



TO: Elizabeth A. Pauli, City Manager
FROM: James G. Parvey, P.E., Environmental Policy and Sustainability Division Manager
Michael P. Slevin III, P.E., Director, Environmental Services Department
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Resolution – Interlocal Agreement with City of Seattle, Office of Emergency Management for Resilience Hub Project Management and Community Engagement – June 20, 2023
DATE: June 6, 2023

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:

A resolution authorizing the execution of an Interlocal Agreement with the City of Seattle – Office of Emergency Management (OEM), in the amount of \$100,000, budgeted from the General Funds, to merge funding for the purposes of establishing Community Resilience Hubs, a priority identified in the Tacoma Climate Action Plan. Seattle OEM has received FEMA funds for a Regional Resilience Hub/Regional Catastrophic Preparedness project with similar strategies and goals.

BACKGROUND:

This Department’s Recommendation is Based On: Community Resilience Hubs represent an efficient and effective way to strengthen communities before, during, and after emergencies like earthquakes, extreme heat events, wildfire smoke events, water main breaks, or gas outages while also improving year-round conditions and providing community benefits. These hubs use a physical space - a building and its surrounding infrastructure - to meet numerous goals, both physical and social. Resilience hubs are an opportunity to improve emergency management, address climate change impacts and enhance community resilience. Hubs can be owned and managed by public, private, and nonprofit entities. These spaces also provide a safe community space that can be used year-round and opportunities for communities to become more self-determining, socially connecting, and successful in the long-term.

The partnership between the City of Tacoma and the City of Seattle-OEM is a multi-faceted and comprehensive effort that will help build a better, more resilient community and provide dedicated project management and outreach efforts for the City of Tacoma in coordination with a regional strategy. City of Seattle staff and consultants will lead existing and potential site assessment and prioritization with direct community input. Other Pierce County partners are already engaged in this regional FEMA-funded project, including Pierce County Emergency Management, Pierce County Sustainability Office, and Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department.

The project will focus on strengthening the community’s ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters and other significant events. This includes developing a comprehensive plan to assess risk and vulnerabilities, identify resources, and develop strategies to reduce risks and improve overall community resilience. The project will also collaborate with regional Puget Sound jurisdictions to create a shared understanding of the risks and vulnerabilities faced by each jurisdiction, as well as opportunities for collaboration to increase the resilience of all communities in the region. Additionally, the program will provide educational resources and training to help individuals, families, businesses, and organizations understand their roles in supporting and strengthening community resilience. The Resilience Hub project will support these efforts by providing a consistent platform for coordination, communication, and collaboration between the City of Tacoma, the City of Seattle, and other regional



Puget Sound jurisdictions. Community engagement will be a key driver in prioritizing Hub locations, with targeted representation in underserved neighborhoods.

This one-time general fund allocation from the City of Tacoma will benefit our community's Resilience Hub assessment and planning, support our Climate Action Plan with tangible actions, and contribute to the regional baseline work addressing climate change impacts.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ CUSTOMER RESEARCH:

Tacoma community-based organizations (CBOs) will be subcontracted for true grassroots engagement. CBOs will conduct pre-workshop neighborhood outreach, such as: conducting neighborhood surveys, attending community meetings/gathering places, facilitating neighborhood and population-focused listening sessions, and/or meeting with community leaders. This project will engage Tacoma residents in priority census tracts through community workshops to: 1) Identify potential resilience hub sites, including both government owned and community-owned spaces; 2) Assess site/space feasibility; 3) Identify community assets for response to small and large disasters, including extreme weather events; 4) Develop guidance and templates to assist Resilience Hubs and their staff/volunteers in achieving: resilient services and programming, resilient communications, building and landscape, resilient power systems, and resilient operations; 5) Cost-benefit analysis for future FEMA funding for specific building retrofits.

2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Equity and Accessibility:

While climate change will affect the health and safety of all Tacoma residents, these impacts will disproportionately affect some groups more than others. Increased exposure to wildfire smoke and extreme heat in the summer will exacerbate pre-existing health conditions for frontline communities and increase hospitalizations and death in these already overburdened populations. We recognize that the City of Tacoma does not have enough insight into the needs, expectations, and existing resources of vulnerable communities. In addition, almost all our current communication efforts are limited to community members proficient in English as their first language. In coordination with the City of Seattle-OEM, the City's Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability along with the Department of Emergency Management will coordinate community engagement efforts to get input on community needs, important resiliency hub criteria and ideas on existing capacity.

Economy/Workforce: *Equity Index Score: Low Opportunity*

Increase the number of infrastructure projects and improvements that support existing and new business developments.

Increase the availability of industry-specific education programs to support identified growth sectors.

Education: *Equity Index Score: Low Opportunity*

Increase digital access and equity across the city.

Increase the number of quality out of school time learning opportunities distributed equitably across the city.

Civic Engagement: *Equity Index Score: Low Opportunity*

Increase the percentage of residents who believe they are able to have a positive impact on the community and express trust in the public institutions in Tacoma.

Representation at public meetings will reflect the diversity of the Tacoma community



Livability: Equity Index Score: Low Opportunity

Improve access and proximity by residents to diverse income levels and race/ethnicity to community facilities, services, infrastructure, and employment.

Improve health outcomes and reduce disparities, in alignment with the community health needs assessment and CHIP, for all Tacoma residents

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

Currently, the only City-owned or managed facilities that are open as relief centers are two senior centers and libraries, all of which are only open for limited hours and serve the unhoused population. Other partner facilities share similar limitations. Identifying diverse, safe, comfortable, and convenient places to shelter and supporting those sites can provide emergency services to our most vulnerable residents is crucial. These services include air filtration in the case of wildfire smoke, air conditioning in the case of heat dome or air quality events, heat, electrical charging, and refrigeration of medicines in the case of power failures due to windstorms or earthquakes. Without these services, vulnerable Tacoma residents could suffer from medical emergencies and even death. These hubs can also provide other critical amenities during extreme events, such as, food, Wi-Fi and personal support (e.g., welfare checks). Community based organizations have shared that their members will look to trusted community institutions during extreme weather, natural disasters, etc.

ALTERNATIVES:

Alternative(s)	Positive Impact(s)	Negative Impact(s)
1. No ILA with City of Seattle – Office of Emergency Management, but contract out the work to a consultant and a contractor or hire additional staff.	N/A	Not an efficient or cost-effective option. Lack of coordination with regional efforts.

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP:

Deliverables from the City of Seattle-OEM and consultants will include a report providing details on Tacoma community outreach efforts and a Tacoma-specific section of the final report that includes: 1) a detailed summary of Tacoma related work (number of workshops; survey summaries, CBOs subcontracted, community input, etc.); 2) local resilience hub site/space list prioritized by location and criteria based on community input; 3) suggested implementation pathways for establishing resilience hubs in Tacoma; 4) training schedule and strategy for community partners; and 5) benefit-cost analysis for two to three site specific priority projects (to support future FEMA funding opportunities).

STAFF/SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:

Environmental Services recommends authorizing the execution of an interlocal agreement with the City of Seattle – Office of Emergency Management, in the amount of \$100,000, budgeted from general funds, to manage this project, subcontract with Tacoma CBOs, coordinate planning and training and provide a final report.



FISCAL IMPACT:

The following budget amount will cover project management, planning, CBO subcontracting, community workshops/focus groups, community training, final report and Tacoma-specific cost-benefit analysis for future FEMA grant applications.

Fund Number & Name	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	Cost Element	Total Amount
0010 – General Fund	656000	6530200	\$100,000
5800 – GG Internal Services	598400	6311010	-\$100,000
5800 – GG Internal Services	598400	5310010	\$100,000
TOTAL			\$100,000

What Funding is being used to support the expense?

The source of funding is from the General Fund, which is making a transfer to the Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability operating cost center where the contract expenses will be realized.

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

YES, UNDER 2023-24 PROPOSAL TITLED, “IMPROVE NEIGHBORHOOD COOLING & AIR QUALITY RELIEF CENTERS ACCESS”.

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

No

Will the legislation have an ongoing/recurring fiscal impact?

No

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

No

ATTACHMENTS:

- ILA with City of Seattle – Office of Emergency Management