

TO: City Council
FROM: Brad Medrud, Deputy Community Development Director
DATE: February 18, 2025
SUBJECT: Service Provider Agreement with ICF Jones & Stokes, LLC for Bush Prairie Habitat Conservation Plan Phase 4

1) Recommended Action:

Approve the Service Provider Agreement with ICF Jones & Stokes, LLC for the Bush Prairie Habitat Conservation Plan Phase 4 and authorize the Mayor to sign. This was recommended for approval on the Council consent agenda by the General Government Committee at their February 18, 2025, meeting.

2) Background:

Working together with the Port of Olympia and large group of stakeholders, the City continues to work on the HCP implementation component of Phase 3 and is starting Phase 4 of the process of preparing the Bush Prairie Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) with consultant assistance from ICF Jones & Stokes, LLC. The HCP is required as part the City and Port's incidental take permit application with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for the Olympia subspecies of the Mazama pocket gopher, the streak-horned lark, the Oregon spotted frog, and the Oregon vesper sparrow.

The goal of the HCP is to allow responsible growth to occur in the City, while providing superior species protection over what the ad-hoc, case by case permitting approach is providing currently. It is the intent of the HCP to cover all actions by private and public landowners that require City development approvals.

The HCP will allow operations and maintenance, recurring activities, and development to occur in some areas frequented by endangered species, offsetting any habitat loss with other, contiguous mitigation sites.

If the Bush Prairie HCP were not completed, development in a large portion of the City from small additions to single-family houses to larger development, as well as the City and Port's ongoing operations and maintenance activities would require individual HCPs and incidental take permits from USFWS.

The City and Port applied for the Phase 4 grant from USFWS in December 2023 and the grant was awarded in July 2024. The Phase 4 grant includes a \$410,000 federal grant award to the City and Port with a \$149,500 match (\$74,750 City/\$74,750 Port) of cash and staff time. The grant also includes \$55,000 for the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to manage the grant and provide technical assistance with a WDFW \$5,500 match.

The Service Provider Agreement with ICF Jones & Stokes LLC will allow the City and the Port to start Phase 4 of the project that is intended to support completion of the public draft of the HCP, the NEPA/SEPA review process, and the stakeholder outreach that needs to be completed before the HCP is approved.

3) Policy Support:

Comprehensive Plan Conservation Element Goal C-1: Recognize the significant role played by natural features and systems in determining the overall environmental quality and livability of Tumwater.

Comprehensive Plan Conservation Element Policy C-2.16: Protect and preserve habitats for species, which have been identified as endangered, threatened, or sensitive by the state or federal government, giving "special consideration: to conservation or protection measures necessary to preserve or enhance anadromous fisheries.

4) Alternatives:

None

5) Fiscal Notes:

The attached Service Provider Agreement is part of a federal grant administered by WDFW and an internally funded work program task.

6) Attachments:

A. Service Provider Agreement with ICF Jones & Stokes, LLC for Bush Prairie Habitat Conservation Plan Phase 4