



TO: Elizabeth A. Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Daniel C. Thompson, Ph.D., Division Manager, Business Operations, Environmental Services
Michael P. Slevin III, P.E., Director, Environmental Services
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Request for Resolution: Interlocal Agreement with the University of Washington Puget Sound Institute- October 6, 2020
DATE: September 14, 2020

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:

A resolution authorizing the execution of an interlocal agreement with the University of Washington (UWT) Puget Sound Institute, in the amount of \$396,005, budgeted from the ES Wastewater Fund 4300, to establish a modelling center and sustainable program of work at the UWT Puget Sound Institute to addresses regional modelling needs, stakeholder engagement, and model applications through May 30, 2022.

BACKGROUND:

This Department's Recommendation is Based On: Nutrient dynamics in the Puget Sound may be playing a part in lower dissolved oxygen levels in parts of the Sound. There is a need to understand these nutrient dynamics in order to develop strategies that best protect and enhance the health of the Puget Sound. The Puget Sound Institute is uniquely qualified to investigate nutrient dynamics and model scenarios that will provide insights into effects of various sources of nutrients on dissolved oxygen levels in Puget Sound. Expertise currently exists at Puget Sound Institute to run and refine the Salish Sea model.

The overall objective of this agreement is to establish a modelling center and sustainable program of work at the Puget Sound Institute, Center for Urban Waters that addresses regional modelling needs on access, stakeholder engagement, and model applications.

This Agreement will enable the City, participating agencies, government and non-government stakeholders and collaborators to have increased model access; to support confidence in model results and capacity to undertake runs of interest in a timely fashion.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ CUSTOMER RESEARCH:

This agreement will facilitate the development of effective strategies for protecting the Puget Sound. It will inform discharge permits, stormwater mitigation strategies and other efforts that manage nutrient inputs to the Sound. The information generated by the Institute will impact everyone that has a connection to the Puget Sound. Staff have worked extensively with neighboring jurisdictions, wholesale wastewater customers, the Association of Washington Cities, and the business community.



2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Equity and Accessibility: (Mandatory)

Environmental Services seeks City Council approval to establish a modelling center and sustainable program of work related to nutrient dynamics in the Puget Sound. This legislation will benefit the City of Tacoma as a whole along with neighboring municipalities by providing the data necessary to most efficiently protect Puget Sound thereby keeping wastewater rates as low as possible.

Economy/Workforce: *Equity Index Score: Very Low Opportunity*
Increase positive public perception related to the Tacoma economy.

Education: *Equity Index Score: Very Low Opportunity*
No indicators.

Civic Engagement: *Equity Index Score: Very Low Opportunity*
No indicators.

Livability: *Equity Index Score: Moderate Opportunity*
Increase positive public perception of safety and overall quality of life.
How does your policy, program, or service help or harm the health of the natural environment?² (e.g. reduction in carbon emissions, open space conditions, sustainability, clean air, water and soil, and noise and light pollution).

Explain how your legislation will affect the selected indicator(s).

Establishing the modeling center will provide critical data needed to develop strategies to effectively and efficiently protect Puget Sound. Puget Sound is a signature resource of the City of Tacoma and a healthy sound greatly improves the livability of the City of Tacoma.

ALTERNATIVES:

Alternative(s)	Positive Impact(s)	Negative Impact(s)
Do not enter into an agreement with PSI to establish a Salish Sea modeling center.	Other entities may step forward to support this important task saving the City some expense.	The modeling center does not get funded and important data required for the protection of Puget Sound is not collected.

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP:

A phased approach is proposed in year 1 and 2 with benchmarks, outputs, and goals outlined in the agreement.

STAFF/SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:

Environmental Services recommends authorizing the execution of an interlocal agreement with the University of Washington Puget Sound to establish a modelling center and sustainable program of work at the UWT Puget Sound Institute, Center for Urban Waters that addresses regional modelling needs, stakeholder engagement, and model applications.



FISCAL IMPACT:

This interlocal agreement is budgeted in the amount of \$396,005.00, to understand nutrient dynamics in order to develop strategies that best protect and enhance the health of the Puget Sound. Several utilities across the Puget Sound have expressed interest in this project. An interlocal agreement will allow other utilities to participate and in turn reimburse the City of Tacoma for the initial expenditure to establish the Salish Sea Modeling Center.

Fund Number & Name	COST (CC/WBS/ORDER)	OBJECT	Cost Element	Total Amount
1.Wastewater Fund 4300	523430		5310100	\$396,005.00
TOTAL				\$396,005.00

What Funding is being used to support the expense?

The expenses associated with this project are supported by rates collected in Wastewater Fund 4300.

Are the expenditures and revenues planned and budgeted in this biennium’s current budget?

YES

Are there financial costs or other impacts of not implementing the legislation?

YES

Will the legislation have an ongoing/recurring fiscal impact?

No

Will the legislation change the City’s FTE/personnel counts?

No

ATTACHMENTS:

- Draft Interlocal Agreement with PSI