



TO: Elizabeth A. Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Michael P. Slevin III, P.E., Environmental Services Director
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PRESENTER: Joel Baker, PhD Science Director, Center for Urban Waters
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SUBJECT: Center for Urban Waters
DATE: May 22, 2018

PRESENTATION TYPE:
Informational Briefing

SUMMARY:

On May 22, 2018, Joel Baker, Science Director of the Center for Urban Waters and Professor at the University of Washington Tacoma (UWT) will lead a discussion on the UWT's effort in supporting science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) training and jobs, especially environmental "Green Jobs" in the greater Tacoma area. The discussion will include information on the University of Washington Puget Sound Institute, on growth of STEM degree programs at UWT, on the launch of the Readiness Acceleration Innovation Network (RAIN), and on the Urban Clean Water Innovation Partnership Zone.

BACKGROUND:

Since 2010, UWT and the City of Tacoma have collaborated on fostering innovation in the management and stewardship of water in the urban environment. This is being done by developing educational programs, research, and support networks that foster living wage jobs in science and environmental fields.

ISSUE:

One of the great challenges facing the world is harmonizing the needs for living wage jobs and a healthy sustainable environment. Often the needs for meaningful work and a vibrant economy are seen as incompatible with the need for a healthy environment. A solution to this dilemma is growing a skilled work force that can develop the science needed to address the challenges facing our environment and implement this science in an innovative and effective way.

ALTERNATIVES:

This is an information briefing only. There are no alternatives presented.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This is an information briefing only. There is no fiscal impact.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is an information briefing only. There is no recommendation.