



RESOLUTION NO. 40761

1 A RESOLUTION relating to the Puyallup River Watershed and the
2 Chambers-Clover Creek Watershed; authorizing the appropriate City
3 officials to approve the Washington State Department of Ecology
4 Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Plans for the Puyallup River
5 Watershed and the Chambers-Clover Creek Watershed.

6 WHEREAS, in January 2018, the Washington State Legislature passed
7 the Streamflow Restoration Law, Chapter 90.94 RCW, which helps restore
8 streamflows to levels necessary to support robust, healthy, and sustainable
9 salmon populations while providing water for homes in rural Washington, and

10 WHEREAS the 2018 Streamflow Restoration Law (“Restoration Law”) was
11 passed in response to a 2016 Washington State Supreme Court decision that
12 limited a landowner’s ability to get a building permit for a new home when the
13 proposed source of water was a permit-exempt (“PE”) well, and

14 WHEREAS the Restoration Law clarifies how counties issue building
15 permits for homes that use a PE well for a water source, and directs the
16 Washington State Department of Ecology (“Ecology”) to lead local planning
17 committees to develop Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Plans (“Plans”)
18 to identify projects to offset potential consumptive impacts of new PE domestic
19 groundwater withdrawals on instream flows over the next 20 years (2018–2038),
20 and will provide a net ecological benefit to the watershed, and

21 WHEREAS Ecology established the Watershed Restoration and
22 Enhancement Committee (“Committee”) to collaborate with tribes, counties,
23 cities, state agencies, and special interest groups in the Puyallup River
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1 Watershed, also known as the Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA 10), and
2 Chambers-Clover Watershed (WRIA 12), and

3 WHEREAS the Committee met for over two years to develop Plans which
4 are specific to withdrawals from PE wells and offsets for these withdrawals, and

5 WHEREAS City staff has been present throughout the Committee
6 processes and has commented on the Plans throughout the development
7 process, and

8 WHEREAS the Plans include several policy recommendations and an
9 adaptive management process, and

10 WHEREAS the policy recommendations contain actions to track PE wells
11 and increase water conservation, and the adaptive management process
12 includes a mechanism for tracking new PE wells and project implementation,
13 periodic reporting on project status, and recommendations for a response if
14 project implementation lags new PE well connections, and

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17 WHEREAS these measures, in addition to the surplus water offset and
18 supplemental habitat improvement projects, provide reasonable assurance that
19 the plans will adequately offset new consumptive use from PE wells anticipated
20 during the planning horizon, and

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22 WHEREAS the Plans do not affect Tacoma Water or its water supply, as
23 Tacoma Water has a separate process for analysis of its water supply and
24 service area, and

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WHEREAS the WRIA 12 Plan includes the City-sponsored “South Tacoma Channel Infiltration Feasibility Study” project in its project list, and

WHEREAS the Streamflow Restoration Act of 2018 included a Streamflow Restoration Grant program; the City applied for and was awarded a \$387,000 Streamflow Restoration Grant from Ecology to conduct the South Tacoma Channel Infiltration Feasibility Study, and the City’s approval of the Plans does not affect the award of this funding, and

WHEREAS the Plans have been reviewed by Environmental Services and Tacoma Water, with no objections, and

WHEREAS the Plans provide only recommendations; the City is not required to act on any recommendation, and Plan approval will only mean that the City agrees with the Plan and its conclusions and recommendations, and

WHEREAS Environmental Services staff is recommending approval of the Puyallup River Watershed (WRIA 10), and Chambers-Clover Creek Watershed (WRIA 12) Restoration and Enhancement Plans; Now, Therefore,

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

That the appropriate City officials are hereby authorized to approve on behalf of the City of Tacoma the Washington State Department of Ecology Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Plans for the Puyallup River



1 Watershed and the Chambers-Clover Creek Watershed, said plans to be
2 substantially in the form of the documents on file in the office of the City Clerk.

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4 Adopted _____

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Mayor

7 Attest:

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City Clerk

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11 Approved as to form:

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Chief Deputy City Attorney

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