



TO: Elizabeth A. Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Michael P. Slevin III, P.E., Director, Environmental Services
 Geoffrey M. Smyth, P.E., Division Manager, Science and 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 29, 2017
DATE: August 10, 2017

M.P.S.

SUMMARY:

A resolution authorizing the execution of an interagency agreement with the Department of Ecology, Washington Conservation Corps program, in the amount of \$608,667, 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 term.

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 benefit. 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 and Mason Gulch landscape management plans; those efforts are in addition to the obligations ES continues to fulfill under the Foss Waterway and the Commencement Bay Natural Resources Damage Assessment (NRDA) Consent Decrees.

ISSUE:

The City has requested to sponsor three WCC crews from the Department of Ecology (Ecology) for the 2017-2018 crew year. The WCC program is an AmeriCorps program administered by Ecology that provides young adults (ages 18-25) job and life skills in addition to an educational stipend (\$5,775) at program completion. Crewmembers perform maintenance 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.

The 2017-2018 rate for each crew is \$202,889 per year, totaling \$608,667 for three crews for one year. The City of Tacoma has sponsored a WCC crew for fifteen years, which has allowed the City to provide environmental maintenance and improvements in a cost effective manner.

ALTERNATIVES:

The City could award the contract to another labor option (EarthCorps, etc.) at a much greater cost or not approve the agreement at all. Those 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; the management of the Urban Forestry plant holding facility would also decline.

RECOMMENDATION:

A resolution authorizing the execution of an interagency agreement with the Department of Ecology, Washington Conservation Corps program, in the amount of \$608,667, 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 term.

FISCAL IMPACT:

EXPENDITURES:

FUND NUMBER & FUND NAME *	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
4301 Surface Water Fund	521700	5310100	\$608,667
TOTAL			\$608,667

* General Fund: Include Department

REVENUES:

FUNDING SOURCE	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
4301 Surface Water Fund	521900	Rate Revenues	\$608,667
TOTAL			\$608,667

FISCAL IMPACT TO CURRENT BIENNIAL BUDGET: \$608,667

ARE THE EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES PLANNED AND BUDGETED? Yes