

## **Puget Sound Regional Climate Preparedness Collaborative**

Pledge of Commitment and Action - July 25, 2017

**WHEREAS**, the Central Puget Sound Region is experiencing sea level rise, increasing temperatures, changes in precipitation, a long-term decline in snow and ice, and ocean acidification, and

**WHEREAS**, these trends are projected to continue and to accelerate in the coming decades; increasing the potential for flooding, landslides, summer drought, wildfire, disruption of ecological communities, and other impacts in our region, and

**WHEREAS**, these impacts increase risks to public health, infrastructure, safety, local economies, the environment, and

**WHEREAS**, protecting public health and safety, providing critical infrastructure, supporting economic prosperity, and protecting natural and treaty trust resources are core roles for tribal, local and regional governments; and

**WHEREAS**, coordinated efforts across the region to prepare for climate impacts will improve local and tribal government efforts to build the region's preparedness for existing natural hazards including droughts, wildfire, seismic and extreme weather events; and

**WHEREAS**, climate preparedness augments and is complementary to existing local and tribal government efforts to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases; and

**WHEREAS**, concerted action and investments to prepare for climate impacts and build resilience offer opportunities to address broader inequities in health, mobility, and access to economic opportunity; and

**WHEREAS**, tribal, local and regional governments face similar challenges in assessing climate change impacts and risks and developing climate preparedness strategies with limited resources; and

**WHEREAS**, climate impacts like changing rainfall patterns or sea level rise often cross jurisdictional and service area boundaries; and

**WHEREAS**, the Pacific Northwest is home to world-recognized climate research institutions that are contributing greatly to our common understanding of regional climate impacts, risks, and vulnerabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, by sharing information on climate impacts, pooling resources and expertise, and collaborating on approaches to climate preparedness research and action, we can serve our communities, customers and taxpayers more effectively and efficiently; and

**WHEREAS**, by working together to define shared climate change risks and actions our investments will have greater impact and visibility, and

**WHEREAS**, upcoming updates to Transportation 2040 and Vision 2040 for the Central Puget Sound Region create opportunities to integrate the latest information on climate impacts and vulnerabilities into regional transportation, growth, and economic development plans.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** we the undersigned pledge to join as partners in forming the **Puget Sound Regional Climate Preparedness Collaborative** and to work together to pursue the following shared actions:

1. **Capacity Building:** Build shared understanding of regional climate impacts in Central Puget Sound and best practices for climate preparedness through information sharing, joint workshops and training, and periodic meetings.
2. **Community Engagement:** Collaborate with communities in our efforts to better understand how climate change will impact public health, safety, and economic opportunities for diverse communities across Central Puget Sound, with an emphasis on understanding how climate change can worsen existing disparities in health outcomes, economic opportunity, and environmental impacts.
3. **Communications:** Develop and communicate consistent, reliable, and easily accessible information on climate impacts and risks in Central Puget Sound informed by current science and reflecting the concerns and priorities of impacted communities.
4. **Coordinated Research:** Identify and pursue opportunities for joint research and assessment of climate impacts that can be accomplished more efficiently and effectively through coordinated efforts.
5. **Funding and Resources:** Jointly pursue grant, foundation, and other funding to support our efforts to strengthen understanding of climate impacts and climate preparedness across the Central Puget Sound Region.
6. **Planning:** Seek and consider information on climate impacts and risks to public health and safety, critical infrastructure, economy, treaty trust resources, and our natural environment as part of regional planning efforts like Transportation 2040 and Vision 2040, and make recommendations to strengthen climate preparedness and community resiliency in local, regional, state, tribal and federal policies and plans.

To accomplish our objectives, and subject to available resources, staff from the signing entities will meet quarterly to develop and implement a work program that supports and advances our collaboration in the areas outlined in this pledge. The undersigned partners will convene annually to review current information on climate impacts and best practices, review progress on collaborative efforts, and develop recommendations for joint action for the following year.