

February 27, 2018

The Honorable Joe McDermott
Chair, King County Council
Room 1200
C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember McDermott:

This letter transmits an ordinance approving the 2017/2018 WaterWorks recommended project list as required by Ordinance 18261. These projects will protect and improve water quality in our region and foster environmental stewardship.

The legislation will provide funding for projects selected through the WaterWorks competitive grant program for non-profits, local governments, and schools to engage in projects, programs, and activities that will be beneficial to water quality in the service area of the Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) of the Department of Natural Resources and Parks. These projects will leverage or complement the water quality mission of King County's regional wastewater system.

Specifically, the ordinance will accomplish the following:

- Fund 23 projects totaling \$1,860,000 throughout King County and south Snohomish County
- Promote a variety of activities and approaches, including research, on-the-ground restoration, education, community engagement, stewardship, and green stormwater infrastructure that will improve water quality within WTD's service area and benefit its ratepayers
- Leverage significant funding and other resources, such as volunteer engagement which strengthens the grant recipient's ability to implement the project
- Foster environmental stewardship

The legislation also furthers the goals of key County plans and initiatives as follows:

- The legislation furthers the King County Strategic Plan goal of healthy environment by protecting water quality through reducing pollution at its source, and by promoting and implementing low-impact development practices, stormwater management, and habitat restoration.

- The legislation furthers the King County Equity and Social Justice Initiative goal of creating healthy built and natural environments by protecting and restoring waterways, and educating and engaging community members on water quality issues.
- The legislation furthers the Strategic Climate Action Plan goal of preparing for climate change impact by promoting green stormwater infrastructure, reducing the risk of flooding, planting trees, and building resilience at the local level.

In developing the projects recommended for funding listed in this legislation, WTD engaged non-profits, local governments, schools, and tribes through the project selection process. The attached memorandum from the WaterWorks Grant Ranking Committee (Committee) provides details about the project selection process. Upon review of the Committee's recommended project list, WTD has declined to serve as a grant recipient for the \$113,203 recommended for the "Lower Duwamish Stormwater Solutions" project, preferring instead that the WaterWorks funding be distributed to external organizations. WTD strongly supports this project and will seek to identify other potential grant applicants and/or funding sources for this work. The WaterWorks Grant Ranking Committee met again on February 8, 2018, and I am following their recommendation that the \$113,203 declined by WTD should be awarded as follows: City of Shoreline \$63,203 and Na'ah Illahee Fund \$50,000.

Thank you for considering this ordinance. This important legislation will benefit King County's wastewater ratepayers by funding projects that will protect and improve water quality and positively impact communities.

If you have any questions about this ordinance, please contact Mark Isaacson, Division Director of the Wastewater Treatment Division of the Department of Natural Resources and Parks, at 206-477-4601.

Sincerely,

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

Enclosures

cc: King County Councilmembers
ATTN: Grant Lahmann, Chief of Staff to Chair McDermott
Jeff Muhm, Director of Council Initiatives
Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council
Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget
Christie True, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)
Mark Isaacson, Division Director, Wastewater Treatment Division, DNRP