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TO: Environmental Staff and Project Teams

FROM: Paula Hammond, Secretary of Transportation, WSDOT
Dan Mathis, Washington Division Administrator, FHWA

SUBJECT: Endorsement of Model Process for Comprehensive Tribal Consultation during
Environmental Review

We are excited to announce that the WSDOT Model Comprehensive Tribal Consultation Process for the National Environmental Policy Act is currently available for your use!

This guidance itself is a product of a cooperative effort – led by WSDOT staff from Environmental Services and the Tribal Liaison Office; and, developed in consultation with the tribes, FHWA, the Attorney General's Office and the former Transportation Permit Efficiency and Accountability Committee. We appreciate the more than two years of work that went into creating this guidance and we thank everyone who participated in the consultation meetings and reviewed the draft document.

FHWA and WSDOT comply with a number of consultation laws and executive orders throughout the environmental review stage. Our goal was to design a comprehensive consultation process that incorporated these requirements into one process (rather than many) for a more thorough and holistic review. We also wanted the model to demystify the relationships among some of the more complex requirements (wherever possible!). While we believe we have created a consistent consultation process, we recognize that each tribe and project is unique and that some flexibility is essential. Thus, this model includes the minimum recommended consultation activities for each type of project under NEPA review (CE, EA, EIS). It also includes answers to over 50 frequently asked questions and 12 key implementation tools including template letters, consultation plans and sample agreements.

The model is available on WSDOT's Environmental Services Office webpage:
<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/environment/tribal> Hard copies are also available: Call (360) 705-7491.

We encourage you to begin using this model process. Environmental Services and the Tribal Liaison Office will deliver informational training in each region this spring. If you have questions about the model, please contact Megan Beeby at (360) 705-7494, or Carol Lee Roalkvam (360) 705-7126. If you have general questions, please contact Colleen Jollie (360) 705-7025.