



## RESOLUTION NO. 41941

1 A RESOLUTION relating to tree canopy; authorizing the execution of an  
2 interlocal agreement with the Washington State Department of Ecology,  
3 in the amount of \$1,750,000, and accepting and depositing  
4 said sum into the Stormwater Fund, to implement the South Tacoma  
5 Tree Canopy Enhancement Program, through December 31, 2028.

6 WHEREAS in November 2024, the Washington State Department of Ecology  
7 (“Ecology”) entered an \$8.95 million settlement with Bridge Point Tacoma to address  
8 air quality impacts in South Tacoma resulting from the new warehouse development,  
9 Bridge Point, and increasing tree canopy in the impacted neighborhood (Settlement  
10 Boundary) has been identified as one component of a larger project led by Ecology  
11 to reduce airborne particulate matter generated from the new truck traffic near the  
12 warehouse facility, and

13 WHEREAS this Interlocal Agreement (“Agreement”) between Ecology and the  
14 City Urban Forestry Program establishes the South Tacoma Tree Canopy  
15 Enhancement Program (“Program”), implementing an urban tree canopy expansion  
16 effort within the Settlement Boundary, and

17 WHEREAS the Program will be conducted through three primary tasks:

18 (1) Conduct a comprehensive Potential Tree Planting Inventory and  
19 Analysis to identify planting opportunities in the Settlement Boundary;

20 (2) Implement a Green Blocks community tree planting program, offering  
21 free street trees and private property trees to residents within the settlement  
22 boundary, as informed by the Potential Tree Planting Inventory; and  
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24 (3) Capital improvements on South Union Avenue (the primary truck  
25 corridor) to remove asphalt and establish trees in a newly constructed median within  
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1 South Union Avenue, remove compacted gravel and establish new street trees  
2 within the planting strips on both sides of South Union Avenue, and convert an  
3 existing parking lot into a vegetated community open space, and  
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5 WHEREAS the City has previously conducted similar work throughout the  
6 city and currently has vendors under contract who can provide services within the  
7 Agreement scope of work, and this Agreement provides Ecology the mechanism to  
8 commit a portion of the settlement funds to cover these costs, and  
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10 WHEREAS the partnership between Ecology and the City outlined under this  
11 Agreement will help Ecology meet its legal obligations of the Settlement Agreement,  
12 while leveraging the City's expertise, resources, and community connections to  
13 better serve our community, and  
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15 WHEREAS the impacts of this Program will be felt the greatest by the  
16 residents within the Settlement Area, along the primary truck traffic route where  
17 emissions particulates are most concentrated, and where significant tree planting  
18 will take place as a measure to mitigate for these impacts, and  
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20 WHEREAS there have been many community engagement efforts within the  
21 South Tacoma neighborhood to codevelop a vision for the neighborhood's growth  
22 and development, and during many of these engagements, the community self-  
23 identified the need for green infrastructure and tree planting as a strategy to  
24 mitigate environmental health concerns, and suggested tree planting strategies to  
25 achieve these goals, and  
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WHEREAS some notable engagements include: (1) Tacoma Mall Neighborhood Subarea Plan; (2) Tacoma Mall Greening Project; (3) Greening Research in Tacoma; (4) South Tacoma Neighborhood Plan; and (5) Department of Ecology Community Survey, and

WHEREAS the South Tacoma neighborhood community was identified as overburdened and highly impacted by air pollution because it met the statewide screening criteria based on the Washington Environmental Health Disparities map ranking and the EJScreen demographic index, and also experiences elevated levels of short-term exposure to fine particulate matter (“PM2.5”) and cumulative criteria air pollution driven by PM2.5, ozone and nitrogen dioxide, and

WHEREAS South Tacoma’s poverty rate is 18 percent higher than Washington’s 11 percent poverty rate, South Tacoma residents tend to live six years less than Pierce County residents, and South Tacoma’s adult obesity rate is 29 percent, and

WHEREAS decades of research have correlated access to nature, community green space, and tree canopy to reductions in air pollution and urban heat island effects, obesity rates, and stress levels, while improving cognitive and behavioral health and mental wellbeing. Increasing access to urban tree canopy through this Program will have long-term positive health consequences on the South Tacoma neighborhood community; Now, Therefore,



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BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TACOMA:

That the proper officers of the City are hereby authorized to enter into an interlocal agreement with the Washington State Department of Ecology, in the amount of \$1,750,000, and accepting and depositing said sum into the Stormwater Fund, for the South Tacoma Tree Canopy Enhancement Program, through December 31, 2028, as more specifically set forth in the document on file in the office of the City Clerk.

Adopted \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Approved as to form:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy City Attorney