



WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council Interlocal Agreement Renewal (2026-2035)

January 16, 2025

Decision

The SRC should consider approval of the proposed final draft WRIA 8 Interlocal Agreement.

Background

The current WRIA 8 Interlocal Agreement (ILA) between the 29 local government partners expires December 31, 2025. The ILA provides a mechanism and governance structure for the joint funding, planning, and implementation of priority salmon recovery projects and programs. The ILA and the memorandum of understanding between King County as WRIA 8 service provider and the Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) need to be renewed to continue the WRIA 8 salmon recovery effort. Between July and November, WRIA 8 ILA partners worked with WRIA 8 staff and the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office to develop final draft language for a renewed ILA for approval by the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council at the November 2024, and ratification by all ILA partners by the end of 2025. The new ILA is intended to be effective on January 1, 2026.

The current WRIA 8 ILA has served partner governments well and no major changes have been identified to the purpose, structure, or function of the Salmon Recovery Council or Management Committee. Therefore, the proposed draft ILA largely reflects clerical edits and reorganization to improve clarity, reflect current practice, and make the ILA more concise. A summary of more significant changes is in the table on page 3. The ILA review process and schedule below identifies major milestones for renewing the ILA by December 31, 2025. The renewed ILA will be effective by January 1, 2026, or when at least 9 jurisdictions representing at least 70% of the population of WRIA 8 have signed the ILA.

ILA Review and Process

- ✓ **May-June 2024:** WRIA 8 staff work with King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office to develop draft ILA language.
- ✓ **July 2024:**
 - ILA Renewal 'kickoff' with initial review of draft language by WRIA 8 Implementation and Technical Committee and Salmon Recovery Council.
 - Send draft ILA to WRIA 8 ILA partner governments to request formal review and identify appropriate point of contact.

- ✓ **September – December 2024:**
 - Host virtual meeting with interested partner attorneys to review and discuss draft ILA.
 - Update Salmon Recovery Council and Implementation Technical Committee on review feedback.

- January 16, 2025: Salmon Recovery Council approves ILA.**

- January – November 2025:**
 - Final ILA available for partner governments to sign.
 - ILA partner governments ratify the ILA.

- December 2025 (or earlier):**
 - Final ILA is ratified and signed by all partner governments or the minimum required number of partners for ILA to be in effect (at least nine partner governments representing at least 70% of the affected population).

WRIA 8 ILA Renewal – Summary of Proposed Changes

July 2024

Proposed Change	Document Reference	Notes/Considerations
<p>Added to “Whereas” statement on page 2 to include “stormwater management” and “water quality improvement” to the example regional efforts that ILA parties are interested in integrating with salmon recovery actions.</p>	<p>Preamble (p.2), second to last “Whereas” statement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognizes the interest in seeking multiple benefits of salmon recovery actions with other closely aligned regional efforts.
<p>Explicitly define the eligible ILA partners to include state, local, and tribal governments, agencies, and special purpose districts within WRIA 8.</p>	<p>Definitions – Eligible Jurisdictions (Section 1.1, p3)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broadens potential ILA membership and coordination; • Salmon Recovery Council approves addition of any new ILA partners and the annual cost share for added partners; • May require changes to the proportional/ weighted voting rules in Section 5.1.2; • Could allow entities other than cities and counties more influence in WRIA 8 decisions.
<p>Replace reference to “citizens” with “residents”</p>	<p>Throughout</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More inclusive and better represents WRIA 8 outreach and engagement interests.
<p>Clarifies the ILA is in effect when it has been executed by at least nine of the eligible governments representing at least 70% of the affected population of the watershed, rather than on a specific date.</p>	<p>Effective date and term (Section 3, p.5)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarifies when the ILA is in effect.

<p>Revises the due date for developing and approving an annual budget to October 1 (previously September 1)</p>	<p>Organization and Membership (Section 4.4, p.7)</p> <p>Obligations of Parties; Budget; Fiscal Agent; Rules (Section 7.3, p.12)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflects current practice to approve the budget for the coming year at the Salmon Recovery Council's September meeting.
<p>Changed sequence of evaluating service provider and fiscal agent performance to every two years instead of every three years.</p>	<p>Organization and Membership (Section 4.6, p.8)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This reflects an appropriate evaluation sequence as discussed by WRIA 8, WRIA 9, and the Snoqualmie Watershed Forum staff in communication with King County.
<p>Added new Section 10, to address a requirement in RCW 39.34.030, regarding how any property acquired on behalf of the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council will be dealt with upon termination of the agreement.</p>	<p>Property (Section 10, p.15)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addresses requirement in RCW 39.34.030 • The parties to the ILA have not, and do not anticipate, needing to acquire or hold property to fulfill the purpose of the ILA.