## HONORABLE RONALD B. LEIGHTON 1 2 3 4 6 7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON 8 AT TACOMA 9 PUGET SOUNDKEEPER ALLIANCE. 10 No. 16-5195RBL Plaintiff, 11 CONSENT DECREE v. 12 13 CITY OF TACOMA 14 Defendant. 15 16 T. **STIPULATIONS** 17 Plaintiff Puget Soundkeeper Alliance ("Soundkeeper") sent a sixty-day notice of intent to 18 sue letter to Defendant City of Tacoma (the "City") on or about January 12, 2016, and filed a 19 complaint on March 15, 2016, alleging violations of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1251 et 20 seq., regarding the City's operation of its pretreatment program and seeking declaratory and 21 injunctive relief, civil penalties and attorneys' fees and costs. 22 Soundkeeper and the City agree that settlement of this matter is in the best interest of the 23 parties and the public, and that entry of this Consent Decree is the most appropriate means of 24 resolving this action.

Soundkeeper and the City stipulate to the entry of this Consent Decree without trial,

adjudication, or admission of any issues of fact or law regarding Soundkeeper's claims or

CONSENT DECREE: No. 16-5195RBL p. 1

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SMITH & LOWNEY, P.L.L.C. 2317 EAST JOHN ST. SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98112 (206) 860-2883

1	allegations set forth in its complaint and its sixty-day notice.		
2	DATED thisday of November, 2016.		
3	*****	SMITH & LOWNEY PLLC	
4		2 00 20 11.12.1 220	
5	By	Ву	
6	Chris Bacha, WSBA #16714 Chief Deputy, Civil Division, Tacoma	Richard A. Smith, WSBA #21788 Claire E. Tonry, WSBA #44497	
7	City Attorney's Office	Attorneys for Plaintiff Puget Soundkeeper Alliance	
8 9	Doug Mosich, WSBA #18341 Of Counsel, Kenyon Disend, PLLC		
10	Attorneys for Defendant City of Tacoma		
11	CITY OF TACOMA	PUGET SOUNDKEEPER ALLIANCE	
12			
13	By		
<ul><li>14</li><li>15</li></ul>	Michael P. Slevin III, P.E. Environmental Services Director City of Tacoma	Chris Wilke Puget Soundkeeper Alliance, Executive Director	
16	II. ORDER AND DECREE		
17	THIS MATTER came before the Court upon the foregoing Stipulations of the parties.		
18	Having considered the Stipulations and the promises set forth below, the Court hereby ORDERS.		
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20	ADJUDGES, and DECREES as follows:		
21	1. This Court has jurisdiction over the parties and subject matter of this action.		
22	2. Each signatory for the partie	s certifies for that party that he or she is authorized to	
23	enter into the agreements set forth below.		
24	3. This Consent Decree applies	s to and binds the parties and their successors and	
25	assigns.		
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- 4. This Consent Decree applies to the City's pretreatment program, which concerns certain industrial wastewater discharges to the City's two sewage treatment plants, the North End Wastewater Plant No. 3, located at 4002 North Waterview Street, and the Central Treatment Plant No. 1, located at 2201 Portland Avenue, under the terms of NPDES Permit Nos. WA0037217 (issued June 4, 2009, expired June 30, 2014, but still in effect) and WA0037087 (issued October 6, 2010, expired October 31, 2015, but still in effect), (collectively, "NPDES Wastewater Permits") authorizing discharges from these plants respectively, and the terms of Department of Ecology Order No. DE 94WQ-S358, dated October 7, 1994.
  - 5. This Consent Decree is a full and complete settlement and release of all the claims in the complaint, the sixty-day notice and all other claims known and unknown, contingent or otherwise, including but not limited to claims for civil penalties and injunctive relief under 33 U.S.C. § 1319 and 33 U.S.C. § 1365, for any acts or omissions, existing as of the date of entry of this Consent Decree, that could be asserted under the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1251-1387, arising from pretreatment program operations and the pretreatment terms of the NPDES Wastewater Permits (and successor or replacement permits) against the City, its elected officials, officers, subsidiaries, employees, agents, successors and assigns. These claims are released and dismissed with prejudice.
  - 6. This Consent Decree is a settlement of disputed facts and law, without admission of any allegation, fact or law contained in the 60-day notice or complaint.
  - 7. The City agrees to the following terms and conditions in full and complete satisfaction of all the claims covered by this Consent Decree:
    - 7.1 In its operation and administration of its pretreatment program, the City

will comply with the pretreatment terms of its NPDES Wastewater Permits and modified or successor permits, and the terms of Department of Ecology Order No. DE 94WQ-S358, dated October 7, 1994, including making timely requests to Ecology for approval of pretreatment program changes as necessary and the timely enactment of amendments to the Tacoma Municipal Code as necessary to comply with the pretreatment requirements contained in the City's NPDES Wastewater Permits and successor or replacement permits ("Applicable Requirements"), and Department of Ecology Order No. DE 94WQ-S358;

7.2 Under a contract between the City and CWA Consulting Services, LLC ("Auditor") reviewed by Soundkeeper and executed June 10 2016, the City will cause to be conducted a thorough audit of its pretreatment program, including a review of certain industrial user discharge authorizations, commencing within 45 days of the entry of this Consent Decree, or before.

7.2.1 The Audit will identify any deficiencies in the City's pretreatment program and procedures, including a review of Chapter 12.08 Tacoma Municipal Code ("TMC"), as necessary to address compliance with the Applicable Requirements. The Auditor will provide a draft and final report to the City containing the Auditor's observations and identification of any deficiencies that must, in the Auditor's view, be corrected to assure compliance with one or more of the Applicable Requirements. Such deficiencies will be listed in a table within the Auditor's draft and final reports. The Auditor's identification of pretreatment program deficiencies which, in the Auditor's view, do not need to be corrected to assure compliance with one or more of the Applicable Requirements specifically fall outside the scope of this Consent Decree. The Auditor's Scope of Work, which is attached as Exhibit A, incorporated by reference herein, and

made a part of this Consent Decree, addresses the following subjects:

- 7.2.1.1 Application of all known, available and reasonable methods of treatment and control ("AKART") for significant industrial users, and any industrial user to whom the City issues a pretreatment permit, consistent with WAC 173-216-110(1)(a) and the Applicable Requirements, with consideration given to applicable AKART guidance published by the Department of Ecology;
- 7.2.1.2 Evaluation of the pretreatment provisions set forth in Chapter 12.08 TMC and the City's pretreatment program manual to assess whether revisions are necessary to address the Applicable Requirements;
- 7.2.1.3 The procedures by which the City determines that a discharger is a significant industrial user as defined by 40 CFR § 403.3, subject to the categorical pretreatment standards under 40 CFR § 403, and the means by which the City undertakes to make these determinations available to the public;
- 7.2.1.4 The procedures relied upon by the City to conduct Industrial User Survey's and provides such industrial users with notice of their categorization status, as well as the City's recordkeeping for such notifications;
- 7.2.1.5 Whether the City's Industrial User Inspection Checklist contains the necessary elements as determined by the Auditor;
- 7.2.1.6 The City's boilerplate memoranda of understanding and proposed form interlocal agreement with contributing jurisdictions, and whether such boilerplate language and proposed interlocal agreement includes the elements needed to implement its pretreatment program (including conducting inspections, surveillance, monitoring, and enforcement activities within the contributing jurisdiction) with regard to

7.2.1.15 The procedures used to authorize discharges to the sanitary sewer that exceed local pretreatment limits;

7.2.1.16 The procedures for public notice under the Applicable Requirements;

7.2.1.17 The level of staffing for the City's pretreatment program and whether it is adequate to administer and satisfy the Applicable Requirements;

7.2.2 Within three (3) business days from the effective date of this Consent Decree, the Auditor's draft report will be provided to City pretreatment staff and to Soundkeeper for review and comment. To facilitate each parties' review of the draft report, each party or its agents may, within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt of such report request a meeting to speak with and meet (in person or by videoconference) the Auditor, including all members of the Auditor's team, and with the opportunity to promptly upon request review any records held by the City that may be relevant to the draft report. A party making a request to meet with the Auditor shall promptly notify the other party of the request and the parties shall mutually agree on the time, place and date of the meeting. Within thirty (30) days of receipt of the draft report, or within twenty (20) days of the meeting with the Auditor, whichever is later, each party may provide written comments on the draft report to the Auditor for consideration. If changes suggested by a party in a written comment are not included in the Auditor's final report the Auditor will provide a summary explanation for why a change was not included. The Auditor's final report will be issued no later than forty-five (45) days following the date when the parties' comments on the Auditor's draft report are due. The adequacy of the Auditor's draft or final reports, whether issued as part of the original or follow-up audit, shall not be

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reviewable by the Court. Subject to the reservation language in Section 7.2.2.1 below, the City will correct those deficiencies identified in the Auditor's final report which, in the Auditor's view, are necessary to assure compliance with one or more of the Applicable Requirements and make a timely request for Ecology's approval for any resulting proposed corrections that constitute substantial and non-substantial modifications to the City's pretreatment program in accordance with 40 CFR § 403.18, including but not limited to changes to the City's pretreatment program manual and Chapter 12.08 TMC. The date of implementation for any such corrections will begin on the date the City receives Ecology's approval of modifications to is pretreatment program in accordance with 40 CFR § 403.18. If Ecology disapproves a proposed modification, or any part thereof, the City may with the Auditor's input, modify and resubmit the modification for Ecology's approval, or, in the alternative, appeal Ecology's decision disapproving such modification to the Pollution Control Hearings Board in accordance with Chapter 43.21B RCW, which shall be the exclusive venue to challenge such decision;

7.2.2.1 The City reserves its right not to correct a deficiency or deficiencies that the Auditor has identified in his final report as necessary to assure compliance with one or more of the Applicable Requirements. If the City decides not to correct such deficiencies, it shall notify Soundkeeper in writing of such decision within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt of the Auditor's final report. If Soundkeeper disagrees with the City's decision not to correct such deficiency or deficiencies, it may challenge such decision under the dispute resolution provisions of paragraph 13 below. Disputes concerning whether the City has corrected such deficiencies in the final report shall be governed by paragraph 12 below;

7.2.2.2 Within fourteen (14) months from the effective date of this Consent Decree, the City agrees to prepare an AKART section for its pretreatment program manual and revise Chapter 12.08 TMC, as needed, and submit such proposed language to Ecology for approval as a modification under 40 CFR § 403.18.

7.2.3 Eighteen (18) months after the Auditor's final report is issued, the Auditor will conduct a follow-up audit to evaluate the City's progress correcting those deficiencies identified in the Auditor's final report he viewed as necessary to assure compliance with one or more of the Applicable Requirements. The Auditor will issue a draft and final report according to the same process for comment and response by the parties as described in Paragraph 7.2.2 above. The follow-up audit will include a preliminary meeting with both parties in attendance. Either party may raise particular concerns or issues for the Auditor's evaluation, which the Auditor may in his sole discretion choose to address, or not. The City will correct those deficiencies identified by the Auditor in his final follow-up audit report as needed to assure compliance with one or more of the Applicable Requirements, according to the process set forth in Paragraphs 7.2.2 above and subject to 7.2.2.1. A decision by the City not to correct a deficiency or deficiencies identified in the Auditor's final follow-up audit report, which he has identified as necessary to correct to assure compliance with one or more of the Applicable Requirements shall follow and be governed by the process described in Paragraph 7.2.2.1 above.

7.3 Within thirty (30) days after the entry of this Consent Decree, the City will provide Soundkeeper with a current, electronic version of its User Survey database and master businesses list. The City's re-evaluation of an industrial user's categorization status and/or control mechanism selection of an industrial user will be contingent upon the Auditor identifying a deficiency in his final report regarding the categorical status of an industrial user and/or associated control mechanism, subject to the City's agreement to correct such deficiency under paragraph 7.2.2 above;

7.4 For two (2) years from the effective date of this Consent Decree, not later than thirty (30) calendar days after its annual transmission to Ecology, the City will notify Soundkeeper in writing that it may access a copy of its pretreatment program annual report, including current industrial user survey databases and Master List of Businesses at a specified location on the City's website. If, within sixty (60) days of each of these productions, Soundkeeper reasonably questions, in writing, the categorization of any industrial user, the City will consider and respond in writing to Soundkeeper's comments. If the City determines that an industrial user has been improperly categorized, it will modify the permit or control mechanism in a timely manner to address such categorization.

7.5. For two (2) years from the date of this Consent Decree Soundkeeper may submit a written request for electronic files the City maintains pertaining to a specified industrial user dating back no more than five (5) years from the date of the request. The request shall identify with reasonable specificity the type of electronic records Soundkeeper is seeking. The disclosure of such records shall be subject to the exemptions

contained within the Public Records Act (Chapter 42.56 RCW). The City will make best effort to provide Soundkeeper with an electronic copy of all records requested under this paragraph within thirty (30) calendar days of receiving such request. Electronic records provided to Soundkeeper under this paragraph shall be without charge.

- 7.6 Not later than seventy-five (75) calendar days following the completion of the Audit conducted under paragraph 7.2, or seventy-five (75) calendar days after receiving Ecology's approval under Paragraph 7.2.2, whichever is later, the City will provide a one-day training session to all City employees within its pretreatment program to address correcting deficiencies identified in the Auditor's final report and pretreatment program basics such as: (i) conducting compliance inspections and writing wastewater discharge permits; (ii) pre-inspection activities, inspection procedures, sampling considerations, report writing and the use of inspection checklists; (iii) a summary overview of the scope and the statutory and regulatory framework of the pretreatment program; (iv) determining an industrial user's classification based on the industry's activities and wastestreams and documenting the determination in the fact sheet; (v) describing effluent limitations and the legal and technical considerations involved in developing discharge limitations based on an industrial user's activities and wastestreams and monitoring and reporting requirements, special conditions and standard conditions; and (vi) a summary explanation of the administrative process for issuing, modifying, revoking and terminating pretreatment permits.
- 7.7 For two (2) years from the effective date of this Consent Decree, within twenty (20) days of the end of each calendar quarter, the City will provide Soundkeeper with a written progress report summarizing the City's activities correcting those

deficiencies the Auditor identifies in his final report as necessary to correct to assure compliance with one or more of the Applicable Requirements and complying with the requirements of this Consent Decree over the ending calendar quarter. The progress reports must be sufficiently detailed to allow Soundkeeper to determine whether the City is meeting the terms of this Consent Decree.

- 7.8 Not later than eighteen (18) months after the entry of this Consent Decree, the City will develop, host, and conduct a one-day educational training session that will address the application of AKART for industrial users subject to Washington state pretreatment programs. The City will invite staff from each delegated pretreatment program within the state to participate in the training at no cost, except for any travel, food, and lodging, which shall be the responsibility of non-City of Tacoma participants to bear. The objective of the training will be to share and explain the City's pretreatment AKART approach.
- 8. Not later than thirty (30) days after the entry of this Consent Decree, the City will pay seventy thousand dollars (\$70,000,00) to the Rose Foundation for a project or projects to improve or protect the water quality of the Commencement Bay watershed as described in **Attachment A** of this Consent Decree. Checks will be made to the order of and delivered to: the Rose Foundation c/o Smith & Lowney, PLCC, 2317 E. John St., Seattle, WA 98112. Payment will include the following reference in a cover letter or on the check: "Consent Decree, Puget Soundkeeper Alliance v. City of Tacoma. A copy of the check and cover letter, if any, will be sent simultaneously to Soundkeeper and its counsel.
- 9. Within thirty (30) days of entry of this Consent Decree by the Court, and after having received, reviewed and approved a detailed accounting of Soundkeeper's reasonable

litigation fees, expenses, and costs (including reasonable attorney and expert witness fees) incurred in this matter in the amount of FIFTY FOUR THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED THIRTY FOUR DOLLARS AND SEVENTY FOUR CENTS (\$54,434.74) by check payable and mailed to Smith & Lowney, PLLC, 2317 East John St., Seattle, WA 98112, attn: Richard A. Smith. The City's payment shall be in full and complete satisfaction of any claims Soundkeeper has or may have, either legal or equitable, and of any kind or nature whatsoever, for litigation fees, including fees of any kind, expenses, and costs incurred in the litigation through the entry of this Consent Decree.

- 10. For two (2) years from the effective date of this Consent Decree, Soundkeeper may from time to time submit detailed invoices to the City describing the fees it incurred for third-party expert or consultant or attorney review of draft and final auditor reports, and other information received from the City when Soundkeeper reasonably determines that such review is necessary to monitor the City's compliance with this Consent Decree.

  Soundkeeper's invoice shall describe with reasonable detail the expert or consultant or attorney task(s) that generated the fee. The City will make best efforts to reimburse Soundkeeper within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt of such invoices provided that the total amount paid by the City under this paragraph does not exceed TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$20,000).
- 11. A force majeure event is any event outside the reasonable control of the City that causes a delay in performing tasks required by this Consent Decree that cannot be cured by due diligence. Delay in performance of a task required by this Consent Decree caused by a force majeure event is not a failure to comply with the terms of this Consent Decree, provided that the City notifies Soundkeeper of the event; the steps that City will take to perform the

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task; the projected time that will be needed to complete the task; and the measures that have been taken or will be taken to prevent or minimize any impacts to the City's sewage treatment systems and receiving water quality resulting from delay in completing the task.

The City will notify Soundkeeper of the occurrence of a force majeure event as soon as reasonably possible but, in any case, no later than ten (10) calendar days after the occurrence of the event. In such event, the time for performance of the task will be extended for a reasonable period of time following the force majeure event.

By way of example and not limitation, force majeure events include

- a. Acts of God, war, insurrection, or civil disturbance;
- b. Earthquakes, landslides, fire, floods;
- c. Actions or inactions of third parties over which City has no control;
- d. Unusually adverse weather conditions;
- e. Restraint by court order or order of public authority;
- f. Strikes;
- g. Any permit or other approval sought by the City from a government authority to implement any of the actions required by this consent decree where such approval is not granted or is delayed, and where the City has timely and in good faith sought the permit or approval; and
- h. Litigation, arbitration, or mediation that causes delay.
- 12. This Court retains jurisdiction over this matter until this Consent Decree is terminated as set forth in Paragraph 15 below. Until this Consent Decree terminates, this case may be reopened without filing fee so that the parties may apply to the Court for any further order that may be necessary to enforce compliance with this Consent Decree or to resolve any dispute

regarding the terms or conditions of this Consent Decree. Before applying to the Court for an order to enforce compliance or resolve a dispute, the parties must first attempt to resolve the dispute by meeting to discuss the dispute and any suggested measures for resolving the dispute. To initiate dispute resolution, the party invoking dispute resolution must provide written notice to the other party and its counsel of record that a dispute has arisen and request a meeting to attempt resolution. The meeting between the parties should be held as soon as practical but no later than thirty (30) calendar days after the notice of dispute is received by the other party and its counsel of record. If no resolution is reached at that meeting, or within thirty (30) calendar days of the notice, whichever occurs first, either party may file a motion with the Court to resolve the dispute.

or deficiencies identified in the Auditor's final report as necessary to correct to assure compliance with one or more of the Applicable Requirements under Paragraphs 7.2.2, 7.2.2.1 and 7.2.3 shall be brought as a motion to the Court for a declaratory judgment, and shall not include a claim for civil penalties under 33 U.S.C. § 1319, which are settled and released under Paragraph 5 above. Disputes regarding whether the City has corrected such deficiencies will initially be decided in writing by the Auditor and may involve the submission of position papers by the parties. A decision by the Auditor that the City has corrected a deficiency or deficiencies shall be final and not subject to the Court's review. If the Auditor decides that the City has not made such corrections, the City shall have thirty (30) calendar days following receipt of such decision to make necessary corrections in accordance with the implementation procedures in paragraph 7.2.2 above. If the City decides not to make such corrections following the Auditor's decision under this paragraph, then it will provide Soundkeeper with written notice of such decision within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt of the Auditor's decision, at which time Soundkeeper may file a

motion for a declaratory judgment in accordance with this paragraph. The provisions of section 505(d) of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1365(d), regarding awards of costs of litigation (including reasonable attorney and expert witness fees) to any prevailing or substantially prevailing party, will apply to any proceedings seeking to enforce the terms and conditions of this Consent Decree.

- 14. The parties recognize that, pursuant to 33 U.S.C. § 1365(c)(3), no consent judgment can be entered in a Clean Water Act suit in which the United States is not a party prior to 45 days following the receipt of a copy of the proposed consent judgment by the U.S. Attorney General and the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Therefore, upon the filing of this Consent Decree by the parties, Soundkeeper will serve copies of it upon the Administrator of the EPA and the Attorney General, with copy to the City.
- 15. This Consent Decree will take effect upon entry by this Court. It terminates two (2) years and ninety (90) days after that date.
  - 16. Both parties have participated in drafting this decree.
- 17. This Consent Decree may be modified only upon the written agreement of the parties and the approval of the Court.
- 18. If for any reason the court should decline to approve this Consent Decree in the form presented, this Consent Decree is voidable at the discretion of either party. The parties agree to continue negotiations in good faith in an attempt to cure any objection raised by the court to entry of this Consent Decree.
- 19. Notifications required by this Consent Decree must be in writing. The sending party may use any of the following methods of delivery: (1) personal delivery; (2) registered or certified mail, in each case return receipt requested and postage prepaid; (3) a nationally

1	recognized overnight courier, with all fees prepaid; or (4) e-mail. For a notice or other
2	communication regarding this decree to be valid, it must be delivered to the receiving party at the
3	one or more addresses listed below or to any other address designated by the receiving party in a
4	notice in accordance with this paragraph 19.
5	if to Puget Soundkeeper Alliance:
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7	Katelyn Kinn Puget Soundkeeper Alliance
8	130 Nickerson Street, Suite 107 Seattle WA 98109
9	email: katelyn@pugetsoundkeeper.org
10	and to:
11	Richard Smith
12	Smith & Lowney PLLC 2317 East John St.
13	Seattle, WA 98112
14	email: rasmithwa@igc.org
15	if to City: Chris Bacha
16	Chief Civil Deputy Attorney
17	City of Tacoma 747 Market Street, RM 1120
18	Tacoma, WA 98402 email: cbacha@cityoftacoma.org
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20	and to:
21	Michael P. Slevin III, P. E. Environmental Services Director
22	City of Tacoma 747 Market Street, RM 408
23	Tacoma, WA 98402
24	email: mslevin@cityoftacoma.org
25	A notice or other communication regarding this Consent Decree will be effective when
26	received unless the notice or other communication is received after 5:00 p.m. on a business day,

1	or on a day that is not a business day, then the notice will be deemed received at 9:00 a.m. on the
2	next business day. A notice or other communication will be deemed to have been received: (a) if
3	it is delivered in person or sent by registered or certified mail or by nationally recognized
4	overnight courier, upon receipt as indicated by the date on the signed receipt; or (b) if the
5	receiving party rejects or otherwise refuses to accept it, or if it cannot be delivered because of a
6	change in address for which no notice was given, then upon that rejection, refusal, or inability to
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8	deliver; or (c) for notice provided via e-mail, upon receipt of a response by the party providing
9	notice or other communication regarding this Consent Decree.
10	DATED this day of, 2016
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13	HON. RONALD B. LEIGHTON
14 15	UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
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