



TO: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
FROM: Geoffrey M. Smyth, P.E., E.S. Science & Engineering Division Manager
Michael P. Slevin III, P.E., Environmental Services Director
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Resolution for an Interagency Agreement with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources – October 8, 2013
DATE: September 16, 2013

SUMMARY:

Authorize the execution of an interagency agreement with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in the amount of \$10,000, accepting and depositing said sum for a 2013 Tree Planting grant. This interagency agreement requires approval by City Council per RCW 39.34. While the funds must be expended by December 31, 2013, staff recommends the Council approve and execute the interagency agreement to further support Tacoma's urban forestry goals.

BACKGROUND:

This is the third agreement with the DNR for urban forestry grants in the last three years. This grant will help offset the material costs of tree planting projects around the City, including projects such as Hilltop Diversitree where private funds are being leveraged to enhance a tree planting project in the Hilltop Business District. Funds will be used to purchase a wide array of tree types, species, and ages in order to support diversifying the City's urban forest and growing the canopy cover from 19 percent in 2009 to 30 percent by 2030, as supported by the Urban Forest Policy Element in the Comprehensive Plan.

Previous interagency agreements with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources include:

- Resolution No. 38078, adopted July 27, 2010 - Assistance with municipal code review and stakeholder meeting facilitation; and
- Resolution No. 38113, adopted September 28, 2010 - Inventory and Strategic Urban Forest Management Plan for Tacoma's neighborhood business districts.

ISSUE:

Funding for tree planting and establishment is limited. The ability to offset material costs of trees with a grant enables the City to reallocate funds for tree planting and establishment instead.

ALTERNATIVES:

Tree material costs may be paid for entirely by the City of Tacoma, as has been done previously. If the interagency agreement is not implemented, the City of Tacoma will be responsible for all the tree costs in its 2013 tree planting projects and will plant and establish fewer trees in the 2013 planting season. There are no regulatory requirements or other potential costs associated with the interagency agreement.



RECOMMENDATION:

Staff is recommending the execution of an interagency agreement with the DNR which will allow the City to leverage funds to plant and establish more trees, and in some cases, larger trees, in support of the City's 30 percent by 2030 canopy cover goal. The grant funds must be expended by December 31, 2013, and the City has many tree planting projects planned and can expend these funds in the allotted time, if desired.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Funds are budgeted within the Surface Water Utility Fund for the Urban Forestry program.

EXPENDITURES:

FUND NUMBER & FUND NAME *	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
4301 – Surface Water Utility	ENV-03013-05	5210500	\$10,000
TOTAL			\$10,000

* General Fund: Include Department

REVENUES:

FUNDING SOURCE	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
Washington State Department of Natural Resources	ENV-03013-FS-AD-07	6232300	\$10,000
TOTAL			\$10,000

FISCAL IMPACT TO CURRENT BIENNIAL BUDGET: \$10,000

ARE THE EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES PLANNED AND BUDGETED? Yes

IF EXPENSE IS NOT BUDGETED, PLEASE EXPLAIN HOW THEY ARE TO BE COVERED.