



**TO:** Elizabeth A. Pauli, City Manager  
**FROM:** Michael P. Slevin III, P.E., Director, Environmental Services  
John Burk, P.E., Science and Engineering Division Manager, Environmental Services  
**COPY:** City Council and City Clerk  
**SUBJECT:** Request for Resolution for Grant Acceptance Pierce County Parks Conservation Futures Fund – August 27, 2019  
**DATE:** August 7, 2019

*MPS* →

**SUMMARY:**

A resolution authorizing the execution of a grant agreement with the Pierce County Conservation Futures, in the amount up to \$205,623, plus eligible costs; accepting and depositing said sum into an escrow account; and authorizing the expenditure of up to \$49,377 in matching funds, budgeted from the ES Surface Water Fund 4301, for a maximum total of \$255,000, plus eligible costs, to fund appraisal and purchase up to six parcels of land for the purpose of protecting natural habitat and providing stormwater benefit, and further authorizing the execution and closing of purchase and sale agreements, and conservation agreements for those parcels.

**STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:**

- Assure outstanding stewardship of the natural and built environment.

The Environment Services' (ES) Open Space Program acquisition of the properties by grant funds will protect Tacoma's natural environment as well as provide public benefit for the protection of water quality and quantity to future generations.

**BACKGROUND:**

Environmental Services will conserve the property acquired as a part of the Open Space Program, as a passive open space with forested and wetland areas. Invasive species will be removed and native trees and shrubs will be planted in their place. The properties to be acquired preserve opportunities to partner to create recreational amenities in an underserved area, and is adjacent to two other areas designated as open space that are owned by the City and managed by the Open Space Program. This connectivity will maintain a habitat corridor, which will support urban biodiversity of both plants and animals.

**ISSUE:**

Acquisitions are needed to continue to protect the remaining urban ecosystem functions within Tacoma. Environmental Services manages passive open space parcels in a manner that, in addition to other benefits, and increases the stormwater benefit for public good through increased vegetation cover, biodiversity, better health, and overall stormwater runoff absorption and filtration. Passive open space properties currently enrolled in the ES Open Space Program comprise approximately 488 acres of City-owned forests, wetlands, streams, steep slopes, and buffer areas. Generally, these areas are undeveloped and covered with vegetation, many are regulated by the City's Critical Areas Preservation Code, and most provide or have the potential to provide benefits to stormwater quantity and quality.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

Acquiring property using the Pierce County Conservation Futures grant paired with Environmental Services Open Space Program funds represents an opportunity to improve the connectivity and habitat preservation of existing Open Space land. If the grant is not accepted, the City would fully fund this work with Open Space funds or choose not to acquire the targeted property. The likelihood of the City being offered grant funding a second time for these acquisitions is minimal, and, if the grant is not accepted the



City does not currently have the funds to acquire the designated parcels.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

A resolution authorizing the execution of a grant agreement with the Pierce County Conservation Futures, in the amount up to \$205,623, plus eligible costs; accepting and depositing said sum into an escrow account; and authorizing the expenditure of up to \$49,377 in matching funds, budgeted from the ES Surface Water Fund 4301, for a maximum total of \$255,000, plus eligible costs, to fund appraisal and purchase up to six parcels of land for the purpose of protecting natural habitat and providing stormwater benefit, and further authorizing the execution and closing of purchase and sale agreements, and conservation agreements for those parcels.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

**EXPENDITURES:**

FUND NUMBER & FUND NAME	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
4301 Surface Water Fund	ENV-00100-06-08	5621100	\$49,377.00
4301 Surface Water Fund (Escrow)	ENV-00100-06-08	5621100	\$205,623.00
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$255,000.00</b>

**REVENUES:**

FUNDING SOURCE	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
Pierce County Conservation Futures Grant to Escrow	521900	6311060	\$205,623.00
4301 Surface Water Fund	521900	Rate Revenues	\$49,377.00
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$255,000.00</b>

**FISCAL IMPACT TO CURRENT BIENNIAL BUDGET:** \$255,000, plus eligible costs for closing and appraisal.

**ARE THE EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES PLANNED AND BUDGETED?** Yes