



City Council

Approval of a Resolution Authorizing an Interlocal Agreement Between the City of Olympia, Port of Olympia, and LOTT Clean Water Alliance to Establish the Olympia Sea Level Rise Response Collaborative

Agenda Date: 5/18/2021
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Title

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Recommended Action

Committee Recommendation:

Not referred to a committee.

City Manager Recommendation:

Move to approve a Resolution authorizing the Interlocal Agreement between the City of Olympia, the Port of Olympia, and the LOTT Clean Water Alliance to establish the Olympia Sea Level Rise Response Collaborative.

Report

Issue:

Whether to approve an Interlocal Agreement between the City of Olympia, the Port of Olympia, and the LOTT Clean Water Alliance to establish the Olympia Sea Level Rise Response Collaborative.

Staff Contact:

Eric Christensen, Water Resources Director, Public Works Department, 360.570.3741

Presenter:

None - Consent Calendar Item.

Background and Analysis:

Downtown Olympia is the social, cultural, historic, and economic core of the City. The 450-acre downtown area contains vital infrastructure such as Olympia City Hall, the Budd Inlet Treatment Plant, the Port of Olympia marine terminal, and the emergency vehicle corridor between west and east Olympia.

While our downtown's extensive shoreline helps make Olympia an extraordinary city, it also makes us vulnerable to flooding. In the coming decades, sea level rise will cause flooding downtown that could lead to property damage and loss of public services. With just 12 inches of sea level rise, a 100-year flood event could occur every other year.

The City of Olympia has been engaged in climate change and sea level rise planning since the early 1990s. Considerable work has been completed to understand the implications sea level rise will have for downtown Olympia. Recently, the City collaborated with the LOTT Clean Water Alliance and the Port of Olympia to produce the Olympia Sea Level Rise Response Plan, adopted in March 2019.

The Plan recommended that we prepare for 24 inches of sea rise by the year 2050 and 68 inches by 2100. The Plan identified the vulnerabilities and presented strategies for adapting to the sea level rise scenarios.

A key Plan strategy was to develop a governance structure and organization for managing our response. This Interlocal Agreement is the second step in implementing that strategy. The previous agreement established an interjurisdictional "Joint Administrative Committee" comprised of elected officials from each jurisdiction. Staff worked with the Joint Administrative Committee to develop and obtain a recommendation to approve this proposed Interlocal Agreement to establish the "Olympia Sea Level Rise Response Collaborative" (the Collaborative).

The Collaborative will be a consortium of the same members (City of Olympia, LOTT Clean Water Alliance and Port of Olympia) that takes action on sea level rise adaptation and supports regional climate change mitigation efforts, with the ultimate goal of improving the quality of life for all Thurston County residents. The Collaborative will provide a mechanism through which its members can learn, explore, collaborate, incubate, coordinate, and communicate policies and best practices that an Executive Committee (member leadership) can decide to advance collectively or singularly.

The agreement is scheduled to be approved by the LOTT Clean Water Alliance on May 12th and the Port of Olympia on May 10th.

Neighborhood/Community Interests (if known):

Various community groups and other agencies are engaged in climate change and sea level rise issues. The City of Olympia Comprehensive Plan and Downtown Strategy support planning for and adapting to sea level rise. With very few exceptions, preparing for sea level rise was uniformly supported by citizens during public outreach for development of the Olympia Sea Level Rise Response Plan.

Options:

1. Approve a Resolution authorizing the Interlocal Agreement between the City of Olympia, the Port of Olympia, and the LOTT Clean Water Alliance to establish the Olympia Sea Level Rise Response Collaborative. This will allow the parties to proceed with initial sea level rise projects.
2. Modify the Interlocal Agreement. Changes to the agreement will require coordination with all parties and may delay our response to sea level rise.
3. Decline the Interlocal Agreement. This would be contrary to public sentiment and may ultimately make maintaining downtown public and private services challenging. The lack of a

coordinated approach to sea level rise would impact relations among the City of Olympia, Port of Olympia, and LOTT Clean Water Alliance.

Financial Impact:

Under this Interlocal Agreement, the City of Olympia, Port of Olympia, and LOTT Clean Water Alliance will share costs to implement joint-funded, near-term projects under current budgets. Each party will pay the City of Olympia up to \$40,000 plus necessary in-house costs such as salaries and expenses for a staff liaison.

Attachments:

Resolution
Agreement