



Board Action Memorandum

TO: Jackie Flowers, Director of Utilities
COPY: Charleen Jacobs, Director and Board Offices
FROM: Jesse Narog, Assistant Division Manager, Water
MEETING DATE: August 25th, 2021
DATE: August 16th, 2021

STRATEGIC DIRECTIVE ALIGNMENT (select as many that apply):

Please indicate which of the Public Utility Board's Strategic Directives is supported by this action.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> SD1 – Equity & Inclusion | <input type="checkbox"/> SD8 – Telecom |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SD2 – Financial Sustainability | <input type="checkbox"/> SD9 – Economic Development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SD3 – Rates | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SD10 – Government Relations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SD4 – Stakeholder Engagement | <input type="checkbox"/> SD11 – Decarbonization/Electric Vehicles |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SD5 – Environmental Leadership | <input type="checkbox"/> SD12 – Employee Relations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SD6 – Innovation | <input type="checkbox"/> SD13 – Customer Service |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SD7 – Reliability & Resiliency | <input type="checkbox"/> SD14 – Resource Planning |

SUMMARY:

The request is for passage of a resolution by the Utility Board to ratify the Green/Duwamish and Central Puget Sound Watershed, Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 9 Salmon Habitat Plan Update, Making Our Watershed Fit for a King, dated February 2021 (Salmon Habitat Plan).

The resolution is intended to convey support for collaborative protection and restoration of salmon habitat through implementation of the Salmon Habitat Plan, with the intent to achieve sustainable, resilient, and harvestable populations of naturally spawning Chinook salmon. The WRIA 9 Plan utilizes best available science to inform local government actions, prioritize projects and policies by the 17 local government members.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Tacoma and 16 other local governments are members to an Inter Local Agreement (ILA) for the Green River, Duwamish River, and Central Puget Sound Watersheds, referred to as the WRIA 9 Ecosystem Forum; whose purpose is the protection and restoration of salmon habitat within the WRIA. The ILA was established in 2001 and has been renewed twice since that time, most recently through Board and City Council action in 2015.

Tacoma Water represents the City on the WRIA 9 Ecosystem Forum and together, with the other members, shares in the operating costs of the Forum and has invested \$8.4 million in restoration efforts within the WRIA since 2001.

The WRIA 9 Ecosystem Forum endeavors to work through consensus and is now seeking ratification of the WRIA 9 Plan 2021 Update by all ILA members.

The Salmon Habitat Plan 2021 Update provides a science-based framework for identifying, prioritizing and implementing salmon recovery actions through the WRIA 9 Ecosystem Forum for the next 10 years.



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To-date Tacoma Water has provided \$416k to the ILA from 2001 to 2021 and has committed another \$100k through 2025. Additionally, staff participate in the WRIA 9 Ecosystem Forum and technical committees representing Tacoma's interests and lending their abilities as subject matter experts in the Forum's work.

RELEVANT HISTORY OF ACTION BY PUBLIC UTILITY BOARD (PUB) AND CITY COUNCIL (CC):

- 2002 WRIA 9 Interlocal Agreement signed by City of Tacoma (PUB resolution U-9714, CC Resolution 35505)
- 2005 WRIA 9 Interlocal Agreement extended by City of Tacoma (PUB Resolution U-9714, CC Resolution 36711)
- 2005 Salmon Habitat Plan 'Making Our Watershed Fit For A King' (PUB Resolution U-10020)
- 2007 WRIA 9 Interlocal Agreement renewed by City of Tacoma (PUB Resolution U-10086, CC Resolution 37052)
- 2015 WRIA 9 Interlocal Agreement (2016-2025) renewed by City of Tacoma (PUB Resolution U-10800, CC Resolution 39268)

ARE THE EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES PLANNED AND BUDGETED? Yes

Expenditures have been already been authorized through previous resolutions. This requested action is for ratification and support of the Salmon Habitat Plan only.

ATTACHMENTS:

[WRIA 9 Salmon Habitat Plan 2021 Update](#)
[Resolution No. 39268](#) – 2015 WRIA 9 Interlocal Agreement Authorization

CONTACT:

Primary Contact: Jesse Narog, Assistant Division Manager, Watershed Services. 253-331-3232
Supervisor's Name: Greg Volkhardt, Division Manager, Source Water and Treatment Operations

Additional staff requiring a Zoom presentation link:

Tom Morrill – Legal

Greg Volkhardt – Water Division Manager

Tyler Patterson – Tacoma Water, Environmental Stewardship Manager

Nick Novotny – Tacoma Water, Fisheries Biologist

Matt Goehring – King County, WRIA 9 Salmon Recovery Manager (mgoehring@kingcounty.gov)