



**TO:** Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager  
**FROM:** Tanja Carter, Director, Community and Economic Development  
Paul Bakker, Business & Economic Development Analyst, Community and Economic Development  
**COPY:** City Council and City Clerk  
**SUBJECT:** Request for Council approval for City to enter into agreement with Communities for a Healthy Bay and formally accept an award from WSDOT – June 3, 2025  
**DATE:** May 16, 2025

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**SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:**

A resolution to formally accepting an award from Washington State Department of Transportation (“WSDOT”) and authorizing the execution of an agreement between the City and Communities for a Healthy Bay (“CHB”) in the amount not to exceed \$982,000, budgeted from 1195 – EDA for purchase of an electric boat to continue to actively engage in ground and on-water research to identify solutions for addressing environmental challenges.

The City is serving as a pass-through entity for this award. To facilitate the distribution of these funds, the City must formally accept the award from WSDOT, which will obligate the funds, and execute an agreement with CHB to facilitate the reimbursement.

**BACKGROUND:**

**This Department’s Recommendation is Based On:**

The 2023-2025 Washington State Supplemental Transportation Budget includes a proviso allocating \$982,000 to provide CHB with an electric boat through the Move Ahead Washington (“MAWA”) Capital Projects program. On January 3, 2025, the City of Tacoma received a letter from WSDOT notifying the City that they would serve as a pass-through entity for the project. To facilitate the distribution of these funds, the City must:

1. Enter an agreement with CHB.
2. Formally accept the award from WSDOT.

This agreement does not allocate or otherwise commit any City funds towards CHB’s purchase. Rather, the agreement commits the City to serve as a conduit between WSDOT and CHB for reimbursement. The agreement requires CHB to select a vendor to purchase an electric boat for an amount not to exceed \$982,000. Upon payment to the vendor, CHB will provide the City with invoice(s), proof of payment(s), and additional documentation as requested. The agreement requires the City to submit documentation to WSDOT, receive funds, and distribute funds to CHB as received.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ CUSTOMER RESEARCH:**

This agreement implements a State budget item using revenues collected from the Climate Commitment Act’s Cap-and-Invest Program. Investments are selected with advice from the Environmental Justice Council which consists



of 16 governor-appointed members including community representatives, youth community representative, environmental justice practitioners, tribes, labor, and business.

## 2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

### Equity and Accessibility:

The agreement will enable CHB, a well-known local advocacy, research, and environmental monitoring group, to perform operations with reduced environmental impacts.

### Economy/Workforce: Moderate Opportunity

Increase positive public perception related to the Tacoma economy.

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

This agreement elevates Tacoma as a leader in the adoption of zero-emissions transportation technologies. Demonstrating the viability of electric marine transit options could have profound implications for environmental justice, improved air quality, and fighting climate change.

## ALTERNATIVES:

Alternative(s)	Positive Impact(s)	Negative Impact(s)
1. Decline to enter agreement and forgo State's \$982,000 award to CHB.	Staff time used for administration could be diverted to other tasks.	CHB would not receive State-allocated asset, and a local company would not complete sale of an innovative, low-emissions product.

## EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP:

This is a pass-through contract. Staff will facilitate submission of invoices to WSDOT on behalf of CHB and disburse funds to CHB as received by WSDOT.

## STAFF/SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that Council approve the execution of the agreement between City and CHB.

## FISCAL IMPACT:

### Expenditures:



Fund Number & Fund Name *	Cost Object (cc/wbs/order)	Cost Element	Total Amount
1195 - EDA	Order 80028701	5330100	\$982,000
Total			Up to \$982,000

**Revenues:**

Funding Source	Cost Object (cc/wbs/order)	Cost Element	Total Amount
WSDOT	Order 80029701	4334270	(\$982,000)
Total			Up to (\$982,000)

**Fiscal Impact to Current Biennial Budget: \$0**

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

There is no expense to the City.

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

**NO, PLEASE EXPLAIN BELOW**

Expenses are fully funded through the State budget proviso, to be reimbursed by WSDOT upon proof of payment and product delivery.

**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:**

- Tacoma-CHB Boat Grant Reimbursement Agreement 2025
- WSDOT Award Letter to City of Tacoma