



City of Tacoma

City Council Action Memorandum

TO: Elizabeth A. Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Daniel C. Thompson, Ph.D., Division Manager, Business Operations
Michael P. Slevin III, P.E., Director, Environmental Services
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Resolution - Interlocal Agreement with the City of Ruston for Industrial Pretreatment - September 28, 2021
DATE: August 31, 2021

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:

A resolution authorizing the execution of an interlocal agreement with the City of Ruston to adopt a pretreatment ordinance and related enforcement ordinance that subjects the commercial/industrial users within the City of Ruston to the necessary pretreatment controls, and by this agreement, delegates to Tacoma as lead agency, the authority of the City of Ruston, to implement and enforce that pretreatment ordinance.

BACKGROUND:

This Department's Recommendation is Based On: The Cities of Tacoma and Ruston previously entered into the Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Agreement dated February 1, 2021 (Wastewater Agreement), where they established the quantity of allowable discharge of domestic and non-domestic wastewater, charges for treatment services, and agreed to coordinate and plan cooperatively their services and facilities. One of the requirements of the Wastewater Agreement was that the Cities of Ruston and Tacoma enter into a pretreatment interlocal agreement that meets the requirements of the City of Tacoma delegated wastewater discharge program. The proposed interlocal agreement will require the City of Ruston to adopt a pretreatment ordinance that is substantially the same as the City of Tacoma Pretreatment Ordinance codified at Tacoma Municipal Code Chapter 12.08.C and delegates to Tacoma the authority to enforce the City of Ruston pretreatment ordinance and program. The Ruston City Council has taken action to approve the interlocal agreement and has adopted the pretreatment ordinance.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ CUSTOMER RESEARCH:

Commercial/industrial sources, users, and facilities located in Ruston either currently contribute, or may in the future contribute, process wastewater discharges to the Ruston municipal wastewater system, which are discharged to Tacoma's Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW). At the time of the execution of this Agreement, there are no known significant industrial users in Ruston that would require permitting under Tacoma's pretreatment program. Additionally, Tacoma has notified Ruston of the new dental amalgam requirements that will apply to dental discharge facilities located in the City of Ruston.

2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Equity and Accessibility:

It is in the best interests of the parties of this agreement and in the interest of the public health, safety and welfare of the area served by the parties that this agreement be executed.



Livability: *Equity Index Score:* High Opportunity

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

Tacoma’s pretreatment program protects both Ruston’s and Tacoma’s wastewater conveyance systems and protects Tacoma’s POTW and the POTW’s discharge to waters of the state. Protecting our waterways increases the livability in the City of Tacoma and surrounding communities.

Regulations promulgated to implement and enforce a POTW pretreatment program will regulate and control wastewater discharges from commercial/industrial sources, users and facilities that contribute process wastewater discharges to Ruston’s municipal wastewater system which are then discharged to Tacoma’s POTW or that contribute non-domestic wastewater that has the potential to be harmful to, or cause obstruction in, the POTW or cause or contribute to pass through or interference.

ALTERNATIVES:

Alternative(s)	Positive Impact(s)	Negative Impact(s)
1. Reject the proposed agreement	None	Tacoma and Ruston will operate without an updated pretreatment agreement in place, potentially violating Tacoma’s Department of Ecology waste discharge permit’s wastewater pretreatment program requirements.

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP:

The agreement provides for joint planning to ensure that the Ruston identifies future potential significant industrial users and pretreatment program requirements require review to ensure compliance with changes in law, regulations or circumstances.

STAFF/SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:

The Environmental Services Department recommends authorizing the execution of an interlocal agreement with the City of Ruston to continue providing industrial pretreatment services.



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FISCAL IMPACT: No fiscal impact.

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

City of Tacoma's industrial wastewater pretreatment program services are fully funded and implementing the interlocal agreement will not change the level of service to Ruston or cost to the City's wastewater utility.

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

YES

Not implementing the interlocal agreement could result in non-compliance with Department of Ecology pretreatment program requirements resulting in enforcement actions which may include civil penalties.

Will the legislation have an ongoing/recurring fiscal impact?

NO

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

NO

ATTACHMENTS:

- Interlocal Pretreatment Agreement Tacoma-Ruston