



TO: Hyun Kim, City Manager
FROM: Keri Burchard-Juarez, Tacoma Water Superintendent
Jackie Flowers, Director of Tacoma Public Utilities
COPY: Tacoma City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Request Approval of Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between the City of Tacoma and King County – Water Resource Inventory Area 9 (WRIA 9) [August 5, 2025]
DATE: July 7, 2025

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:

Tacoma Water is looking for Public Utility Board and City Council approval to renew an interlocal cooperation agreement between multiple county and city governments and other interested public agencies and tribes within the geographic planning area of the Water Resource Inventory Area 9 (WRIA 9) (collectively, the “WRIA 9 Agreement”). The WRIA 9 Agreement supports long-term watershed planning for the Green River, Duwamish River and Central Puget Sound Watersheds. The proposed WRIA 9 Agreement obligates Tacoma Water to provide \$26,514 annually to support the long-term watershed-based planning during the period of 2026-2035.

BACKGROUND:

This Department’s Recommendation is Based On:

WRIA 9 serves as a lead entity for salmon recovery under the State of Washington’s watershed-based framework for salmon recovery established under RCW 77.85. It is a watershed-based organization comprised of local, state and federal partners, non-profit organizations, business interests, and citizens. WRIA 9 is mandated to create a list of habitat projects, establish priorities for individual projects, define the sequence for project implementation, and submit these activities as the habitat project list. The committee also identifies potential federal, state, local, and private funding sources.

This is the 3rd interlocal cooperation agreement between multiple counties and cities of King and Pierce Counties and other interested public agencies and tribes and marks 25 years of advancing salmon recovery efforts in the watersheds of Green River, Duwamish River, and Central Puget Sound.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ CUSTOMER RESEARCH:
Community Engagement

The residents of the City of Tacoma benefit from salmon recovery efforts in the Green/Duwamish & Central Puget Sound. The planning process by design brings diverse perspectives to the table to develop a watershed plan and identify projects and actions to offset impacts and provide a net ecological benefit to the Duwamish-Green watershed.

2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:
Equity and Accessibility:

Salmon recovery efforts within the Green/Duwamish and Central Puget Sound watershed overlap with numerous communities experiencing deeply entrenched social, economic, and environmental inequities. Race and place influence opportunity and quality of life. People of color, immigrants, and low-income residents experience inequities in access to key determinants of equity – including access to parks and natural resources. WRIA 9 committee applies an equity and social justice lens to habitat projects to help ensure salmon recovery efforts align with these initiatives and do not inadvertently reinforce existing inequities. Integrating residents and community-based organizations into project design can help build community support and achieve multi-benefit outcomes that advance equity in the watershed.

Explain how your legislation will affect the selected indicator(s).
Tacoma Water’s mission is to provide clean and reliable drinking water as well as provide natural resource stewardship. Being engaged in the WRIA 9 process helps us accomplish our mission.

ALTERNATIVES:

Alternative(s)	Positive Impact(s)	Negative Impact(s)
1. Don’t participate in the WRIA 9 Watershed Planning Process		This would be a missed opportunity to provide valuable input into the salmon recovery efforts process for the Green-Duwamish watershed.
2.		
3.		

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP:

WRIA 9 staff conduct an annual “client satisfaction survey” of all WRIA 9 participating entities to collect partner feedback on the salmon recovery services provided by the team under the ILA contract. Results of the survey can be made available upon request.



STAFF/SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the proposed interlocal cooperation agreement between the City of Tacoma and King County.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Fund Number & Name	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	Cost Element	Total Amount
1. 4600 Tacoma Water Fund	581000	5412030	\$265,140
2.			
TOTAL			\$265,140

What Funding is being used to support the expense?

N/A

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:

- WRIA 9 Agreement
- Exhibit A – 2025 WRIA Based Cost Share: WRIA9