**City of Tacoma** **City Council Action Memorandum**

**TO:** **Hyun Kim, Interim City Manager**
**FROM:** **Kyle Amoroso, P.E., Senior Engineering Project Manager, Environmental Services**
**Ramiro A. Chavez, P.E. PgMP, Director/City Engineer, Environmental Services**
**COPY:** **City Council and City Clerk**
**SUBJECT:** **Resolution – Interlocal Agreement with Washington State Department of Ecology Facilitating a Technical Review Panel related to Washington State Stormwater Manuals – July 29, 2025**
**DATE:** **July 3, 2025**

Initial GMS DS RC

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## SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:

A resolution authorizing the execution of an interlocal agreement with the Washington State Department of Ecology through August 30, 2026, in the amount of $195,481, and accepting and depositing said sum into the Stormwater Fund, to facilitate a technical review panel of the latest infiltration methods and provide updated infiltration language to the Washington State Department of Ecology for consideration in their stormwater manuals.

## BACKGROUND:

**This Department's Recommendation is Based On:** a requirement in the Washington State Department of Ecology's (Ecology) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Western Washington Phase I and Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permits that states low impact development (LID) shall be the preferred and commonly used approach to manage stormwater at the site scale since the 2013 permits.

Often stormwater LID best management practices (BMP) use infiltration (e.g., infiltration ponds, bioretention facilities, pervious pavement, and drywells) in their designs as shown in Ecology's Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington (SWMMWW) and the Stormwater Management Manual for Eastern Washington (SWMMEW) (stormwater manuals). Sizing these BMPs per Ecology's stormwater manuals requires estimating the infiltration capacity of the BMP and the native soils, which is impacted by numerous variables. Through a facilitated technical review, this project will provide procedural recommendations and guidelines to update stormwater manuals based on recently developed advances in infiltration testing methodology.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ CUSTOMER RESEARCH:

Funding for this grant comes from the Stormwater Action Monitoring (SAM) collective which is administered by Ecology. SAM is a cooperative of Washington State stormwater monitoring programs that is funded by more than 90 cities and counties, the ports of Seattle and Tacoma, and the Washington State Department of Transportation under the NDPES municipal stormwater permits. All members within the collective, regardless of size, vote to decide which projects to fund and in October 2023 this project was selected. All members within SAM will be able to take part in the technical review panel and the results will be shared with all members regardless of their contribution. Additionally, the goal of this project is to develop infiltration language to update the stormwater manuals, which will in turn influence updates to stormwater manuals written and maintained by local governments, including Tacoma's stormwater management manual.

## 2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

**Equity and Accessibility:**
The project promotes the City of Tacoma's goal to increase the use of LID BMPs, also called Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI), citywide. This will be accomplished by providing updated techniques to more efficiently evaluate stormwater infiltration potential for localized and regional stormwater management facilities across the City. This will aid the City in managing and conveying stormwater in all neighborhoods throughout the City.

**Economy/Workforce:** *Equity Index Score*: Moderate Opportunity
Increase the number of infrastructure projects and improvements that support existing and new business developments.

**Livability:** *Equity Index Score*: Moderate Opportunity
Increase positive public perception of safety and overall quality of life.

**Explain how your legislation will affect the selected indicator(s).**
Updating the language and techniques within the City's and State's stormwater manuals with more effective infiltration testing techniques will allow us to find more locations in neighborhoods to use LID BMPs and make more green spaces. We will not only be more efficient uncovering areas where stormwater infiltration is feasible that were previously not considered, we will be able to design and build more passive GSI stormwater infrastructure which is the most cost effective for the City. Another example is in aiding City project initiatives like "Your Green Neighborhood Pervious Street". Finally, properly sized infiltration BMPs will aid in reducing the flooding potential within residential and business developments.

## ALTERNATIVES:

| Alternative(s) | Positive Impact(s) | Negative Impact(s) |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Do not accept the funds from Ecology for the monitoring studies. | No obligation to manage the contract. | City of Tacoma passes on leadership role to update stormwater manuals with latest infiltration techniques and practices. Lose out on uncovering approaches that may lead to more efficient infiltration BMP design throughout the City. |

## EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP:

Environmental Services staff have identified six (6) tasks in the interlocal agreement. Our scope of work with Ecology lists a few deliverables/submittals, along with due dates, for each of these tasks. A successful project will entail ES staff managing the thorough and timely completion of each of these deliverables.

The result of a successful project will entail the development of infiltration language and practices to be provided to Ecology and other stakeholders for consideration into the stormwater manuals. The infiltration practices reviewed, and the language generated will aid in sizing and design of infiltration BMPs around the City and State. This should help contribute to more efficient management of stormwater treatment and conveyance, especially in densely populated urban areas.

## STAFF/SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:

Environmental Services recommends approval of this interlocal agreement to facilitate a technical review panel of the latest infiltration methods and provide updated infiltration language to Ecology for consideration in the Washington State Department of Ecology stormwater manual

## FISCAL IMPACT:

Funds received from this interlocal agreement, deposited into the ES Stormwater Fund, will be used to facilitate a technical review panel of the latest infiltration methods and provide updated infiltration language to Ecology for consideration in the Washington State Department of Ecology stormwater manual

| Fund Number & Name | COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER) | Cost Element | Total Amount |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4301 Stormwater Fund | 521900 | 6232300 | $195,481.00 |
| **TOTAL** | | | $195,481.00 |

**What Funding is being used to support the expense?**

ES STORMWATER FUND 4301

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

NO, PLEASE EXPLAIN BELOW

No, ES will request a budget adjustment during the mid-modification budget process for the expenses, as needed for this one-time interlocal agreement.

**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:

Interlocal Agreement with Ecology