



April 7, 2017

Re: Area of Focus Schedule Update

Dear partners,

The Leadership Council has adopted 10 Vital Signs as the basis of the development of the 2018 solicitation of Near Term Actions (NTAs). We refer to those 10 Vital Signs as the Area of Focus. The selection was informed by feedback from the Management Conference, the Tribal Management Conference, and other partners. Existing NTAs that align with the new solicitation will be rolled into the new Action Agenda. The solicitation will address gaps. Progress on the Vital Signs that are not included in the Area of Focus in this round will continue, not only through ongoing programs, but also through related benefits from actions based on the Area of Focus.

Our partners have provided consistent feedback that the schedule that was previously released (on February 28th) would not allow adequate time for certain steps. In response, we have revised the schedule to allow more time for key elements of the 2018 Action Agenda update process, as compared to the 2016 Action Agenda update. The changes were made possible by the streamlining and elimination of certain steps.

Now we need to focus on developing the solicitation based on this Area of Focus. The three Strategic Initiative Leads and their Strategic Initiative Advisory Teams, with support from Partnership staff, will develop the next level of detail (the “approaches,” “interim outcomes,” and action ideas”) for which NTAs will be solicited (those are called the Regional Priorities). They will use Implementation Strategies, LIO 5-year Ecosystem Recovery Plans, tribal priorities, and the Science Work Plan as the basis of this process.

Local Integrating Organizations (LIOs) will have the chance to customize these Regional Priorities to their own areas (we call this the “local context” step), allowing for some variation and flexibility in how Regional Priorities are implemented in watersheds across Puget Sound. The NTA solicitation will go through full public and Management Conference review.

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We hope you find the new process to reflect our drive for continuous improvement and responsive to the feedback you provided after the last Action Agenda process. Thank you for your continued collaboration in our joint effort to protect and restore Puget Sound!

If you have questions, please contact Peter Best at peter.best@psp.wa.gov.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sheida R. Sahandy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Sheida R. Sahandy
Executive Director