



TO: Hyun Kim, City Manager
FROM: Ramiro A. Chavez, P.E. PgMP, Director, Environmental Services
COPY: Infrastructure Planning and Sustainability Committee
PRESENTER: Michael Carey, Urban Forest Program Manager, Environmental Services
SUBJECT: South Tacoma Tree Canopy Project, Partnership with City of Tacoma and Washington State Department of Ecology
DATE: June 24, 2026

Initial DS
 CWC RACPP

PRESENTATION TYPE:
 Informational Briefing

SUMMARY:

On June 23, 2026, City of Tacoma Urban Forestry (City) and Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) Staff presented to Council requesting a Resolution authorizing the execution of an Interagency Agreement (IAA) between the City and Ecology in the amount of \$1,750,000, to implement a three-phased program from June 2026 through December 31, 2028 in the South Tacoma Neighborhood. This South Tacoma Tree Canopy Program (Program) proposes to increase tree canopy as a strategy for long-term air quality particulate mitigation. This presentation with City and Ecology staff will provide an overview of the scope of work and schedule planned to implement this Program.

BACKGROUND:

An IAA between Ecology and the City establishes the South Tacoma Tree Canopy Program, implementing an urban tree canopy expansion effort within the Bridge Point Tacoma Settlement Boundary. The program will be conducted through three primary tasks:

1. Conduct a comprehensive Potential Tree Planting Inventory and Analysis to identify planting opportunities in the Settlement Boundary;
2. Implement a Green Blocks community tree planting program, offering free street trees and private property trees to residents within the settlement boundary, as informed by the Potential Tree Planting Inventory; and,
3. Capital improvements on South Union Avenue (the primary truck corridor) to remove asphalt and establish trees in a newly constructed median within S Union Ave., remove compacted gravel and establish new street trees within the planting strips on both sides of S Union Ave., and convert an existing parking lot into a vegetated community open space.

ISSUE:

In November 2024, Ecology entered an \$8.95 million settlement with Bridge Point Tacoma to address air quality impacts in South Tacoma resulting from the new warehouse development, Bridge Point. Increasing tree canopy in the impacted neighborhood (Settlement Boundary) has been identified as one component of a larger project led by Ecology to reduce airborne particulate matter generated from the new truck traffic near the warehouse facility.

The partnership between Ecology and the City outlined under this IAA will help Ecology meet its legal obligations of the Settlement Agreement, while leveraging the City’s urban forestry expertise, resources, partnerships and community connections to better serve our community.

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.