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**TO:** T.C. Broadnax, City Manager  
**FROM:** William A. Gaines, Director of Utilities/CEO  
**COPY:** City Council and City Clerk  
**SUBJECT:** Resolution – Renewal of Interlocal agreement with 16 local governments in King County to support salmon recovery in the Green River  
**DATE:** September 15, 2015

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**SUMMARY:**

This memorandum provides information on the renewal of an Interlocal agreement (ILA) and payment of operating costs between the City of Tacoma and 16 local governments within the Green/Duwamish watershed in King County for a 10 year period (2016-2025) to continue participation in and support of the WRIA 9 Lead Entity, which oversees salmon recovery efforts in said watershed. RCW 39.34.030 requires Interlocal Agreements to be approved by the City Council. Representation on the WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum for the City of Tacoma would be by the Water Superintendent or designee. WRIA 9 oversees the distribution and use of approximately \$2.5 million annually in grant funds from federal, state, and local sources that are dedicated to salmon recovery in the Green/Duwamish watershed. This amount may rise and fall annually depending on the availability of grant funds. The ILA partners share in the operating costs for the WRIA 9 Lead Entity. Cost to Tacoma Water would be \$18,820 in 2016 (Year 1), which represents 4.4% of the operating budget for the WRIA 9 Lead Entity. Cost for year 2 through 10 will be similarly apportioned, with the remainder of the costs being borne by the other ILA partners. Total payments made by Tacoma under the Interlocal Agreement will potentially exceed \$200,000.

**STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:**

- Foster neighborhood, community, and economic development vitality and sustainability.

This Interlocal agreement fosters neighborhood, community, and economic development vitality and sustainability by helping to align the City of Tacoma's use of the Green River, its primary water supply, in a way that protects salmon populations and other watershed benefits including water quality.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Green River is the source of approximately 95% of the water supplied by Tacoma Water. To implement projects for the recovery of depressed salmon populations in each watershed, lead entities were established under RCW 77.85. The WRIA 9 Lead Entity was formed in 2001 by an Interlocal agreement (ILA) between 17 local governments. Participation by the City of Tacoma was approved in 2002 by the Public Utility Board under Resolution U-9714 and by the City Council under Resolution 35505, as extended under Public Utility Board Resolution U-10015 and City Council Resolution 36711. Work during this period included the development of a salmon recovery plan for the Green River in 2005. Tacoma Water participated in the development of the plan, which was approved by the Tacoma Public Utility Board under Resolution U-10020. Since 2005, the WRIA 9 Lead Entity has been working to implement the plan using Federal, state, and local grant funds apportioned for salmon recovery work on the Green River. The latest renewal of the ILA occurred in 2007 by the Public Utility Board and City



Council under Resolutions U-10086 and 37052. The current ILA expires on December 31, 2015.

The WRIA 9 Lead Entity is directed by the Watershed Ecosystem Forum (WEF). The WEF is comprised of multiple stakeholders including representatives from the 17 ILA partner governments and various other interested businesses, governmental organizations, and citizen groups. The Tacoma Water superintendent or designee would represent the City of Tacoma on the WEF.

The ILA commits the 17 local governments to providing the operating funds necessary to support the work of the WRIA 9 Lead Entity. King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks is the service provider and operates under a Memorandum of Understanding with the ILA Partners. Sixteen of the ILA Partners are located within the Green River watershed and pay a share of the operating budget based on the proportion of their population, jurisdictional area, and land value represented in their respective jurisdictions. Tacoma, being outside of the Green River watershed, contributes a similar percentage of the costs, which has ranged from 4.4% to 5% over the previous 15 years.

Support and representation on the WRIA 9 Lead Entity enables Tacoma Water to partner with other local governments and stakeholders to restore salmon and improve watershed health in the Green River basin. It also provides an opportunity to build relationships, showcase our environmental stewardship including our salmon recovery efforts, share our messaging, and stay engaged on watershed issues. These benefits help to maintain or improve the reputation of the utility and to build trust among watershed stakeholders.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

One alternative to renewing the ILA would be to not participate in the recovery of salmon in the Green River other than through our commitments under the Tacoma Water's Green River Habitat Conservation Plan, Additional Water Storage Project, and Muckleshoot Settlement Agreement. This would reduce communication and collaboration between Tacoma Water and the ILA Partners on our shared goals of preserving and improving watershed health, and recovering salmon populations. Another alternative would be to participate on the WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum as a non-voting member. This would enable some communication with the ILA Partners but relegate the City of Tacoma to an advisory role even though it maintains approximately 48% of the entire Green/Duwamish Basin within its municipal watershed.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Tacoma Water recommends that the City Council authorize the renewal of an Interlocal Agreement for participation of Tacoma Water staff and for continued support of the WRIA 9 Lead Entity to further the recovery of salmon in the Green River, for the ten-year period from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2025.



**FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Revenues:**

**FISCAL IMPACT TO CURRENT BIENNIAL BUDGET: \$37,092.**

<b>FUNDING SOURCE</b>	<b>COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)</b>	<b>COST ELEMENT</b>	<b>TOTAL AMOUNT OVER 10 YEAR INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT</b>
Water Operating Funds	581000	5412030	\$230,000
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$230,000</b>

**ARE THE EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES PLANNED AND BUDGETED?** Yes. \$37,092 was budgeted for the 2015/16 Biennium, of which \$18,820 will be paid in 2016 if the ILA is renewed.

**IF EXPENSE IS NOT BUDGETED, PLEASE EXPLAIN HOW THEY ARE TO BE COVERED.**