



**Contract and Award Letter
Purchase Resolution – Exhibit “A”**

TO: Board of Contracts and Awards
FROM: Ramiro A. Chavez, P.E., PgMP, Director/City Engineer, Environmental Services
Desiree Radice, Natural Resources Analyst Principal, Science and Engineering Division
COPY: City Council, City Manager, City Clerk, EIC Coordinator, LEAP Coordinator, and Stan Rowden, Senior Buyer, Finance/Procurement
SUBJECT: 2025-2026 Department of Ecology Interagency Agreement for Washington Conservation Corps environmental services projects pursuant to RCW 43.220 Interagency Agreement, Contract No. CW2276946, Department of Ecology Contract No. WCC-25021 – October 28, 2025, City Council
DATE: September 30, 2025

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RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY: The Environmental Services (ES) Department recommends the City execute ratification of an interagency agreement with Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE) in the projected amount of \$622,720, plus applicable taxes, budgeted from the Stormwater Fund 4301 for Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) environmental services projects under RCW 43.220, including land restoration activities, for an initial term of October 1, 2025, to September 30, 2026.

STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:

- Assure outstanding stewardship of the natural and built environment.

The ES Department Environmental Programs Group manages over 500 acres of City-owned open space, supports urban forestry and manages stormwater quality and quantity for public benefit. This agreement directly supports the City's efforts to restore and maintain land and waters through cost-effective, skilled labor. By engaging Department of Ecology's (Ecology) Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) crews in restoration and stewardship, the City enhances stormwater quality and quantity, biodiversity, and public access to healthier urban ecosystems. The work also supports the City's Tacoma One Comprehensive Plan (Goals EN-2, 4-6), 2030 Climate Action Plan, Urban Forest Management Plan, and other environmental sustainability commitments.

BACKGROUND: Ecology's WCC program is pursuant to RCW 43.220 that provides trained crews to complete environmental restoration and stewardship projects statewide. The City has partnered with Ecology for over 20 years to sponsor WCC crews to implement habitat restoration on passive open space, support urban forestry operations, and improve public benefits to surface water quality and quantity. The program supports young adults (ages 18–25) by offering meaningful work experiences and educational stipends.

The City has leveraged WCC services to meet obligations under the Commencement Bay Natural Resources Damage Assessment and Foss Waterway's Long Term Monitoring Plan, to maintain restoration sites such as Mason Gulch and Salmon Beach, and operate the City's Plant Holding Facility. Restoration work typically includes noxious weed removal, native plant installation, nursery maintenance, and monitoring. The crews also support tree care, logistics and delivery of materials for urban forestry projects.



ISSUE: Without this agreement, the City would lack the labor resources needed to maintain ecological restoration, urban forestry commitments and make improvements to surface water quality and quantity. The absence of WCC support would delay noxious weed management, reduce planting and maintenance capacity, and jeopardize long-term restoration investments on public lands as well as City program goals.

ALTERNATIVES:

Alternative 1: Hire private contractors or nonprofit restoration crews. While feasible, this approach is substantially more expensive at prevailing wage rates for landscape maintenance/construction, and often less flexible. Because WCC is not a private contractor but a State-administered program, it is not practical to include them in a standard Request for Bids (RFB) process.

Alternative 2: Do not approve the agreement. This would significantly hinder the City's ability to meet regulatory obligations and environmental stewardship commitments regarding multiple plans, policies, and programs. Restoration sites could degrade, urban forestry commitments go unmet, and the City's plant holding facility would require alternate labor solutions at higher cost.

The City has partnered with the WCC for over two decades. Evaluations of alternative labor sources have consistently demonstrated that the WCC program offers a cost-effective approach to environmental restoration. By employing young adults aged 18–25, the program not only delivers essential services but also helps cultivate the next generation of environmental professionals. The reliability of WCC crews in producing consistent restoration outcomes, combined with the strength of program leadership, reinforces the overall value of continuing this partnership.

COMPETITIVE ANALYSIS: A competitive solicitation process was not conducted because the WCC program is administered exclusively by the Washington State Department of Ecology, making it an interagency provider for this type of environmental restoration labor. The ES Department is reviewing the option of alternative labor from private contractors, but future RFB processes would supplement rather than replace the cost-effectiveness of the WCC program. The youth workforce development component makes it both a feasible and beneficial option for meeting the City's environmental stewardship needs.

CONTRACT HISTORY: New Contract. The City has annually entered into a WCC contract for over 20 years. Last years' contract amount was below the City Council's monetary threshold, per reduced crew availability from the Department of Ecology. The most recent contract that was put before the City Council was awarded to the Department of Ecology per Resolution No. 41267 on September 12, 2023.

SUSTAINABILITY: The City's passive open space, urban forest, and regional pond programs are central to long-term environmental sustainability goals, as outlined in City's Tacoma One Comprehensive Plan (Goals EN-2, 4-6), 2030 Climate Action Plan, Urban Forest Management Plan, and related sustainability policies. The WCC supports these efforts through direct on-the-ground restoration work, including native plant planting, support of community stewardship, and invasive species management.



WCC crews contribute to climate resilience by improving ecosystem health and tree canopy cover, supporting stormwater infiltration, and enhancing biodiversity across the City's 500+ acres of publicly owned natural areas. Their efforts also align with City Proclamations including Earth Day, Arbor Day, and Green Tacoma Day, and help fulfill goals outlined by the Environmental Action Plan and the Environmental Services Strategic Plan. By investing in WCC, the City strengthens sustainability through workforce development, ecosystem restoration, and increased capacity to respond to the impacts of urban heat and human well-being.

EQUITY IN CONTRACTING (EIC) COMPLIANCE: Not applicable - EIC Exception: Interagency Agreement

LOCAL EMPLOYMENT AND APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING PROGRAM (LEAP)
COMPLIANCE: Not Applicable

FISCAL IMPACT:

EXPENDITURES:

FUND NUMBER & FUND NAME	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
4301 Stormwater Fund	521700	5330100	\$ 451,584
4301 Stormwater Fund	521935	5330100	\$ 112,896
4301 Stormwater Fund	521600	5330100	\$ 58,240
TOTAL			Up to \$622,720

REVENUES:

FUNDING SOURCE	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
4301 Stormwater Fund	521900	4343243	(\$622,720)
TOTAL			Up to (\$622,720)

FISCAL IMPACT TO CURRENT BIENNIAL BUDGET: \$ 622,720

ARE THE EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES PLANNED AND BUDGETED? Yes

IF EXPENSE IS NOT BUDGETED, PLEASE EXPLAIN HOW THEY ARE TO BE COVERED. N/A