



TO: Elizabeth A. Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Michael P. Slevin III, P.E., Director, Environmental Services
Geoffrey M. Smyth, P.E., Division Manager, Science & Engineering
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Interagency Agreement with Washington State Department of Ecology for maintenance and restoration of the City's habitat restoration sites and passive open spaces – August 21, 2018
DATE: July 30, 2018

M.P.S.

SUMMARY:

A resolution authorizing the execution of an interagency agreement with the Washington State Department of Ecology in the amount not to exceed \$482,650, budgeted from the ES Surface Water Fund 4301, to assist in the maintenance and restoration of the City's habitat restoration sites and passive open spaces, for a one-year period between October 1, 2018, and September 8, 2019.

STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:

- Assure outstanding stewardship of the natural and built environment.

City participation in the Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) program provides knowledgeable and skilled crews to restore and maintain passive open space year-round. Proper stewardship of Tacoma's passive open spaces requires a routine presence for invasive species control, debris removal, and native plant maintenance.

BACKGROUND:

The Environmental Services (ES) Department has begun restoration and stewardship activities on City-owned passive open space properties to retain and increase surface water benefits. Invasive vegetation currently threatens the ecosystem health of our open spaces and needs to be removed and those areas replanted with native species. Examples of major passive open space restoration efforts include the creation and implementation of the Schuster Slope, Mason Gulch, and Salmon Beach Slope landscape management plans. In addition, ES continues to fulfill obligations under the Foss Waterway and the Commencement Bay Natural Resources Damage Assessment Consent Decrees.

The WCC program is an AmeriCorps program administered by Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) that provides young adults (age 18-25) with job and life skills in addition to an educational stipend (\$5,815) at program completion.

ISSUE:

The City of Tacoma has sponsored a WCC crew for over fifteen years, which has allowed the City to provide environmental maintenance and improvements in a cost effective manner. Crewmembers perform activities such as removal of debris and invasive plants, as well as assist in habitat monitoring, restoration, and maintaining the Urban Forestry plant holding facility.

Ecology has allotted two crews to ES, with an optional third crew for up to 16 weeks based on availability, for the 2018-2019 crew year. The cost for each crew is \$202,125 per year (2018-2019 rates) with the option to sponsor a third crew for up to 16 weeks, totaling \$482,650 for one year.



ALTERNATIVES:

Alternatives to approving the agreement include awarding the contract to another labor option (EarthCorps, etc.) at a much greater cost to the City or not approving the agreement at all. These options would not allow ES to maintain passive open spaces or City constructed restoration sites at the frequency or pace that is needed and committed to and the level of service to the Urban Forestry plant holding facility would also decline.

RECOMMENDATION:

A resolution authorizing the execution of an interagency agreement with the Washington State Department of Ecology in the amount not to exceed \$482,650, budgeted from the ES Surface Water Fund 4301, to assist in the maintenance and restoration of the City’s habitat restoration sites and passive open spaces, for a one-year period between October 1, 2018, and September 8, 2019.

FISCAL IMPACT:

EXPENDITURES:

FUND NUMBER & FUND NAME *	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
4301 Surface Water Fund	521700	5310100	\$482,650
TOTAL			\$482,650

* General Fund: Include Department

REVENUES:

FUNDING SOURCE	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
4301 Surface Water Fund	521900	Rate Revenues	\$482,650
TOTAL			\$482,650

FISCAL IMPACT TO CURRENT BIENNIAL BUDGET: \$482,650

ARE THE EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES PLANNED AND BUDGETED? Yes