

## CENTRAL COUNCIL Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska

Office of the President • Edward K. Thomas Building 9097 Glacier Highway • Juneau, Alaska 99801

## Executive Council of the Central Council TLINGIT & HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA

## Resolution EC 24-138

Title: Authorization to Apply for Funding from the U.S.-British Columbia Transboundary Watershed Grant Program

WHEREAS, the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida) is a federally recognized tribe with more than 37,000 citizens; and

WHEREAS, under Article X of the Tlingit & Haida Constitution, the Executive Council is the governing body of Tlingit & Haida when the Tribal Assembly is not in session; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Assembly is not in session; and

WHEREAS, Tlingit & Haida is committed to protecting our ways of life and building capacity to manage our traditional lands and waters, as well as Alaska's biodiversity, through public policy advocacy and Indigenous-led stewardship efforts; and

WHEREAS, the shared Taku (T'aaku), Stikine (Shtax'héen), Unuk (Joonáx), and Salmon Rivers originate in the boreal forests of British Columbia (B.C.) before spilling out into Southeast Alaska; and

WHEREAS, these lands and waters provide incredible opportunities for large-scale, collaborative projects that can connect and restore the lands, waters, and wildlife that are the foundation of our cultural existence and economic welfare; and

WHEREAS, the conservation and restoration of our traditional lands and waters is crucial to maintaining our way of life and is an expression of our sovereignty; and

WHEREAS, Tlingit & Haida is developing a regional comprehensive transboundary watershed program that involves planning, coordination, report development, and monitoring activities in transboundary watersheds that originate in the Province of B.C.; and

WHEREAS, Tlingit & Haida seeks to serve as the lead convener of regional collaborative efforts to publish a, *State of Southeast Alaska – Northwest British Columbia Transboundary Watersheds Report*, that synthesizes information on past, current, and emerging stressors within these transboundary watersheds and this report will highlight the interconnectedness of the communities and habitats of this region that has been disrupted by the colonial border, while informing research and policy needs to improve the management of our shared salmon rivers; and

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WHEREAS, Tlingit & Haida intends to apply for up to \$600,000 in funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to implement a multi-year project that refines our regional comprehensive transboundary watershed program and such funding includes the full amount of Tlingit & Haida's federally approved indirect rate; and

WHEREAS, the funding would support hiring two positions, a (1) a Tribal Data Coordinator to support existing watershed monitoring efforts by Tlingit & Haida in collaboration with other federally recognized tribes and partners to accelerate transboundary research that will assess and report on human health and ecosystem health, and (2) a Tribal Transboundary Watersheds Coordinator to support existing research and governance efforts by Tlingit & Haida in partnership with other federally recognized tribes to participate in international policy discussions, and regulatory processes;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Executive Council of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska hereby authorizes the Tlingit & Haida President, or designee, to submit, negotiate, execute, and administer any and all documents, including any subsequent amendments, that are required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for granting funds to Tlingit & Haida.

ADOPTED this 11<sup>th</sup> day of December 2024, by the Executive Council of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, by a vote of 6 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstentions and 0 absences.

**CERTIFY** 

President Richard J. Peterson

**ATTEST** 

Tribal Secretary Vacqueline L. Pata