



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

TO: Board of Contracts and Awards
FROM: Ramiro A. Chavez, P.E. PgMP, Director, Environmental Services
 Kyle Amoroso, P.E., Senior Engineering Project Manager, Environmental Services – Science & Engineering Division
COPY: City Council, City Manager, City Clerk, EIC Coordinator, LEAP Coordinator, and Stan Rowden, Senior Buyer, Finance/Procurement
SUBJECT: City of Tacoma’s Streamflow Restoration Strategy for Flett Wetlands & Creek RFQ Specification No. ES25-0152F, Contract No. CW2277173 – March 24, 2026
 City Council
DATE: February 23, 2026

Initial DS
 GMS RALCP

RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY:

The Environmental Services (ES) Department recommends a contract be awarded to Brown and Caldwell, Tacoma, Washington, for a projected contract amount of \$1,229,000, plus applicable taxes, budgeted from ES Stormwater Fund, for engineering and environmental consulting services related to the restoration of the Flett Wetland System.

STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:

- Strengthen and support a safe city with healthy residents.
- Ensure all Tacoma residents are valued and have access to resources to meet their needs.
- Encourage thriving residents with abundant opportunities for life-long learning.
- Assure outstanding stewardship of the natural and built environment.
- Encourage and promote an efficient and effective government, which is fiscally sustainable and guided by engaged residents.

BACKGROUND:

The ES Department’s recommendation is based on a review of Brown and Caldwell and their team’s qualifications and experience working on related projects. This includes work on a related grant (WRSRP-2020-TacoES-00004) in which proposed streamflow benefit opportunities at various sites within the Flett Creek Watershed were identified. This new grant will further the aims of this previous one in helping to restore instream flows that have been negatively impacted over time by increases in urbanization and impervious surfaces within the watershed.

This study will identify solutions to restore and enhance the Flett Creek system’s ecological function and stormwater management capacity. Ecological benefits include improving water quality, reducing peak water temperature, and restoring habitats to benefit threatened/endangered salmonids in the Chambers-Clover Creek system. Enhancing the functionality of the Flett ponds as stormwater infrastructure will reduce the potential for localized roadway flooding in commercial and residential areas upstream, the majority of which are listed as very low or low in the City of Tacoma’s Equity Index Map. Additionally, this project can provide regional stormwater flow control capacity to support future development and housing projects through the Payment in-lieu of Construction Program. Another benefit of a well-functioning Flett system is the opportunity for City of Tacoma staff to continue working with instructors at Clover Park Technical College to promote field learning opportunities of these



unique wetlands. Clover Park currently use the Flett wetlands as a learning laboratory for students in the Environmental Sciences and Technology Program.

The City of Tacoma has a team of experienced watershed planning, asset management, facility maintenance, and stormwater design staff, who have invested significant staff time and consulting fees to develop preliminary Flett Pond retrofit options and long-term objectives for this study. The team believes that Brown and Caldwell can build upon this foundation to produce a successful feasibility study under this grant.

ISSUE: The purpose of this agreement is to obtain a consultant firm that will be able to assist the City in satisfying the requirements of Washington State Department of Ecology’s Grant WRSRP-2024-TacoES-00274. The final outcome of this grant will be to develop a feasibility study with at least one conceptual design (10 percent) for improved stormwater management, ecological function, and streamflow protection of the Flett Wetland and Creek system.

ALTERNATIVES: The alternative is to reject the ES Department’s recommendation and restart the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process. However, the City may struggle to receive additional quality bids, given that the initial RFQ yielded only one. This action would delay work related to the grant and require the ES Department to re-negotiate their grant contract with Ecology.

COMPETITIVE SOLICITATION:

Request for Qualifications (RFQ) Specification No. ES25-0152F was opened August 19, 2025. 411 companies were invited to bid in addition to normal advertising of the project. One submittal was received. A Selection Advisory Committee (SAC) was formed to evaluate the qualifications received and decided that the Brown and Caldwell (in partnership with Landau Associates Inc., et al.) team was satisfactorily qualified to perform the services outlined in the RFQ.

CONTRACT HISTORY: New contract.

SUSTAINABILITY: The goal of this grant is to provide a comprehensive set of actions to provide long-term and sustainable solutions that will provide enhanced stormwater management capacity and ecological functions of the Flett Wetlands. These solutions will aim to provide various long-term economic and environmental benefits including:

- Reducing the potential for residential and commercial flooding within the Flett watershed
- Reducing reliance on hard stormwater infrastructure (i.e. pipes, etc.) within the Flett watershed
- Providing an income source with additional stormwater capacity for the City’s pay-in-lieu program

Enhancing ecological function of the Flett Ponds, Wetlands, and Creek to, amongst other benefits, promote habitat spaces for various salmonid species.

EQUITY IN CONTRACTING (EIC) COMPLIANCE: Not applicable - EIC Exception: Lack of certified contractors



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
ES Stormwater Fund 4301	ENV-03004-12	5310100	\$1,229,000
TOTAL			Up to \$1,229,000

REVENUES:

FUNDING SOURCE	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
Ecology Grant WRSRP-2024- TacoES-00274	521900	6232300	(\$1,229,000)
TOTAL			Up to (\$1,229,000)

FISCAL IMPACT TO CURRENT BIENNIAL BUDGET: \$ 1,229,000

ARE THE EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES PLANNED AND BUDGETED? Yes

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