



King County

**Metropolitan King County Council
Regional Water Quality Committee**

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item:	7	Name:	Mike Reed
Proposed No.:	2019-B0167	Date:	November 6, 2019

SUBJECT

WaterWorks water quality grant award recommendations proposed by the Executive.

SUMMARY

Since the adoption of Ordinances 18031 and 18261 established a formal review process and new eligibility criteria for water quality grant awards under the county’s WaterWorks Grant program, the County Council has approved three rounds of grant awards recommended by the WaterWorks Grants Ranking Committee, supported by the WaterWorks Program of the Wastewater Treatment Division.¹ Today’s briefing will summarize the fourth round of WaterWorks grant awards recommended by the Grants Ranking Committee. This round provides for the allocation of \$2.139 million to 28 water quality-related projects in the service area of the regional wastewater system.

BACKGROUND

In May of 2015, the County Council adopted Ordinance 18031, amended in 2016 by Ordinance 18261, establishing a new review process and eligibility criteria for WaterWorks grants. To be eligible for a grant, a project must:

- Create a benefit to or improvement of water quality within the County Wastewater Treatment Division’s (WTD) service area and benefit its ratepayers; and
- Demonstrate that water quality benefits are related to WTD’s regional water quality responsibilities.

Non-profit groups, cities, counties, special purpose districts, and tribes, as well as entities such as private businesses that are partnered with an otherwise-eligible entity, are eligible to receive funding, following a competitive review process.

The Council may annually adopt a motion establishing priorities for the subsequent grant application cycle; the Council is to seek comments from the Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC) on such a proposed motion.

¹ Ordinances 18324 approved the Round 1 grant recommendations; Ordinance 18460 approved Round 2 recommendations; Ordinance 18735 approved Round 3 recommendations.

The review process is conducted by the WaterWorks Grant Ranking Committee, staffed by the Wastewater Treatment Division. The Committee includes one technical specialist, three positions representing the Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee (“MWPAAC”), and nine positions representing Council districts, recommended to the Executive by Councilmembers. Committee members are appointed by the Executive and confirmed by Council. The Grant Ranking Committee reviews, ranks and recommends projects. Recommendations are to be based upon the above-specified criteria, the ability of the project to demonstrate water quality benefits, and implementation strength.

Following development of recommendations, the County Executive is to confirm recommendations or adjust the project list, and transmit to Council for consideration.

Through a separate process, County Council members also identify water quality grant projects that receive funding through sewer rate revenues; the WaterWorks program provides administrative support for management of those projects. Council authorization for those projects has historically been managed through the Council's budget process.

ANALYSIS

The WaterWorks Grant Ranking Committee held a series of meetings to review applications and recommend proposals for water quality project funding. The Executive has transmitted Proposed Ordinance 2019-0444, which would approve the fourth round of recommendations by the Grant Ranking Committee. The transmittal includes a memorandum that lists the projects, including applicant, project amount, project title, proposed funding, project ranking, short project description and water quality benefit.

Recommended projects include:

- *Environmental Coalition of South Seattle*
 - *Spill Kit Incentive Program for Small and Multicultural Businesses--\$85,000*
- *Nature Vision*
 - *Youth Watershed Education, Stewardship, and Citizen Science Project--\$54,823*
- *Interlm CDA*
 - *Danny Woo Rainwater Harvesting Project--\$70,000*
- *Kent Meridian High School*
 - *Kent Meridian High School's Rain Garden Project--\$25,000*
- *Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust*
 - *Greenway Education Program--\$45,000*
- *Puget Soundkeeper*
 - *Lost Urban Creeks Community Education and Revitalization Project--\$80,000*

- *Environmental Science Center at Seahurst Park*
 - *Salmon Heroes: Watershed Education and Water Quality Monitoring for Underserved Students--\$75,000*
- *Sustainable Seattle*
 - *Green Duwamish Watershed—Curriculum Design Lab--\$84,400*
- *Beavers Northwest*
 - *Seattle Parks and Recreation Beaver Management Plan--\$39,000*
- *City of Redmond*
 - *NE 40th Street Stormwater Treatment Retrofit --\$150,000*
- *Mini Mart City Park*
 - *Green Stormwater Infrastructure at Mini Mart City Park--\$100,000*
- *Stewardship Partners*
 - *Equitable Green Stormwater Infrastructure Incentives for King County--\$150,000*
- *Sno-King Watershed Council*
 - *Sno-King Watershed Council volunteer water monitoring, outreach, education--\$25,000*
- *Woodland Park Zoo*
 - *Woodland Park Zoo Stormwater Reuse Feasibility and Design Project with Water Quality Education--\$100,000*
- *City of Issaquah*
 - *Lower Issaquah Creek Stream and Riparian Habitat Restoration Project--\$170,000*
- *City of Maple Valley*
 - *Stormwater Facility Water Quality Retrofit--\$45,000*
- *Central Area Collaborative*
 - *Lake Washington Watershed Internship Program--\$97,381*
- *Puget Soundkeeper*
 - *Place-keeping with Environmental Justice--\$75,000*
- *Lake Advocates*
 - *Water Quality Protection of King County Lakes Using Outreach and Education for Diverse Communities--\$38,360*
- *Whale Scout*
 - *Saving Orcas One Drop at a Time, One Tree at a Time--\$31,740*

- *Pacific Marine Research*
 - *Marine Science Afloat Field Trip Scholarship Program--\$40,000*
- *Vashon Nature Center*
 - *Vashon Community Waters: Stormwater Education, Engagement and Stream Monitoring--\$55,000*
- *University of Washington College of the Environment*
 - *Floating Treatment Wetlands Reduce Contaminants and Nutrients in Urban Stormwater Runoff--\$100,000*
- *City of Seattle, Seattle Public Utilities*
 - *Protect Our Pipes Phase 2 Outreach--\$100,000*
- *Washington Water Trust*
 - *Recycled Water: A Tool for Sustainable Agricultural Water Use--\$115,000*
- *Cascadia College*
 - *Student Led Implementations for Stormwater Management--\$24,500*
- *Pacific Science Center*
 - *Lake Washington Watershed Internship Program*
- *Parkview Services*
 - *Riverton Cascade Affordable Homes*
- *Drain Games: Apps for Water Quality Education--\$100,000*

Total-- Round 4 \$2,139,500

A fuller summary of each project is provided in Attachment 1, the WaterWorks Grant Recommendations Memorandum.

As noted, the measure providing for Council approval of these proposed projects, Proposed Ordinance 2019-0444, has been transmitted to Council, and referred to the Mobility and Environment Committee. Consideration by the Committee is anticipated soon.

ATTACHMENTS

1. WaterWorks Grant Recommendations Memorandum

INVITED

1. Elizabeth Loudon, WaterWorks Program Manager, Wastewater Treatment Division