



City Council

Authorization to Apply for Watershed Protection and Restoration Grant in the Amount of \$350,000

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Title

Authorization to Apply for Watershed Protection and Restoration Grant in the Amount of \$350,000

Recommended Action

Committee Recommendation:

The Utility Advisory Committee supports application for this grant (see attached memo).

City Manager Recommendation:

Move to authorize staff to submit the grant application.

Report

Issue:

Whether to authorize staff to submit a Watershed Protection and Restoration Grant in the amount of \$350,000 to the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology), National Estuary Program.

Staff Contact:

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Andy Haub, Interim Director, Public Works Water Resources, 360.753.8475

Presenter(s):

None - Consent Calendar Item

Background and Analysis:

The application for grant funding under Ecology and the US EPA National Estuary Program (NEP) for Watershed Protection and Restoration is due on February 28, 2014.

The funding opportunity is specific to the Puget Sound. It is focused on design and/or field implementation of riparian or floodplain restoration projects. Proposals must demonstrate how the project was selected using a watershed-based approach and how the project will address protection and/or restoration of watershed processes (e.g., fish and wildlife habitat).

City Storm and Surface Water staff proposes to submit an application that builds upon our recently completed, preliminary Habitat and Stewardship Strategy. The Strategy was presented to the City

Utility Advisory Committee (UAC) on January 2, 2014, and is scheduled for presentation to Council's Land Use and Environment Committee on March 27, 2014. The Strategy was well received and is supported by the UAC (See attached letter of support).

This strategy consolidates and updates several other studies that have been developed over the past 20 years related to aquatic habitat conservation in the City of Olympia. It uses a watershed-based framework to identify and prioritize riparian habitat acquisition and restoration needs throughout the Storm and Surface Water Utility Service area (City of Olympia and its Urban Growth Area). Habitat enhancement is one of three key responsibilities of the Utility.

The grant application proposes both development and implementation of a comprehensive suite of natural resource stewardship tools designed to restore aquatic and riparian habitat on a multitude of properties within the Green Cove Basin (See attached map). The proposal is consistent with both the priorities and strategies outlined within the Habitat and Stewardship Strategy presented to the UAC.

Through this grant, staff and regional partners (Olympia Parks Arts and Recreation Department, Capital Land Trust, Goldcrest Homeowner's Association and others) seek to implement the first phase of the Habitat and Stewardship Strategy. The grant does not require a local financial match. The City's funding request is for \$350,000.

Neighborhood/Community Interests (if known):

The proposal is consistent with neighborhood and community environmental interests. Several neighborhoods have already expressed their interest (e.g., Goldcrest Association). Other individuals and neighborhoods will be encouraged to participate.

Options:

Approve or decline the request to submit the grant application.

Financial Impact:

None. The grant will cover necessary expenses.

Although the grant does not require a financial match, the grant scoring gives credit for local match. As such, we are proposing a 10 to 15 percent financial match (in the form of in-kind staff time) as leverage. Funding to cover staff time is available without affecting the delivery of other core services.