

RESOLUTION NO. 78-10

**A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE NEED AND SUPPORT FOR A SOUTH PUGET SOUND COUNCIL, MAKING INITIAL APPOINTMENTS, AND REQUESTING STATE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR ITS OPERATIONS.**

**WHEREAS**, South Puget Sound, defined by all of the marine, freshwater tributaries and associated lands in the Puget Sound Basin, south of the Tacoma Narrows Bridges, is a shared and fragile resource critical to the economic and social welfare of our communities; and

**WHEREAS**, Increasingly, the health of South Puget Sound is threatened by contaminated sediments, toxics, excessive nutrients, loss of natural areas, population growth, and has a growing number of threatened or endangered species; and

**WHEREAS**, Mason County shares the fresh and marine waters of South Puget Sound with numerous local governments and the three South Sound Tribes but no formal regional collaboration mechanism exists to ensure coordinated and cost effective programs for protecting South Sound waters; and

**WHEREAS**, The lack of a formal regional coordinating body for South Puget Sound results in unnecessary and counterproductive competition among local governments and Tribes of South Sound that is both wasteful and has not assured state and federal funds go to the most important needs of the region; and

**WHEREAS**, The lack of a formal regional coordinating body for South Puget Sound results in federal or state entities setting priorities for the South Sound; and

**WHEREAS**, Various state and federal programs have become increasingly onerous, expensive and uncoordinated resulting in increased demands on local and tribal governments; and

**WHEREAS**, Recent efforts from the South Puget Sound's Ecosystem Coordination Board Core Group and from the South Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Entities have demonstrated a strong willingness and capability of South Sound entities to collaborate informally on regional needs.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mason County Commissioners:**

Section 1. The need exists to establish what is informally called the South Puget Sound Council. The mission of the South Puget Sound Council shall be to support coordinated and collaborative decision making aimed at restoring and protecting the ecological and socio-economic health of South Puget Sound. It should be organized with an Executive Committee of elected County and Tribal members from Mason, Thurston, Kitsap and Pierce Counties and the Nisqually, Squaxin, and Puyallup Tribes as its decision-making body and a Forum of other jurisdictions, entities and citizens.

Section 2. Mason County supports the establishment of the South Puget Sound Council and will participate as an active member if approved by all counties and tribes in the South Sound.

Section 3. The State of Washington will derive specific and measurable benefits from the regional coordination and collaboration of the South Puget Sound Council; therefore the State must assume a financial responsibility by providing operational support for the Council and that support is hereby requested.

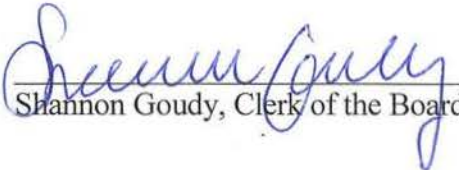
Section 4. Initial appointment to the Executive Committee of the South Puget Sound Council shall be as follows: Lynda Ring-Erickson, Mason County Commission.

Section 5. Subsequent appointments to fill a vacant Mason County Commission position shall be made by the Mason County Commission.

DATED this 19<sup>th</sup> day of OCTOBER 2010.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MASON COUNTY, WASHINGTON

ATTEST:

  
Shannon Goudy, Clerk of the Board

  
Ross Gallagher, Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
Lynda Ring Erickson, Commissioner

  
Monty Cobb, Chief Deputy Prosecuting  
Attorney

  
Tim Sheldon, Commissioner