



TO: Hyun Kim, City Manager

FROM: Elizabeth Matteri, Natural Resources Analyst, Associate, Environmental Services
 Ramiro A. Chavez, P.E. PgMP, Director, Environmental Services

COPY: City Council and City Clerk

SUBJECT: Resolution - Amendment to Interlocal Agreement with Pierce Conservation District to place stormwater and wastewater Sustainability Small Grant funds under Pierce Conservation District administration. - March 3, 2026

DATE: February 10, 2026

Initial DS
 GMS RACPP

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:

A resolution authorizing the amendment of an interlocal agreement with Pierce Conservation District, in the amount up to \$50,000, budgeted from the Stormwater and Wastewater Funds, for administration of grant funding for a one-year period, retroactive to January 1, 2026, with the option to renew for an additional one-year term. This funding may be renewed for at least one additional year effective January 1, 2027, provided that the ILA is renewed for an additional term at the end of 2026.

BACKGROUND:

The original ILA was adopted by Resolution No. 41583 in December 2024 to assist with the implementation of green stormwater infrastructure and low impact development projects, co-manage the open space volunteer program, and to help grow Tacoma’s urban tree canopy, for a two-year period beginning January 1, 2025.

This amendment places wastewater and stormwater Sustainability Small Grant funding under PCD’s administration, enhancing the accessibility and effectiveness of these funds with the goal of accelerating community greening projects, particularly in overburdened communities within Tacoma.

These funds are already budgeted for the 2025-2026 biennium and were previously administered by the Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability (OEPS) and Environmental Services (ES).. ES sought PCD’s support in administering these funds, in line with the approach already successfully used with ES’s Make a Splash small grant program under the subject ILA. PCD agreed to administer the funds, contingent on identifying a funding source for additional staff capacity to do so.

PCD, ES, and Pierce County then partnered to successfully secure a \$400,000 Department of Ecology Neighborhood Stormwater Education grant that funds (1) a PCD full-time position to administer the \$50,000 in Sustainability Small Grant funds and (2) community outreach work in South and East Tacoma under ES national award-winning Community Ambassador Program. PCD will use these grant-funded program elements to achieve more equitable, rapid, accessible, and effective deployment of community greening small grant projects in Tacoma, with a focus on the neighborhoods that are most in need of greening due to lack of tree canopy and associated urban heat and air quality inequities. These funds will be made available to the community through PCD’s Green Stormwater Infrastructure Mini Grants program.

The full scope of the ILA supports compliance with the Phase I Municipal Stormwater Permit and City goals stated in the City’s Climate Action Plan, Stormwater Management Plan, and the Urban Watershed Protection Plan to



ultimately relieve pressures on our stormwater infrastructure and our urban natural areas. This agreement will streamline the City's reach and ability to preserve and improve the natural environment by implementing green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) and low impact development (LID) projects, stewarding open spaces, reconnecting communities to nature, providing trees and preserving tree canopy to improve ecosystem function and reduce heat island effects. Additionally, this agreement will enhance and expand the City's existing collaborations with Pierce Conservation District allowing for increased efficiency.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ CUSTOMER RESEARCH:

This amendment makes community greening small grant funding more accessible to community members by (1) removing barriers to application, receipt, and management of small grant projects via PCD's streamlined small grant processes (2) supporting culturally effective community outreach in South and East Tacoma through ES's award-winning Community Ambassador Program and Department of Ecology Neighborhood Stormwater Education grant funds.

2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Equity and Accessibility:

The programs under this agreement contribute to the health and well-being of the environment and Tacoma residents. This will be achieved through improved: air and water quality, stormwater interception and infiltration, tree canopy, and access to green spaces. As population density and climate change impacts increase, including increased extreme heat events, the work accomplished under these programs will help moderate those impacts throughout Tacoma, including low-income and underserved communities.

Civic Engagement: *Equity Index Score:* High Opportunity

Increase the number of residents who participate civically through volunteering and voting.

Increase the percentage of residents who believe they are able to have a positive impact on the community and express trust in the public institutions in Tacoma.

Livability: *Equity Index Score:* Very High Opportunity

Improve health outcomes and reduce disparities, in alignment with the community health needs assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), for all Tacoma residents.

Increase positive public perception of safety and overall quality of life.

Explain how your legislation will affect the selected indicator(s).

This amendment will allow for direct and positive impacts to community health and stormwater quality by supporting more effective and equitable deployment of community greening small grant funds. In addition to the environmental benefits, community greening projects facilitated by this amendment will benefit neighborhoods and individual community members through noise and traffic reduction, reduced heat island effects, and interception of stormwater. Community outreach, education, and feedback are directly built into the mission of this program; teaching community about the environment and giving them access to information, materials and tools to make informed decisions that will directly and positively influence their families, neighborhoods, and the community at large.



ALTERNATIVES:

Alternative(s)	Positive Impact(s)	Negative Impact(s)
1. Do not approve the amendment to the agreement with Pierce Conservation District.	Sustainability Small Grant disbursements continue to occur through existing City processes, with the limitations described to the right.	Sustainability Small Grant disbursements will continue to be limited by low procurement and utility staff availability, reduced project management support for recipients, that make grants less accessible to community members. PCD will be unable to leverage State grant funds for enhanced outreach and grant assistance for community greening in South and East Tacoma.

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP:

PCD will report on progress quarterly and at biannual meetings with the City program leads. Progress will include, but is not limited to: grant awards received, volunteer work parties, education and outreach materials, trees sold or given to the community. Achievements will be shared with ES management and through the City’s website.

STAFF/SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of this legislation to facilitate more effective, rapid, and equitable disbursement of community greening small grant funds, which will lead to greater environmental and community benefit. Council approval is needed as soon as feasible to enable Tacoma’s support of PCD’s Department of Ecology grant scope of work.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Fund Number & Name	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	Cost Element	Total Amount
1. ES Stormwater Fund 4301	Various	5310100	\$25,000
2. ES Wastewater Fund 4300	Various	5310100	\$25,000
TOTAL			\$50,000

What Funding is being used to support the expense?

Pierce Conservation District, the City of Tacoma, and Pierce County partnered to successfully secure \$400,000 in grant funding from the Department of Ecology to support enhanced PCD administration of ES’s already-budgeted \$50,000 in wastewater and stormwater Sustainability Small Grant funds.



Are the expenditures and revenues planned and budgeted in this biennium's current budget?

YES

All program costs are currently budgeted.

Are there financial costs or other impacts of not implementing the legislation?

NO

Will the legislation have an ongoing/recurring fiscal impact?

YES

This contract is anticipated to renew biennially.

Will the legislation change the City's FTE/personnel counts?

NO

Agreement administration will be absorbed with current personnel, and contracting with nonprofits and community members for these small grant funds will be completed by PCD rather than by the City.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Agreement
- Amendment