

RESOLUTION NO. 743

***WHEREAS**, the Wishkah River runs from the Olympic foothills southward into Grays Harbor at the town of Aberdeen, noting the origin of “Wishkah” is said to be “hwish-kahl” which is a Chehalis language word; and*

***WHEREAS**, the Wishkah River serves as a valuable habitat for shellfish, birds, and fish, and as an estuarine wetland, has brackish swamps and long stretches of mud exposed at low tide; and*

***WHEREAS**, the Wishkah River has supported and anchored vibrant communities, and has been a vital link between forest and sea, from the earliest days of the Lower Chehalis people to the heyday of boomtown Aberdeen, and through all the ups and downs since; and*

***WHEREAS**, the native people of the Lower Chehalis lived in loosely related village groups, with early records of the north shore of Grays Harbor referring to a band of Wishkah, the river. A food source providing salmon and other fish; and*

***WHEREAS**, over time, the Wishkah River’s fertile banks and abundant salmon attracted many outsiders, and by 1885 fish-packing companies populated the north shore of Grays Harbor: and*

***WHEREAS**, the name Wishkah also has a connection to the city of Aberdeen who named its main street “Wishkah Street” which today is part of Highway 101. A private ferry across the Wishkah River connected the town with the canneries and mills east of the river, and before roads were built, the valley was served by the steamer “Wishkah Chief” which carried passengers and cargo upriver to outfit the farms and logging camps; and*

***WHEREAS**, the Wishkah River continues to thrive today as an estuary environment within the tidal surge plain, creating a biodiversity hot spot. This fact makes it a prime habitat for diverse insects, birds, and the salmon that migrate between the ocean and the forest, serving as a natural spawning habitat that support Chinook, Coho, and Chum salmon;*

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Washington State Transportation Commission respectfully names the state’s first hybrid-electric ferry, an Olympic Class 144-car vessel, the “Wishkah”.*

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Washington State Transportation Commission requests the Department of Transportation to implement this naming designation.*

ADOPTED this 14th of December 2021.

WASHINGTON STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

ROY JENNINGS, Chair

DEBBIE YOUNG, Vice-Chair

JERRY LITT, Member

HESTER SEREBRIN, Member

SHIV BATRA, Member

JAMES A. RESTUCCI, Member

KELLY FUKAI, Member

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

REEMA GRIFFITH, Executive Director

Assistant Attorney General