



TO: Elizabeth A. Pauli, City Manager *ELP TW*
FROM: Michael P. Slevin III, P.E., Director, Environmental Services *GMS MPS*
COPY: Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee
SUBJECT: Wastewater Comprehensive Plan and Watershed Management Plan
Informational Memorandum
DATE: August 6, 2021

PRESENTATION TYPE:
Informational Memorandum

SUMMARY:

The Environmental Services Department is beginning a multi-year process of developing Tacoma’s Wastewater Comprehensive Sewer Plan and a new Tacoma Urban Watershed Management Plan. These Plans will guide future decision-making for the Wastewater and Surface Water Utilities.

The intent of this memo is to inform the Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability (IPS) Committee that Environmental Services is beginning the process of developing these Plans. As the development of these Plans progress, staff will provide informational and policy guidance presentations to the IPS Committee.

BACKGROUND:

The Wastewater and Surface Water utilities face the challenge of meeting the needs of future growth, protecting water quality and ecosystem functions and adapting to climate change while maintaining resilient infrastructure at affordable rates for our community.

To meet these challenges, the utilities are beginning the process of developing long-range plans and tools to help guide decision-making related to future investments by the utilities.

The development of these Plans will include input and guidance from interdepartmental staff, partner organizations and community members. There will be an emphasis on community engagement to ensure all community members have an opportunity to provide input into the Plans.

The intended outcome of the Plans include:

- Strategically prioritized wastewater and stormwater investments
- Improve water quality and ecosystem functions
- Plan for population growth
- Improve infrastructure sustainability and resiliency
- Ensure equity and inclusion in our decision-making processes
- Ensure affordable rates

The Plans are projected to be complete in 2023.

A Stormwater Comprehensive Plan will be developed starting in 2022, building on the recommendations from the new Urban Watershed Management Plan. The Stormwater Comprehensive Plan is projected to be completed in 2024.



ISSUE:

In order to meet the needs of the future we need to begin planning today. Both the Wastewater Comprehensive Plan and the new Urban Watershed Management Plan will guide the Environmental Services Department's actions to support healthy neighborhoods and a thriving Puget Sound, leaving a better Tacoma for all.

ALTERNATIVES:

This is for information only. There are no alternatives presented.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This is for information only. There is no fiscal impact.

The development of the Plans will include support from consultants, which will be funded by rate-based revenue. In addition, a grant from the Department of Ecology in the amount of \$340,370 with matching funds of \$113,457 will be utilized for development of a watershed prioritization tool to support the Urban Watershed Management Plan.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is for information only. There is no recommendation