



BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

AB 6663
April 15, 2025
Consent Agenda

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 6663: Appropriation of 2023-2025 Ramp Litter Cleanup 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
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Appropriate budget resources for the Ramp Litter Cleanup Grant award.	

DEPARTMENT:	Public Works
STAFF:	Jason Kintner, Chief of Operations Kellye Hilde, Deputy Director of Public Works Alaine Sommargren, Deputy Director of Public Works Alanna DeRogatis, Sustainability Program Manager
COUNCIL LIAISON:	n/a
EXHIBITS:	1. 2023-2025 Ramp Litter Cleanup Grant Agreement
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	2. Sustain and enhance our natural environment, especially parks and open spaces, to benefit this generation and others that follow.

AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE	\$ 60,000
AMOUNT BUDGETED	\$ 0
APPROPRIATION REQUIRED	\$ 60,000

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda bill is to seek City Council's authorization to appropriate the \$60,000 Ramp Litter Cleanup Grant award from the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) to conduct sweeping on the I-90 on/off ramps on Mercer Island.

BACKGROUND

The Ramp Litter Cleanup Program is a competitive grant program offered through the Washington State Department of Ecology that provides funding to local governments for litter cleanup of state highway ramps. The Ramp Litter Cleanup Program was established by SB 5040, the Welcome to Washington Act, in the 2021 legislative session and is now codified in [RCW 70A.200.190\(3\)](#). The maximum grant award during the 2023-2025 cycle was \$60,000. Applications were due on August 29, 2023 and the funding cycle ends on June 30, 2025.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

The Ramp Litter Cleanup Program grant was accepted by the City and is under contract, but no spending authority was granted as part of the 2025-2026 biennial budget. Staff is seeking City Council approval to spend these grant funds.

With thirteen I-90 on-ramps and off-ramps spread across the City and surrounded by winds coming off Lake Washington, Mercer Island serves as a collection point for windswept litter that blows up the ramps and onto the Island. This heavily trafficked stretch of I-90 also generates large pieces of vehicle collision debris that occasionally end up on the Island's ramps.

To address this problem, staff applied for the Ramp Litter Cleanup Program grant program in August 2023. In September 2023, the City was awarded a grant from the Department of Ecology to conduct litter removal over a two-year period. The grant agreement with Ecology was executed in December 2023.

In November 2023, Ecology temporarily suspended the grants due to the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) clarifying a requirement that affects any work conducted on WSDOT right-of-way. Per WSDOT, any entity or organization, including those contracting out this work, must obtain permission from WSDOT before undertaking any activities, including litter cleanup operations, within these state-owned areas. The grant program was suspended until May 2024 when a Memorandum of Understanding between Ecology and WSDOT was completed.

In June 2024, Traffic Control Plans for ramp cleanings on Mercer Island were sent to WSDOT. The City received a permit to sweep from WSDOT in October 2024. At that time, the City began a competitive bidding process utilizing the MRSC Small Works Roster and in December 2024, Always Active Services, LLC was selected to perform unit priced (on-call) ramp litter cleanups. The City executed a contract for Ramp Litter Cleanup Program work in January 2025 and the first round of cleanings for all 13 ramps were completed on February 24, 2025.

NEXT STEPS

Staff will schedule one more round of ramp cleaning to fully spend the grant funds prior to the grant deadline of June 30, 2025.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff recommends that City Council appropriate \$60,000 from the Ramp Litter Cleanup Grant award from the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) to conduct sweeping on the I-90 on/off ramps on Mercer Island.