



RESOLUTION NO. U-11279

1 A RESOLUTION related to Tacoma Water; for ratification of the 2021 Update to
2 the Salmon Habitat Plan, "Making Our Watershed Fit for a King," for the
3 Green/Duwamish and Central Puget Sound Watershed, Water Resource
4 Inventory Area (WRIA) 9.

5 WHEREAS, the 2021 Update to the Green/Duwamish and Central
6 Puget Sound Watershed, Water Resource Inventory Area ("WRIA 9") Salmon
7 Habitat Plan ("WRIA 9 Plan") is an addendum to the 2005 WRIA 9 Salmon
8 Habitat Plan, and includes new science, revised habitat goals and recovery
9 strategies, an updated capital project list, and a monitoring and adaptive
10 management plan, and

11 WHEREAS, the City of Tacoma and 16 other local governments are
12 members to an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) (2001-2006, 2007-2015, 2016-
13 2025) to jointly fund development and implementation of the WRIA 9 Plan to
14 address shared interest in and responsibility for long-term watershed planning
15 and salmon recovery in the Green/Duwamish and Central Puget Sound
16 Watershed, and

17 WHEREAS, collaboration and implementation of the ILA occurs through
18 the WRIA 9 Ecosystem Forum (WEF) which oversees efforts to improve
19 watershed health and salmon habitat recovery. Membership includes
20 representatives of the 17 local governments that are parties to the WRIA 9
21 Interlocal Agreement, and representatives of federal and state agencies, non-
22 profits, and business interests, and
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1 WHEREAS Department of Public Utilities, Water Division (d.b.a.
2 "Tacoma Water"), represents the City on the WRIA 9 Ecosystem Forum and
3 shares operating costs with other members of the Forum, and
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5 WHEREAS the WRIA 9 Salmon Habitat Plan was updated in February
6 2021, is titled "Making Our Watershed Fit for a King", and provides the latest
7 science to inform local government and prioritize projects/policies by the 17
8 members, and
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10 WHEREAS, in March 1999, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
11 Administration (NOAA) Fisheries listed the Puget Sound Chinook salmon
12 evolutionary significant unit, including the Green River Chinook salmon
13 population, as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act
14 (ESA), and
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16 WHEREAS, local jurisdictions have authority over some habitat-based
17 aspects of Chinook survival through land use and other policies and programs;
18 and the state and tribes, who are the legal co-managers of the fishery
19 resource, are responsible for addressing harvest and hatchery management,
20 and
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22 WHEREAS, the WRIA 9 partners recognize participating in the ILA and
23 implementing priorities in the WRIA 9 Plan demonstrates their commitment to
24 proactively working to address the ESA listing of Chinook salmon, and
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26 WHEREAS, coordination and cooperation among federal, state, and
local agencies, tribes, businesses, non-governmental organizations,



1 landowners, community members, and other interests are essential to
2 implement and adaptively manage a salmon recovery plan, and

3 WHEREAS, the Puget Sound Partnership serves as the Puget Sound
4 regional organization and lead agency for planning and implementing the
5 Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan, approved by NOAA Fisheries, and

6 WHEREAS, the WRIA 9 Plan is one of fifteen watershed-based
7 chapters of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan, and

8 WHEREAS, Tacoma supports cooperation at the WRIA level to set
9 common priorities for actions among partners, efficient use of resources and
10 investments, and distribution of responsibility for actions and expenditures,
11 and
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13 WHEREAS, salmon recovery is interrelated with flood risk reduction,
14 water quality improvement, open-space protection, recreation, economic
15 development, and tribal treaty rights, and
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17 WHEREAS, Tacoma has a strong interest to achieve multiple benefit
18 outcomes for people and fish across the watershed, and
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20 WHEREAS, the WRIA 9 Plan recognizes that salmon recovery is a
21 long-term effort, and focuses on a 10-year implementation time horizon to
22 allow for evaluation of progress and adaptation of goals and implementation
23 strategies, and
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1 WHEREAS the WRIA 9 Ecosystem Forum endeavors to work through
2 consensus and is now seeking ratification of the February 2021 WRIA 9
3 Salmon Habitat Plan update by all ILA members, and
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5 WHEREAS Tacoma Water seeks support for the protection and
6 restoration of salmon habitat through the implementation of a collaborative
7 effort through the Salmon Habitat Plan update, and
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9 WHEREAS the Salmon Habitat Plan of February 2021 provides a
10 science-based framework for identifying, prioritizing and implementing salmon
11 recovery actions through the WRIA 9 Ecosystem Forum for the next ten years,
12 and
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14 WHEREAS the Public Utility Board and the City Council approved the
15 ILA and the initial version of the Salmon Habitat Plan, and
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17 WHEREAS representation on the Forum for the City of Tacoma is by
18 the Water Superintendent or designee, and
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20 WHEREAS Tacoma Water requests that the Board ratify the WRIA 9
21 Salmon Habitat Plan Update, "Making Our Watershed Fit for a King" dated
22 February 2021, and recommends the City Council concur in such approval,
23 and
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25 Ratification is intended to convey support for the following:

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1. Protecting and restoring habitat based on best available science with the intent to achieve sustainable, resilient, and harvestable populations of naturally spawning Chinook salmon.

