Numerical Modeling, Water Resources, and Economic Analysis, and were being reviewed by the third-party experts. Enterprise Services committed to posting these documents to the project website given interest from the Work Group members and the community.

Field Work and Technical Methodologies: The EIS Project Team provided an update on the water quality monitoring within Capitol Lake and Budd Inlet.

The EIS Project Team also presented the proposed methodologies for the following disciplines: Wetlands; Fish and Wildlife; Land Use, Shorelines, and Recreation; and Hydrodynamic and Sediment Transport Modeling. The discussion focused on clarifying questions from the Work Group members.

8.2.5 November 2019: Summary of Primary Meeting Topics

Schedule Update: Enterprise Services described that the Draft EIS would be issued in mid-2021 rather than December 2020. The schedule revision was due to the Olympia Brewery oil spill cleanup to address PCB contamination, which delayed the bathymetric survey that was originally planned for April 2019. The bathymetric survey is a key input to the numerical model of hydrodynamics and sediment transport, which supports many of the later technical analyses.

- *The bathymetric survey was completed in January 2020 after the seasonal plant die-off.*

Technical Methodologies and EIS Assumptions: The EIS Project Team presented the proposed methodologies for the following disciplines: Aquatic Invasive Species, and Historic and Cultural Resources. One primary comment influenced the scope of analysis:

- *Consider more than just plant species in the invasive species evaluation.*

During the Technical Work Group meeting, the EIS Project Team asked for guidance on several technical topics, including potential use of herbicide to treat aquatic plants, beneficial reuse of excavated material, and tide gate configuration to avoid or minimize fish entrapment in the Hybrid Alternative reflecting pool. During this discussion, the Technical Work Group also confirmed that it would be reasonable to assume an extension to the existing in-water work window if sufficient measures were taken to avoid and minimize impacts to aquatic species.

- *The extended in-water work window is described in Chapter 2.0 (Section 2.4.1) and is assumed in the construction durations.*

Overview of Optimized Alternatives: The EIS Project Team presented the Managed Lake, Estuary, and Hybrid Alternatives that had been optimized through the Measurable Evaluation Process. This allowed the Work Group members to understand the alternatives that would be evaluated in the EIS and ask clarifying questions, such as:

- Will the EIS evaluate opportunities to restore boating even if the New Zealand mudsnail persists? Can the risk of spreading New Zealand mudsnails be minimized?
  - *See Chapter 2.0 (Section 2.3.4) for a description of the educational signage, decontamination stations, and monitoring that is proposed in order to restore water-based recreation and prevent the spread of the New Zealand mudsnail.*
- The effects of RSLR should be evaluated, particularly for the Estuary Alternative.
  - *See Chapter 3.0 (Section 3.2.2) for results of the numerical modeling relative to potential future water elevations under an RSLR scenario. Potential effects from RSLR are also provided as part of the remaining technical analyses.*
- What is the anticipated flushing rate for the reflecting pool under the Hybrid Alternative?
  - *The flushing rate of a freshwater reflecting pool was analyzed in more detail as a result of stakeholder feedback. See Attachment E of the Water Quality Discipline Report (Attachment 7) for these findings.*
- Are you considering water quality impacts in Budd Inlet?
  - *See Chapter 4.0 (Section 4.3, Water Quality) for the evaluation of potential impacts and benefits to water quality in Budd Inlet.*

8.2.6 June 2020: Summary of Primary Meeting Topics

Technical Methodologies: The EIS Project Team presented the proposed methodologies for the following disciplines: Transportation; Air Quality and Odor; Visual Resources; Sea Level Rise and Climate Change; and Public Services and Utilities.

One primary comment influenced the scope of analysis and another provided an opportunity to clarify a key project assumption.

- Are you considering the use of rail in the transportation analysis?
  - *Following input from the Work Group, as well as Community Sounding Board members, the scope of the transportation analysis was updated to include a review of potential rail use for project construction. See Chapter 5.0 (Section 5.12, Transportation) for more detail.*
- What is the estimated project life?
  - *The analyses cover a time period of roughly 30 years; this is considered the project time horizon. For RSLR, the numerical modeling has evaluated a 2-foot (0.61-meter) rise, regardless of when that will occur in relation to the project time horizon.*

EIS Assumptions: The EIS Project Team described the recreational opportunities that would be restored under the long-term management alternatives, and are being analyzed in the EIS, to include: fishing and nonmotorized boating. Organized swimming facilities are not assumed.

- *There were no comments from the Work Group members in opposition to the recreation assumptions to be included in the EIS.*

The EIS Project Team also described that the Hybrid Alternative would include a saltwater reflecting pool because it had fewer technical feasibility issues relative to a freshwater reflecting pool.

- *In response to Work Group and Community Sounding Board comments, the EIS includes an analysis of the freshwater reflecting pool.*

8.2.7 May 2021: Summary of Primary Meeting Topics

Draft EIS Progress Update and Outreach Activities: The EIS Project Team described the contents of the upcoming EIS and associated outreach activities.

Most activities would be conducted virtually given continued uncertainty regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and in-person

participation for public activities. These activities included opportunities for briefings with local councils and commissions.

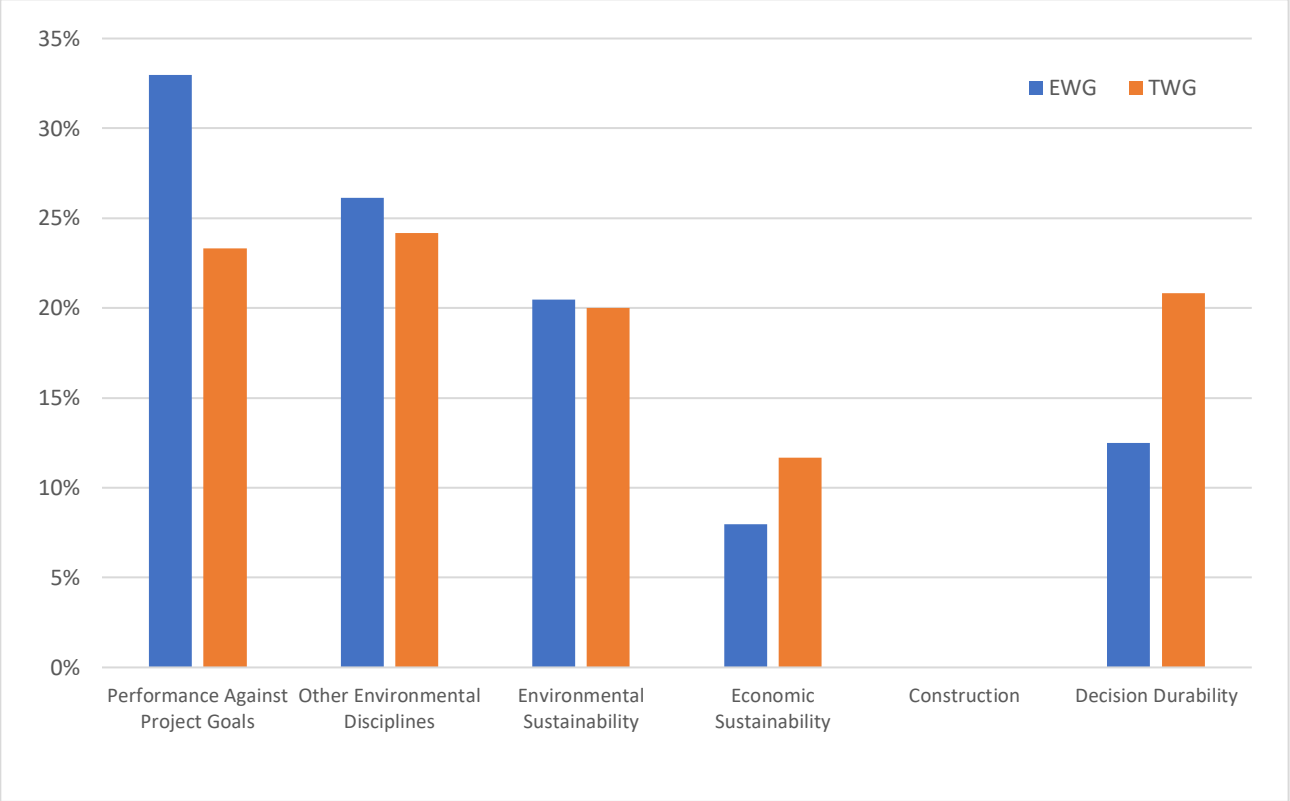
Preferred Alternative Selection Process – Criteria Definitions: The EIS Project Team described the proposed process for making an informed decision about the Preferred Alternative (see Chapter 1.0 [Section 1.12, How Was a Preferred Alternative Identified & What Was the Decision-Making Process?]). Members participated in a facilitated exercise to clarify and refine selection criteria definitions.

Key feedback included:

- **Performance Against Project Goals** is overarching and reflects the goals established collaboratively in Phase 1.
- There is overlap between **Performance Against Project Goals** and **Other Environmental Disciplines**; Enterprise Services should be sure that this overlap is helpful.
- Some elements, like ability to meet state water quality standards, should be treated as thresholds for moving forward in the evaluation of an alternative relative to decision-making.
- **Regional Sustainability** should be renamed and/or the definition refined.
    - *This criterion was renamed **Decision Durability**.*
- The criteria should be revisited after the Draft EIS is released and public comments are submitted.

Preferred Alternative Selection Process – Criteria Prioritization: Each Work Group participated in an exercise to rank the criteria based on individual and collective preferences. Each member provided their feedback through facilitated exercises and selections were aggregated for reporting as described in Figure 8.2.1, with the percentage representing importance of a selected criterion to the collective group. Selections were not attributed to individuals or the entities they represent. These data will inform the process to select a preferred alternative but do not represent the final relative importance.

Figure 8.2.1 Results of Criteria Prioritization Exercise during Executive & Technical Work Group Meetings (May 2021)



8.2.8 July 2021: Summary of Draft EIS

Draft EIS Overview: The EIS Project Team provided an overview of the Draft EIS. This included a description of the Project Area and long-term management goals, and a description of each of the action alternatives. A high-level overview and key findings were provided for each discipline evaluated in Chapters 3.0 through 5.0 of the Draft EIS. Work Group members were given the opportunity to ask clarifying questions on each discipline. The EIS Project Team also reviewed estimated construction durations, impacts, and mitigations. The EIS Project Team presented an overview of the planning-level cost estimates as described in Chapter 7.0 of the Draft EIS.

Key feedback included:

- **Information was requested on the decision to include a saltwater reflecting pool in the Hybrid Alternative**. *Following the Draft EIS comment period, the Hybrid Alternative was modified to include a groundwater-fed, freshwater pool.*

- **Information was requested on the recommendation of historic resources in the Draft EIS.** *The EIS Project Team described that this was conducted per a standard SEPA EIS evaluation. Following the Draft EIS comment period, DAHP provided determinations of eligibility, which have been included in the Final EIS.*

8.2.9 November 2021: Summary of Draft EIS Comments and Preferred Alternative Criteria

Draft EIS Engagement Outcomes: The EIS Project Team provided a brief summary of Draft EIS comments received, meetings held and number of participants, and online engagement totals, as shown in Figure 8.2.2. Comment totals more than doubled those received during scoping.

Many commenters stated an alternative preference. An overview of focus areas for the EIS Project Team to address in the Final EIS was provided, and it was noted that the subject of Water Quality received the largest number of comments, followed by Funding & Governance and Project Costs, Cultural Resources, and Fish &Wildlife. The EIS Project Team also explained that all substantive comments received would be considered in preparation of the Final EIS.

The EIS Project Team also provided an overview of themes from the Work Group member comments. It was noted that four of the six Work Group entities expressed a preference for the Estuary Alternative, while two did not indicate a preference.

Key questions asked during this portion of the meeting included the following:

- A question was asked about the pivot from a saltwater to freshwater reflecting pool. The EIS Project Team described that this change was a results of Draft EIS comments, which described potential additional water quality and fish entrapment concerns, as well as overall lack of support for the saltwater reflecting pool.

How was the public engaged during the Draft EIS comment period?

Enterprise Services provided a range of opportunities for the public to learn more about the project and key findings of the document, and to provide comment. These included:

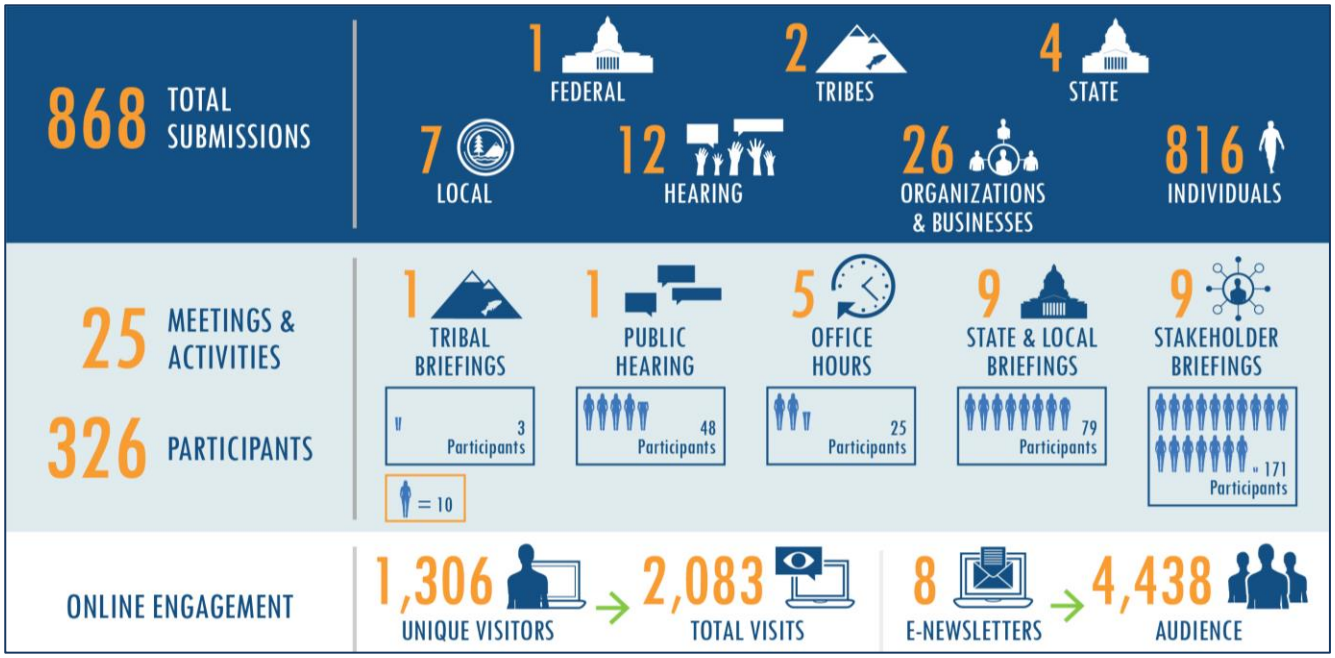
- Online open house (learn and comment)
- Online public hearing (learn and comment)
- Online office hours (learn)
- Open meetings and briefings (learn)
- Interest group briefings (learn)
- Publicly available copies of the Draft EIS (learn)
- Heritage Park Trail Loop self-guided open house (learn)
- Fact sheets (learn)
- Mailing list to receive project updates (learn)

Signage was placed around the Project Area to inform the community of the public comment period.

Enterprise Services extended the public comment period through August 29, 2021, to ensure stakeholders and the community engagement.

Exhibit 8.1 Self-guided open house kiosk and yard sign

Figure 8.2.2 Draft EIS Engagement Results



Preferred Alternative Identification Process: The EIS Project Team reviewed the Preferred Alternative selection criteria, which helped to ensure that technical analysis, stakeholder input, and other important factors were considered when identifying the Preferred Alternative. These are discussed in Chapter 1.0 [Section 1.12], along with the process to identify the Preferred Alternative, which was also reviewed during this meeting.

Criteria Weighting Results from May 2021: The results of the May 2022 criteria weighting were presented. These groups were asked to weigh the six selection criteria (Performance Against Project Goals, Other Environmental Disciplines, Environmental Sustainability, Economic Sustainability, Construction Impacts, and Decision Durability) based on their sense of importance.

It was noted that there was strong consensus at the top and bottom ends of the rankings, with Performance Against Project Goals ranked highest and Construction ranked as lowest. The Work Groups then discussed the results and were given the opportunity to change the order of prioritization.

Decision Durability: Work Group members were asked to provide input on the Decision Durability criteria, including numerical scores for each of the alternatives and narratives responses addressing what factors increase and decrease support for each alternative.

8.3 WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE FUNDING & GOVERNANCE WORK GROUP?

Enterprise Services convened the Funding and Governance Work Group following direction from the Washington State Legislature to evaluate and identify an option for shared funding and governance for long-term management of the Capitol Lake – Deschutes Estuary. The Funding and Governance Work Group is made up of tribes and governmental partners with jurisdiction and/or taxing authority in the Project Area.

There are two primary goals for the Funding and Governance Work Group:

1. Develop a framework to support an equitable allocation of construction costs to responsible and/or benefiting entities.
2. Identify a governance model to ensure that long-term management activities occur after project construction. The governance model must include the mechanism or approach to fund these activities.

Achieving these goals would provide the clearest path for implementation of the Preferred Alternative. Chapter 7.0 (Section 7.2, What Are the Recommendations for Funding Construction & Long-Term Management?) details the progress made toward these goals.

Sections 8.3.1 through 8.3.14 provide a summary of the primary meeting topics from the series of Funding and Governance Work Group meetings. The italicized text provides information on how the topic has been addressed by the EIS Project Team, where the information can be found in the EIS, or provides brief supplementary information, if needed.

Funding & Governance Work Group Members and Representatives

- **City of Olympia,** City Manager/Director of Public Works
- **City of Tumwater,** City Administrator
- **Enterprise Services,** Chief Financial Officer
- **LOTT Clean Water Alliance,** Assistant Executive Director/ Finance Director
- **Port of Olympia,** Director
- **Squaxin Island Tribe,** Intergovernmental Affairs, Council Liaison
- **Thurston County,** Treasurer
- **Washington Department of Natural Resources,** Assistant Division Manager, Aquatics

8.3.1 January 2019: Summary of Primary Meeting Topics

Project Update. The EIS Project Team provided an update regarding comments received during scoping. This supplemented the project update provided to the Funding and Governance Work Group in October 2018, which focused on a general project overview only.

Funding and Governance Work Group Open Discussion. Enterprise Services welcomed LOTT to the Funding and Governance Work Group. LOTT had not participated in Phase 1.

During a roundtable discussion, the Funding and Governance Work Group identified a set of initial tasks to support their work, including:

- Ensure that costs are spread among all those who benefit
- Carefully define benefits
- Review information about how work has been funded historically
    - *Funding for operation and maintenance of Capitol Lake is provided through State Operating and Capital Budgets, which have been the funding sources since construction in 1951.*
- Understand sediment management in detail, including transport, costs, and quantity
    - *See Chapter 4.0 (Section 4.1, Hydrodynamics & Sediment Transport) for a description of projected sediment transport; see Chapter 4.0 (Section 4.2, Navigation) for a discussion of the volume of sediment that would be removed during maintenance dredging. Planning-level costs are provided in Chapter 7.0 (Section 7.1, What Important Factors Are Assumed in the Planning-Level Costs?).*
- Understand the difference between existing sediment and new sediment after construction dredging is complete, these will likely have different disposal costs
    - *Sediment dredged during construction will primarily be beneficially reused within the Capitol Lake Basin to construct habitat, avoiding costs associated with upland disposal. Sediment from maintenance dredging events would be disposed in-water or upland, depending on the alternative.*
- Understand one-time and ongoing costs. Different funding structures may be needed for each
    - *See the planning-level cost estimates provided in Chapter 7.0 (Section 7.1, What Important Factors Are Assumed in the Planning-Level Costs?), which have been broken down to one-time and ongoing costs.*
- Identify project components that are consistent across all long-term management alternatives, for example, dredging
    - *Chapter 2.0, Project Alternatives & Construction Approach, has been structured to highlight components common to all alternatives.*

The Funding and Governance Work Group also suggested in this discussion that the Preferred Alternative may be needed before detailed funding and governance planning.

8.3.2 June 2019: Summary of Primary Meeting Topics

Process Proposal: The EIS Project Team outlined four phases to developing a funding and governance model.

1. Discuss economic fundamentals and consider potential options for funding and governance.
2. Develop funding and governance options that are common across the alternatives.
3. Review and discuss draft funding and governance framework developed by the EIS Project Team.
4. Assemble and formalize the funding and governance agreement after a preferred alternative is identified.

Economic Foundations: A Senior Economist from the EIS Project Team presented on economic theory as it supports the Funding and Governance Work Group.

- How do we define value?
- How do we define efficiency?
- What conditions lead to agreement?
- How does equity affect agreement?

The Senior Economist discussed the steps required to achieve an equitable, efficient, and sustainable funding and governance outcome.

- Who are the beneficiaries and what types of value are provided by this resource?
- Are property rights clearly understood?
- What does an efficient outcome look like?
- Are any parties going to be made worse off?
- Is an outcome equitable?

8.3.3 September 2019: Summary of Primary Meeting Topics (Joint Meeting with the Executive Work Group)

Economic Foundations: At the request of the Funding and Governance Work Group members, the Senior Economist presented on economic theory again. This allowed the Executive Work Group members to understand these economic foundations.

Funding and Governance Options: The EIS Project Team described the differing benefits from fees, taxes, and rates, and how these could be leveraged for initial construction costs and long-term maintenance costs.

The Funding and Governance Work Group reviewed the models that had been identified in Phase 1 and discussed the potential benefits and restrictions of each. The Funding and Governance Work Group identified the Joint Municipal Utility Authority as a model that could apply to the project and requested that the EIS Project Team research this concept further.

The EIS Project Team described that the governance model would affect which funding tools are available and how those funding tools might be used.

8.3.4 November 2019: Summary of Primary Meeting Topics

Cost Component Exercise Discussion: The EIS Project Team facilitated a series of exercises aimed at better understanding who contributes to and benefits from the project, including discussion around the following questions:

1. Who do you think benefits from long-term management?
2. Where do benefits accrue for specific organizations?
3. What is your biggest priority for long-term management?
4. What do you have a responsibility or interest to contribute to?

Answers to these questions were synthesized by the EIS Project Team and considered as the economic foundations were transitioned into a funding allocation, with implications for who should be responsible for or contribute to funding.

8.3.5 June 2020: Summary of Primary Meeting Topics

Allocation Framework Discussion: At this meeting, the Funding and Governance Work Group members suggested that construction costs and long-term management costs should be allocated and considered separately.

The Funding and Governance Work Group members questioned whether it would be appropriate for any other entity to contribute to construction costs given that Washington State constructed the 5th Avenue Dam and has managed the resource since that time. Many members suggested that the 5th Avenue Dam and lack of management were the primary reasons for existing conditions within the Capitol Lake – Deschutes Estuary.

The sentiment can be summarized in a statement from one of the members: "In all the years we've talked about this, it has seemed that politically, it's a good trade if the state generated the money through legislature to actually do the initial construction project, and the community takes over the long-term care and maintenance."

8.3.6 August 2020: Summary of Primary Meeting Topics

Allocation Framework Discussion: This meeting advanced work on a cost allocation framework. At the beginning of this meeting, the Funding and Governance Work Group members agreed and confirmed that construction costs and long-term management costs must be allocated and considered separately. The Funding and Governance Work Group members reiterated that the existing conditions were a result of state actions, and that the beneficiaries could accept costs for long-term management.

The EIS Project Team presented a potential framework that would allocate construction costs based on who contributed to existing conditions, and who would benefit from project implementation. In this framework, the Funding and Governance Work Group would decide the relative weighting of contributors versus beneficiaries (e.g., 50/50, 70/30, 90/10).

Two other potential frameworks were presented: one that would allow for empirical analysis that leads to cost allocation and works with data available today, and another that would divide costs equally among entities.

Following discussion, the Funding and Governance Work Group concluded that if an allocation framework were used for construction costs, the approach of determining cost values from contributions and benefits would be most appropriate.

- *Chapter 7.0 (Section 7.2, What Are the Recommendations for Funding Construction & Long-Term Management?), describes the outcome of this discussion in detail.*

8.3.7 October 2020: Summary of Primary Meeting Topics

Allocation Framework Discussion: The EIS Project Team presented an updated allocation framework, based on contributions and benefits, that could be used to support the Funding and Governance Work Group in creating a defensible, transparent, and reproducible methodology to allocate construction costs. The allocation framework would have each Funding and Governance Work Group member rank their entity's potential contribution (using a scale of 0 to 5) to sediment accumulation, degraded ecological function, water quality standard violations, and restricted active community use. Each member would then rank their entity's relative benefit from sediment management, enhanced ecological function, improved water quality, and restored active community use. The framework would provide a cost allocation for each alternative.

In response to this, the Funding and Governance Work Group clearly stated a majority opinion that construction costs should be borne by Washington State and that further work of the members should be focused on shared funding and governance after construction. Some members suggested that a small contribution to construction costs could be reasonable to demonstrate local support and/or for recreational amenities that would be enjoyed by the public (see Chapter 7.0 [Section 7.2, What Are The Recommendations For Funding Construction & Long-Term Management?]).

- *Chapter 7.0 (Section 7.2, What Are the Recommendations for Funding Construction & Long-Term Management?) describes the outcome of this discussion in detail.*

8.3.8 January 2021: Summary of Primary Meeting Topics

Review of Governance Models: The EIS Project Team presented a summary of the primary long-term management activities that would occur under each alternative to inform the discussion of potentially suitable governance models.

The Funding and Governance Work Group acknowledged that there would have to be consensus around which of the long-term management activities were the responsibility of a future governing body. Some members suggested that the focus could be solely on sediment management.

An Assistant Attorney General reviewed potentially suitable governance models, pointing out that suitability may largely be determined by what the governing body is tasked with. The Funding and Governance Work Group discussed potential "must have" attributes of a governance model and debated the potential suitability of the options that had been presented. There was general interest in exploring the Joint Municipal Utility Authority and the Public Development Authority in more detail.

- *Chapter 7.0 (Section 7.2, What Are the Recommendations for Funding Construction & Long-Term Management?) describes the outcome of this discussion in detail.*

8.3.9 April 2021: Summary of Primary Meeting Topics

Review of Governance Models: An Assistant Attorney General facilitated a discussion around governance, beginning with a recommendation that an Interlocal Agreement would be most suitable for shared governance of an Estuary or Hybrid Alternative, if selected as the Preferred Alternative. Based on regulatory research, review of other governance models, and local applications of Interlocal Agreements, an Interlocal Agreement would best accommodate long-term management of the Capitol Lake – Deschutes Estuary. A sample Interlocal Agreement was reviewed with the Funding and Governance Work Group. The purpose of this exercise was to identify key assumptions that would need to be confirmed in an Interlocal Agreement, and to demonstrate the nature, content, and level of detail of an Interlocal Agreement.

The Funding and Governance Work Group agreed that an Interlocal Agreement would likely be the most suitable shared governance model for an Estuary or Hybrid Alternative, but cautioned that substantive negotiation could not begin until a preferred alternative is identified.

- *Chapter 7.0 (Section 7.2, What Are the Recommendations for Funding Construction & Long-Term Management?) describes the outcome of this discussion in detail.*

8.3.10 March 2022: Summary of Primary Meeting Topics (Joint Meeting with the Executive Work Group)

Review of Final EIS Progress: Two meetings occurred in March 2022, the first of which took place on March 16, 2022. At this meeting, the EIS Project Team presented an update on its review of comments received on the Draft EIS, including updates that were planned to the EIS technical analyses. The EIS Project Team also described its anticipated coordination with local, state, and federal agencies as needed in response to Draft EIS comments and as the Final EIS is developed. Routine meetings with the Funding and Governance Work Group were also proposed to resume progress toward the goal of developing a shared funding and governance approach for long-term maintenance.

Likely Preferred Alternative Identification: The EIS Project Team described the process developed to identify a preferred alternative for the Capitol Lake Deschutes Estuary Project. This leveraged the technical work comprising the Draft EIS, comments received in response to the Draft EIS, and narrative and numeric input from the Executive Work Group and the Community Sounding Board regarding the ability of the alternatives to achieve long-term support (see Table 8.3.1). The initial evaluation of these technical criteria and the decision durability supported Enterprise Services in identifying the likely Preferred Alternative. The EIS Project Team described that early identification of a likely preferred alternative is not limiting in Enterprise Services' final decision regarding the alternative for implementation.

Table 8.3.1 Decision Durability – Executive Work Group and Community Sounding Board Responses

Stakeholder	Estuary Alternative	Hybrid Alternative	Managed Lake Alternative	No Action Alternative
City of Olympia	10.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
City of Tumwater	9.0	6.0	2.0	1.0
LOTT Clean Water Alliance	9.0	3.0	2.0	1.0
Port of Olympia	5.0	3.3	5.3	1.3
Squaxin Island Tribe [1]	10.0	NA	NA	NA
Thurston County	6.7	5.3	4.7	1.0
Community Sounding Board [2]	6.9	4.8	4.3	1.4
Average	**8.1**	**3.9**	**3.2**	**1.1**

Notes:

1. Squaxin Island Tribe provided a score of zero for all non-Estuary alternatives. Because zero is not a value in the overall scoring range (1–10) no value is included. It should be noted that this falsely skews the average scoring to be higher for the Hybrid, Managed Lake, and No Action Alternatives.
2. Average of scores provided by Community Sounding Board members (22 responses).

8.3.11 March 2022: Summary of Primary Meeting Topics

Review of Funding and Governance Work Group Process and Planning-Level Cost Estimates: The latter of the two meetings that occurred in March 2022 took place on March 30, 2022. At this meeting, the EIS Project Team reviewed the goals and objectives of the Funding and Governance Work Group process: adopting a governance model for the Capitol Lake – Deschutes Estuary project; adopting a funding strategy for its long-term needs, and allocating costs to participating entities among the Funding and Governance Work Group that provide management certainty for the likely Preferred Alternative. To achieve these goals prior to issuance of the Final EIS, the EIS Project Team proposed a targeted schedule through October 2022 to the Funding and Governance Work Group that outlined progressive, routine coordination aimed at establishing a funding and governance strategy for the long-term management project.

The EIS Project Team then reviewed the planning-level cost estimates presented in the Draft EIS, detailing both the planning-level costs projected for sediment management of the Project Area and estimated costs for project construction.

The Funding and Governance Work Group agreed to attend routinely scheduled group meetings to progress toward establishment of a funding and governance model.

8.3.12 April 2022: Summary of Primary Meeting Topics

Review of Roles and Responsibilities: The EIS Project Team reviewed the existing recommendations for funding and governance of each project phase.

- Design, permitting, and construction costs = State of Washington, with potential diversified funding from other sources (e.g., federal, tribal, philanthropic)
- Long-term funding and governance for the Estuary Alternative = shared by the members of the Funding and Governance Work Group, focusing on sediment management in West Bay

The EIS Project Team closed its discussion by noting that each Funding and Governance Work Group member is proposed to have a role in participating in the framework of a governance and funding strategy that could be legally agreed to by each entity.

Governance Framework and Funding Strategy: The EIS Project Team reminded the Funding and Governance Work Group of past discussion regarding potential governance models, which resulted in the decision to progress toward the preparation and delivery of a signed Interlocal Agreement among the Funding and Governance Work Group entities and built framework around the required elements of the Interlocal Agreement. The Funding and Governance Work Group discussed membership, scope, duration, budget, withdrawal, and ownership as necessary elements of the Interlocal Agreement.

8.3.13 June 2022: Summary of Primary Meeting Topics

Review of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Benefits: The EIS Project Team reviewed the benefits of the Funding and Governance Work Group reaching an agreement on long-term funding and governance of the project, including its compliance with provisions of ESHB 2380, its support of maintaining a working waterfront in the community, and its demonstration of investment in broad restoration of the Project Area.

Discussion of Asset Allocations and Revenue Collection: The EIS Project Team recommended the allocation of assets to members of the Funding and Governance Work Group and described that each member is recommended to either own and maintain a constructed element of the project or carry out transferred responsibilities associated with long-term management of the Preferred Alternative. Among these transferred responsibilities is financial management, for example. In addition to allocated assets or governance responsibilities, the EIS Project Team also noted that an allocation of estimated sediment management costs was proposed for each member. The group then discussed timing of annual payments collected for long-term maintenance and agreed that funds should be collected once the construction phase of the project has been fully funded.

Discussion of MOU Framework: The group discussed the anticipated framework of an MOU capturing the areas of agreement. The MOU would include language regarding the duration, terms, renegotiation, withdrawal, entity responsibilities, and financial allocations of the agreement. The EIS Project Team specified that the MOU is not intended as an enforceable document, but rather communicates agreement on the shared funding and governance approach. The group also discussed that it is intended for the MOU to be followed by a formal binding Interlocal Agreement.

8.3.14 July and September 2022: Summary of Primary Meeting Topics

Discussion of MOU Purpose, Funding and Governance Work Group Key Feedback, and Process: The meeting focus for the last two Funding and Governance Work Group meetings were similar in focus, with discussion focused on final areas of agreement for the MOU and associated required updates to the draft version of the MOU. The EIS Project Team revisited the anticipated schedule for the MOU to be executed and attached to the Final EIS and reviewed the purposes of the MOU:

- Communicate local commitment for the Estuary Alternative to the legislature
- Progress toward an estuary restoration for shared benefit
- Facilitate progression toward an ILA

The EIS Project Team then reviewed the primary content of the MOU and discussed key feedback from review cycles of the MOU. The group engaged in open discussion to address all key feedback on the MOU and incorporate revisions, as appropriate, into amended MOU

and final versions of the MOU. At the September meeting, the Funding and Governance Work Group provided target dates for approval of the final MOU.

8.4 WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE COMMUNITY SOUNDING BOARD?

The Capitol Lake – Deschutes Estuary is an area that holds historical and personal value for many people. The Deschutes Watershed is used for ceremonial, subsistence, and commercial harvesting of natural resources, and is a place of strong cultural and spiritual value. Capitol Lake also supports community events such as the annual Capital Lakefair, organized athletic events, and various other gatherings. The trail system and nearby parks provide continued passive recreational opportunities that maintain the water's edge as an important recreational center and valued amenity in the South Puget Sound area.

Exhibit 8.2 Community members participate in a Public Comment event during scoping

The community is invested in the future long-term management plan for this resource. Community members have participated in many of the past planning processes, have coordinated with governmental partners and agencies, and have met with members of the Washington State Legislature regarding long-term management planning. During scoping, the first step in the EIS, 220 community members submitted comments. A majority of the comments contained strong sentiments of support for or opposition to a specific alternative.

Community comments received during scoping, in support of a Managed Lake Alternative, mentioned interest in recreation, with value placed on the ability to walk around the lake, and on the aesthetic quality of the lake. Several comments suggested that the lake should be retained, as it is a central part of the City of Olympia and a hub of activity. Comments in opposition to a Managed Lake Alternative commonly cited water quality concerns, ecological impacts, and ongoing impacts to local area tribes.

Community comments in support of the Estuary Alternative most often cited anticipated environmental improvements, including those to water quality and habitat. There were strongly held values expressed regarding restoration of natural systems. Community members in opposition to the Estuary Alternative described potential impacts from sediment deposition in Budd Inlet.

Community comments on the Hybrid Alternative raised similar issues as described for the Managed Lake and Estuary Alternatives. Commenters either suggested that the Hybrid Alternative could be a

Interest Areas Represented by Community Sounding Board Members

- Architecture
- Birds and wildlife/habitat
- Climate change
- Historic structures
- Landscaped environments
- Local area businesses
- Maritime and Port of Olympia activities
- Natural environments
- Non-water-based recreation (hiking, biking, etc.)
- Permaculture
- Urban planning
- Water quality
- Water-based recreation

successful compromise or that it would not satisfy either of the opposing interests. These comments mirrored the long-growing polarization of views within the community.

In response and in recognition of the continued community interest in long-term management planning, Enterprise Services convened a Community Sounding Board to participate throughout the EIS process. The Community Sounding Board is composed of a group of 25 participants, representing organizational and individual interests, that were selected through an application process.
Enterprise Services assembled a group that represented a wide range of community interest areas and organizations. Enterprise Services met with the Community Sounding Board six times between 2019 and 2021 to understand community concerns, values, and perspectives on specific topics of interest that contribute to a robust and well-informed EIS process.

During these meetings, the Community Sounding Board engaged in focused discussions, and individually and/or collectively provided input, feedback, and perspectives and recommendations around substantive topics relevant to the project. These discussions informed subsequent work of the EIS Project Team, were shared with the project Work Groups, and will be considered by Enterprise Services in the decision-making process.

The Community Sounding Board was not asked to vote on the long-term management alternatives. Throughout the series of meetings, there was no requirement to reach consensus on project topics. There was most often agreement on the need to implement a long-term management project. The area of disagreement continued to be on the alternative that would best achieve the commonly held project goals that were defined through the collaborative Phase 1 process (see Chapter 1.0, Introduction, Project Background, & History, for more detail).

Sections 8.4.1 through 8.4.6 summarize the topics discussed in the Community Sounding Board meetings and the primary observations.

8.4.1 April 2019: Summary of Primary Meeting Topics

Project Overview: Most Community Sounding Board members had a general understanding of the project proposal. There were some

Organizations Represented by Community Sounding Board Members

- Capitol Lake Improvement and Protection Association (CLIPA)
- Deschutes Estuary Restoration Team (DERT)
- Dual Estuary Lake Idea (DELI)
- Evergreen State College (student perspective)
- North Capitol Campus Heritage Park Development Association
- Olympia Downtown Alliance
- Olympia Yacht Club
- South Sound Group of Sierra Club
- Thurston County Chamber of Commerce

Exhibit 8.3 Community Sounding Board meeting

detailed project questions, including the extent of the Project Area and a suggestion to begin water quality monitoring.

- *See Chapter 3.0 (Section 3.3, Water Quality) for more detail on water quality monitoring that was conducted for the project.*

Community Sounding Board members also asked whether there will be a mandate for funding after the EIS, and if a source of construction funding had been identified.

- *See Chapter 7.0 (Section 7.2, What Are the Recommendations for Funding Construction & Long-Term Management?) for more detail on funding and governance of future project phases.*

Presentation of the Proposed Measurable Evaluation Process: Enterprise Services asked the Community Sounding Board to provide input on two questions:

1. What input do you have on Step 1 of the Measurable Evaluation Process – the work to optimize the long-term management alternatives?
2. Environmental and economic sustainability will be evaluated relative to other concepts and alternative variations. Should the technical and regulatory feasibility evaluation follow that approach?

The Community Sounding Board was generally in support of the Measurable Evaluation Process and the optimization approach and appreciated the transparency of the selection process. Community Sounding Board input was mixed on how the technical and regulatory review could be approached.

8.4.2 June 2019: Summary of Primary Meeting Topics

Presentation of the Technical Methodologies: The EIS Project Team provided an overview of the three technical methodologies (Hydrodynamic and Sediment Transport Numerical Modeling, Water Resources, and Economics) that would be reviewed by third-party experts to ensure that the work was conducted using industry-recognized best practices and would include a reasonable level of analysis to allow for the comparison of alternatives.

The EIS Project Team also overviewed the approach to analyzing changes in Wetlands; Fish and Wildlife; and Land Use, Shorelines,

and Recreation. The Community Sounding Board asked clarifying questions throughout the presentation.

Discussion regarding Past, Current, and Future Recreational Uses: To support the Land Use, Shorelines, and Recreation analysis, the EIS Project Team facilitated a discussion with the Community Sounding Board. The Community Sounding Board members were broken into small groups to share their thoughts on four questions, and then reconvened to discuss as a whole.

The four questions discussed included:

1. How are you or your family using Capitol Lake and the surrounding parks (from Tumwater Falls to Priest Point Park (now Squaxin Park) on the shoreline of Budd Inlet) now? What kind of activities and where?
2. For those of you that used Capitol Lake in the past (before uses were restricted on the lake), how did you or your family use the lake then? What kind of activities?
3. If the currently restricted water-based uses were restored under a long-term management alternative, would this change your use of the waterbody? Would you visit more often? Less often? No change? Which activities would you or your family do more of? Less of?
4. If Capitol Lake was restored to an estuary or hybrid lake and estuary, shorelines would change, including changes to shoreline vegetation and the distance from existing trails to the water's edge during different parts of the tidal cycle. How would these types of changes impact/benefit your use or enjoyment of the surrounding trails and parks? Would it be better, worse, or just different? Why? Under this alternative, how do you think your use of the Project Area would change and which activities do you think would stay the same?

Responses to these questions were shared with the EIS Project Team and will be considered by Enterprise Services. A primary theme of the discussion was to restore water-based recreation within the Capitol Lake – Deschutes Estuary, and this would likely increase community use. There were contrasting views on which recreational opportunities would be best within the Project Area.

- *Chapter 2.0, Project Alternatives & Construction Approach, describes the water-based recreation that would be restored under all long-term management alternatives, reflecting areas of broad interest from the Community Sounding Board. See Chapter 3.0 (Section 3.8) and*

Chapter 4.0 (Section 4.8) for a brief summary of existing and potential future recreational uses, informed by Community Sounding Board input.

8.4.3 September 2019: Summary of Primary Meeting Topics

Project Update: This meeting was held virtually, to provide a project update to the Community Sounding Board regarding field work associated with the EIS, meetings with the Work Groups, and other outreach efforts.

8.4.4 November 2019: Summary of Primary Meeting Topics

Primary Components of the Optimized Alternatives: The EIS Project Team presented the Managed Lake, Estuary, and Hybrid Alternatives that had been optimized through the Measurable Evaluation Process. This helped the Community Sounding Board understand components of the alternatives and how they would achieve project goals. Enterprise Services asked the Community Sounding Board to provide input on the following question.

- What key piece of feedback regarding the optimized alternatives would you like to communicate to the EIS Project Team?

Some of the input provided by the Community Sounding Board has been integrated into the EIS, as follows:

- Consider a freshwater reflecting pool for the Hybrid Alternative
  - *See Chapter 2.0 (Section 2.3, What are the Primary Components Common to All Action Alternatives?) and the Water Quality Discipline Report for a discussion of the freshwater reflecting pool concept*
- Develop visualizations to help convey the visual landscape of the different alternatives
  - *See Chapter 4.0 (Section 4.10, Visual Resources) for visual simulations for the long-term management alternatives*

- Make clear in the EIS that computer models support the decision-making, but that people make the decisions
    - *See Chapter 1.0 (Section 1.2, Why is an Environmental Impact Statement Needed?) for a description of the decision-making process*
- Evaluate whether Capitol Lake can be reopened to recreation even if the New Zealand mudsnail persists
    - *See Chapter 2.0 (Section 2.3.4) and Chapter 4.0 (Section 4.4, Aquatic Invasive Species) for the proposal to install decontamination stations to allow water-based recreation under all action alternatives*
- Evaluate the impacts of sediment on marinas and the Port of Olympia
    - *See Chapter 4.0 (Section 4.2, Navigation) for a discussion of potential impacts to the Port of Olympia and marinas*

Future Visualizations of the Optimized Alternatives: The EIS Project Team described that the EIS would include visual simulations to help convey the visual landscape of the long-term management alternatives. Through a facilitated exercise, the Community Sounding Board identified locations that would be most helpful for a visual simulation and would potentially show the areas of greatest change.

- *The visual simulations included in Chapter 4.0 (Section 4.10, Visual Resources) were developed at the locations recommended by the Community Sounding Board.*

8.4.5 June 2020: Summary of Primary Meeting Topics

Components of an Environmental Impact Statement: The EIS Project Team described the primary content in an EIS and expected for this project EIS. The Community Sounding Board asked clarifying questions, including continued interest in the following topics:

- The range of alternatives evaluated in an EIS
- Potential swimming opportunities under the long-term management alternatives
- The potential for a freshwater reflecting pool for the Hybrid Alternative

8.4.6 May 2021: Summary of Primary Meeting Topics

Draft EIS Progress Update and Outreach Activities: The EIS Project Team described the contents of the upcoming Draft EIS and associated outreach activities.

Most activities would be conducted virtually given continued uncertainty regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and in-person participation for public activities. These activities included opportunities for briefings with local councils and commissions.

Draft EIS Outreach Activities: The Community Sounding Board provided feedback regarding proposed outreach activities to be conducted during the Draft EIS public comment period via survey prior to this meeting. The EIS Project Team reviewed the results of the survey and answered questions.

- There was broad support for the outreach activities as described, particularly understanding limitations caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Preferred Alternative Selection Process – Criteria Definitions: The EIS Project Team described the proposed process for making an informed decision about the Preferred Alternative (see Chapter 1.0 [Section 1.12, How Was a Preferred Alternative Identified and What Was the Decision-Making Process?]). Members participated in a facilitated exercise to clarify and refine selection criteria definitions.

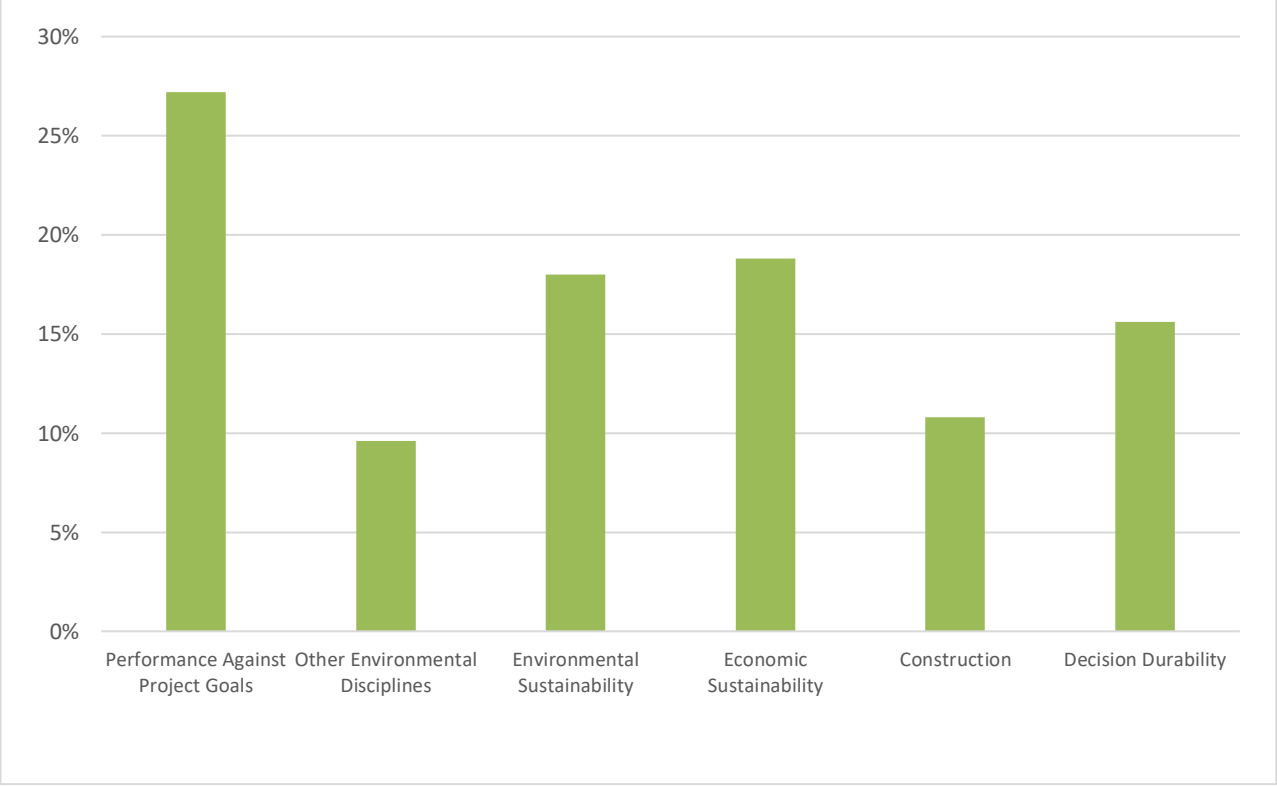
Key feedback included:

- **Performance Against Project Goals** is overarching and is the best indicator of overall performance of an alternative.
- There is overlap between **Performance Against Project Goals** and **Other Environmental Disciplines.**
- Tribes should be independently identified under **Regional Sustainability** to reflect their sovereignty.
    - Regional Sustainability was renamed Decision Durability.
- Without widespread public support, this project will not be funded by the Legislature, so **Regional Sustainability** should be heavily weighted.

- Keep the criteria simple, more complex criteria will make building consensus more difficult.
- If an alternative does well in **Performance Against Project Goals**, then **Regional Sustainability** is likely.

Preferred Alternative Selection Process – Criteria Prioritization: The Community Sound Board participated in an exercise to rank the criteria based on individual and collective preferences. Each member provided their feedback through facilitated exercises and selections were aggregated for reporting as follows (Figure 8.4.1), with the percentage representing importance of a selected criterion to the collective group. Selections were not attributed to individuals or the entities they represent. These data will inform the process to select a preferred alternative but do not represent the final relative importance.

Figure 8.4.1 Results of Criteria Prioritization Exercise during Community Sounding Board Meeting (May 2021)



8.4.7 July 2021: Summary of Draft EIS

Draft EIS Overview: The EIS Project Team provided an overview of the Draft EIS. This included a description of the Project Area and long-term management goals, and a description of each of the action

alternatives. A high-level overview and key findings were provided for each discipline evaluated in Chapters 3.0 through 5.0 of the Draft EIS. The EIS Project Team also reviewed estimated construction durations, impacts, and mitigation.

The EIS Project Team also presented an overview of the planning-level cost estimate as described in Chapter 7.0 of the Draft EIS.

The Community Sounding Board asked clarifying questions, including continued interest in the following topics:

- Water quality
- Suitability of sediment for in-water disposal
- Impacts to bats and bat habitat
- Historical designation of the Steh-Chass
- Clarification around removal of the 5th Avenue Dam at the opening to Budd Inlet
- Economic impacts of the alternatives

8.4.8 November 2021: Summary of Draft EIS Comments and Preferred Alternative Criteria

Draft EIS Engagement Outcomes: The EIS Project Team provided a brief summary of Draft EIS comments received, meetings held and number of participants, and online engagement totals. Comment totals more than doubled those received during scoping.

Many commenters stated an alternative preference. An overview of focus areas for the EIS Project Team to address in the Final EIS was provided, and it was noted that the subject of Water Quality received the largest number of comments, followed by Funding & Governance and Project Costs, Cultural Resources, and Fish &Wildlife. The EIS Project Team also explained that all substantive comments received would be considered in preparation of the Final EIS.

Key questions that were raised included the following:

- How will updates made to the Final EIS based on the public comment period be clearly highlighted for easy identification?
    - The EIS Project Team responded that they were brainstorming ideas. *Since this meeting, it was determined that a table would be added to the Final EIS Summary and the Executive Summaries of each discipline report to summarize key changes.*

- When will comment responses be published and how will they address questions around the analysis?
    - As part of the SEPA process, comment responses are included as part of the Final EIS (see Attachment 22). *Since this meeting, Enterprise Services and the EIS Project Team have reviewed and responded to all comments submitted on the Draft EIS.*

Preferred Alternative Identification Process: The EIS Project Team reviewed the Preferred Alternative selection criteria, which helped to ensure that technical analysis, stakeholder input, and other important factors were considered when identifying the Preferred Alternative. These are discussed in Chapter 1.0 (Section 1.12), along with the process to identify the Preferred Alternative, which was also reviewed during this meeting.

Criteria Weighting Results from May 2021: The results of the May 2022 criteria weighting were presented. These groups were asked to weigh the six selection criteria (Performance Against Project Goals, Other Environmental Disciplines, Environmental Sustainability, Economic Sustainability, Construction Impacts, and Decision Durability) based on their sense of importance.

It was noted that there was strong consensus at the top and bottom ends of the rankings, with Performance Against Project Goals ranked highest and Construction ranked at lowest. The Community Sounding Board then discussed the results and were given the opportunity to change the order of prioritization or adjust the weighting.

Decision Durability: The members of the Community Sounding Board were asked to provide input on the Decision Durability criteria, including numerical scores for each of the alternatives and narratives responses addressing what factors increase and decrease support for each alternative. The Community Sounding Board was given time to consider this further and provide feedback in writing. Narrative and numeric input was provided from the Executive Work Group and the Community Sounding Board regarding the ability of the alternatives to achieve long-term support (see Table 8.3.1).

8.4.9 December 2021: Decision Durability Responses

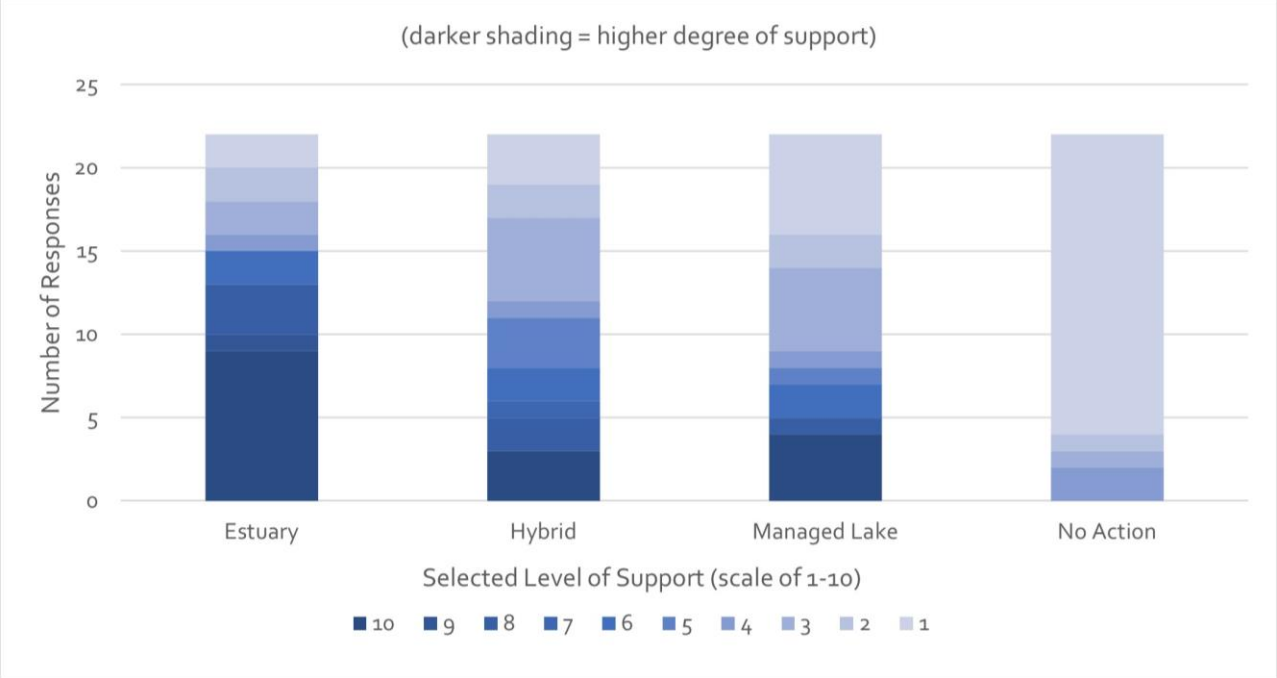
After a review of the Preferred Alternative identification process, the EIS Project Team reviewed the Community Sounding Board's feedback on the Decision Durability. This included both the numerical rankings and narrative responses submitted from Community Sounding Board

members. It was noted that the Estuary Alternative received an overall higher degree of support than the other alternatives, including the No Action Alternative. See Figure 8.4.2 for a depiction of the Community Sounding Board members' levels of support for each of the alternatives.

Community Sounding Board members were given an opportunity to reflect on the feedback received.

An update on the next steps for the project was provided to the group and a number of questions were addressed around funding and governance.

Figure 8.4.2 Level of Community Sounding Board Support for Each Alternative



8.5 HOW ARE THE LEGISLATIVE & EXECUTIVE BRANCHES OF STATE GOVERNMENT ENGAGED BY ENTERPRISE SERVICES?

Enterprise Services has also provided regular briefings to other key stakeholders, including the CCDAC, the SCC, Washington State Legislators, and the Governor's Office. Enterprise Services will solicit input from the SCC during the decision-making process for the Preferred Alternative. Funding for design and permitting of the Preferred Alternative, and potentially for construction of the project, would be authorized by the Washington State Legislature.