



**BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND**

**AB 6143  
September 6, 2022  
Consent Agenda**

**AGENDA BILL INFORMATION**

<b>TITLE:</b>	AB 6143: Accept Department of Commerce CAP Grant	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
<b>RECOMMENDED ACTION:</b>	Authorize the City Manager to accept and sign Department of Commerce Early Implementation Climate Planning Grant contract	

<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	Public Works
<b>STAFF:</b>	Jason Kintner, Chief of Operations Ross Freeman, Sustainability Analyst
<b>COUNCIL LIAISON:</b>	Craig Reynolds                      Jake Jacobson                      Ted Weinberg
<b>EXHIBITS:</b>	1. Climate Planning Grant Draft Contract
<b>CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:</b>	1. Prepare for the impacts of growth and change with a continued consideration on environmental sustainability.

<b>AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE</b>	\$ n/a
<b>AMOUNT BUDGETED</b>	\$ n/a
<b>APPROPRIATION REQUIRED</b>	\$ 80,000

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

City staff are seeking authorization to accept a 2022-2023 grant award from the Department of Commerce, Local Government Division.

- In late 2021, the City began scoping its first ever Climate Action Plan (CAP) and contracted with an environmental consultant for substantial support in March of 2022.
- Although significant background work for the CAP has already been completed, many key tasks remain that will be eligible for reimbursement by this Early Implementation Climate Planning Grant.
- The \$80,000 grant will cover eligible expenses from July 1, 2022 until June 30, 2023 and is intended to help cities incorporate climate change into their Comprehensive Plan.
- There is no dollar match required to accept this award, but in-kind support in the form of staff hours related to the CAP included in the application.

**BACKGROUND**

Taking decisive climate action has never been more urgent in Pacific Northwest communities. The region is already experiencing the economic and health impacts of changes to our global climate patterns including rising temperatures, changes in rainfall and river flow, and reduced snowpack. Communities with significant topography like Mercer Island may witness more landslides from intense rain events in the winter. Conversely, hotter, drier summers are making wildfire increasingly likely even west of the Cascade Mountains.

Air quality impacts from the persistent smoke plumes generated by these fires are well documented and all too familiar in recent years.

The City's Climate Action Plan ("CAP") will provide a long-term cohesive planning document that organizes the City's Greenhouse Gas (GHG) reduction and adaptation actions and programs in a strategic manner.

## **ISSUE/DISCUSSION**

Late in 2021, the City Manager received the unanimous support of the City Council to proceed with the creation of a Climate Action Plan and to issue an RFP for consulting support not to exceed \$120,000. The City hired Cascadia Consulting in March 2022 and began work on the CAP. Earlier this summer, the State Department of Commerce announced this climate planning grant opportunity with a very short turnaround time, and staff submitted an application by the June 17 deadline.

## **NEXT STEPS**

After receiving authorization to move forward, staff anticipates fully executing the grant agreement and submitting invoices for reimbursements starting in late September of 2022. The City will have approximately 10 months to submit requests for reimbursement, and final reporting documentation is due to the Department of Commerce by June 15, 2023.

Since this grant straddles two City budget cycles (2021-2022 and 2023-2024), staff also anticipate including unused award funds in the City's budget carryover request at the end of 2022 to be used for completion of the planning work. If funds remain, staff will recommend they be used for CAP implementation strategies.

## **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Authorize the City Manager to accept and sign the Department of Commerce Early Implementation Climate Planning Grant contract (see Exhibit 1) in the amount of \$80,000 to cover eligible expenses between July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023.