



King County

Water and Land Resources Division

Department of Natural Resources and Parks

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January 23, 2017

Nancy Rottle
Director of the Director, Green Futures Research and Design Lab
College of Built Environments
Box 355734
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Seattle, WA 98195-5734

RE: Campus Sustainability Fund Floating Wetlands Demonstration Project Grant Application

To Whom It May Concern,

I am pleased to support the Green Futures Lab application for a Campus Sustainability Fund grant to support the Floating Wetlands Demonstration Project. Floating wetlands are an emerging green technology that is capable of contributing to climate adaptation and ecosystem services including water quality improvement, salmon habitat restoration and open space recreation.

The proposed UW Green Futures Lab project complements work the King County Water and Land Resources Division is undertaking to develop floating wetlands (FWLs) for the Duwamish River. The UW's project has the potential to situate FWLs in and along the Lake Washington ship canal and Union Bay Natural Areas. These freshwater ecosystems provide critical rearing habitat for many species of salmonids. In addition, FWLs have demonstrated capacity to reduce harmful algal blooms, an emerging water quality and public health and safety issue that has been exacerbated by the increased air and water temperatures produced by climate warming.

The FWLs that are designed by the UW Green Futures Lab are designed to address regional design requirements for FWLs. Performance monitoring by the Green Futures Lab will provide essential data for advancing our understanding of FWLs. Funding of this project will contribute to regional green technology innovation and reinforce the role that the UW has as an incubator of innovative technology.

Sincerely,

Mason Bowles, Senior Ecologist, P.W.S.