

State of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Region 4

Region 4 information: 16018 Mill Creek Blvd, Mill Creek, WA 98012 | phone: (425)-775-1311

September 23, 2024

Skagit County Planning and Development Services 1800 Continental Place Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Dear Zia Ahmed:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Goldeneye BESS project located in unincorporated Skagit County, WA, as proposed by Goldfinch Energy Storage, LLC. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is dedicated to preserving, protecting, and perpetuating the state's fish, wildlife, and ecosystems while providing sustainable fish and wildlife recreational and commercial opportunities. In recognition of our responsibilities, we submit the following comments for the Goldeneye BESS project. Other comments may be offered in the future.

Fish and Wildlife Resources and Recommendations:

 WDFW's Habitat Division, including regional Habitat Biologists and the area's Land Use Planner, requests an informational meeting with EFSEC project managers in order to provide constructive comments on the Goldeneye BESS project.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife provides our comments and recommendations in keeping with our legislative mandate to preserve, protect, and perpetuate fish and wildlife and their habitats - a mission we can only accomplish in partnership with local governments. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me or the local Habitat Biologist, Alexander Richard, at Alexander Richard @dfw.wa.gov.

Sincerely,



CHRISTIE CALDWELL *Habitat Biologist*

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife North Puget Sound - Region 4 Christie.Caldwell@dfw.wa.gov (564) 676-1383