## REVISED STAFF REPORT

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| **Agenda Item:** |  | **Name:** | Mike Reed |
| **Proposed No**.: | 2021-0399 | **Date:** |  |

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

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| ***Proposed Substitute Ordinance 2021-0399.2 adopting the proposed WaterWorks water quality project grant recommendations, passed out of committee on October 27, 2021 with a “Do Pass” recommendation. The Ordinance was amended in committee with Amendment 1A to add the list of WaterWorks projects proposed by Council district offices to the list transmitted by the Executive, for funding by sewer rate revenues.*** |

**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 four rounds of grant awards recommended by the WaterWorks Grants Ranking Committee, supported by the WaterWorks Program of the Wastewater Treatment Division.[[1]](#footnote-1) Proposed Ordinance 2021-0399 represents Round 5 of the proposed WaterWorks water quality grant recommendations. This round provides for the allocation of $2.4 million to 24 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.

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 historically has approved a striking amendment to the transmitted WaterWorks legislation that adds the Council district-proposed projects to the project list recommended by the Executive in the transmitted legislation. For the current round, Council district offices have worked with the community to identify recommended projects, and have submitted those recommendations for consideration in an amendment.

**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 2021-0399, which would approve the fifth round of recommendations by the Grant Ranking Committee. The transmittal includes a memorandum, included as Attachment A to the staff report that lists the projects, including applicant, project amount, project title, proposed funding, project ranking, and project description.

Recommended projects include:

* Environmental Science Center
	+ From Salmon Heroes to Schoolyard Heroes: Water Quality-focused Education for Students and Teachers--$100,000
* Tilth Alliance/Seattle Tilth
	+ Rainier Beach Urban Wetlands and Water Quality Initiative--$175,000
* Seattle Parks Foundation/dirt Corps LLC
	+ Hamm Creek Water Quality Improvement Through Paid Community Restoration Trainings--$75,000
* Stewardship Partners
	+ Equitable GSI Incentives for King County--$200,000
* City of Tukwila
	+ Stormwater Outfall Water Quality Retrofit Project--$189,275
* United Indians of All Tribes Foundation
	+ Labatevah Native Water Steward Interns--$25,000
* Environmental Coalition of South Seattle
	+ Environmental Stewards 2022-23--$80,000
* Seattle Parks Foundation/Rainier Beach Link2Lake
	+ Mapes Creek and Estuarine Bay Riparian Improvements at CSO Outfall Site—$148,104
* Refugee Federation Service Center
	+ Refugee/Immigrant Communities Water Quality Education and Fish Sampling Project--$146,580
* Puget Soundkeeper
	+ Lost Urban Creeks Community Education and Revitalization Project 3--$87,600
* Seattle Good Business Network
	+ Bridging Youth Workforce Development with Green Career and Water Quality Management Pathways--$124,798
* Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides
	+ Water Stewards Lake Washington: Promoting Chemical Free Pest Management to Improve Water Quality--$40,000
* Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust
	+ Equitable Green Opportunities for Youth in Highline--$47,700
* American Rivers
	+ Longfellow Creek Headwater Restoration at Roxhill Bog Phase 3--$143,950
* Mini Mart City Park
	+ Mini Mart City Park Stormwater Infrastructure and Youth Training Program--$73,000
* Thornton Creek Alliance
	+ Thornton Creek Watershed Stormwater Cleaning Project on NE 110th St (at 31st Ave NE)--$47,651
* The Common Acre
	+ The Green Line--$91,950
* World Relief Seattle
	+ Hillside Parking Plots Community Garden: Developing Community-Based Water Quality Education Programs--$183,950
* King Conservation District
	+ Evaluating Dry Manure Storage Options for Water Quality Protection Across King County--$165,000
* Northwest Maritime Center
	+ Maritime High School: Duwamish Water Quality and Community Action Program--$88,259
* Pacific Marine Research
	+ Marine Science Afloat/Remote--$40,000
* Sustainable Seattle/Sea Potential LLC
	+ Rippling Effects: Dive Into the Intersections of Ocean Justice and Riparian Restoration--$27,445
* City of Pacific
	+ Pacific Meadows/Hansen PRD Wetland Enhancement--$40,000
* City of Mercer Island
	+ Luther Burbank Park South Shoreline and Trail Restoration--$60,000

**Total - Round 5 $2,400,262**

A fuller summary of each project is provided in Attachment 4, the WaterWorks Grant Recommendations Round 5 Memorandum.

1. Ordinances 18324 approved the Round 1 grant recommendations; Ordinance 18460 approved Round 2 recommendations; Ordinance 18735 approved Round 3 recommendations; Ordinance 19043 approved Round 4 recommendations. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)