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COPY: Government Performance and Finance Committee
PRESENTER: Michael P. Slevin III, P.E., James G. Parvey, P.E.
SUBJECT: Air Quality Monitoring Program
DATE: February 16, 2021

PRESENTATION TYPE:

Informational Briefing

SUMMARY:

The Government Performance and Finance Committee (GPFC) has requested an update on the Air Quality Monitoring Pilot project. This project was originally brought forward as a Council Contingency Resolution in December of 2018. Since that time the project has experienced delays from a number of causes. Environmental Services staff will provide a briefing on progress to date, budget status, delays and their causes, and present options to resume this project. This will be an informational briefing, and is intended to provide context to support decision making going forward.

BACKGROUND:

While the City is not directly responsible for regulating local air quality, there is a strong commitment to understand and improve community health. Community interest in air quality has grown in recent years, with particular interest in the impacts of emissions from industrial activity on air quality in abutting neighborhoods. In response, the City Council passed Resolution No. 40201 directing staff to contract with Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (PSCAA) to develop a two-year pilot program to provide public education, purchase, deploy, and monitor Purple Air sensors. Subsequently, PSCAA indicated that they were unable to provide these services. This required a new resolution, Resolution No. 40386, directing staff to negotiate a contract with University of Washington–Tacoma for the previously described services. Many elements of the work are currently in place, but other elements must still be developed.

ISSUE:

The project is significantly behind schedule. An action plan should be developed to restore progress on this important work.

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.