

TO: City Council
FROM: Grant Gilmore, Water Resources Specialist
DATE: July 21, 2026
SUBJECT: Interlocal Agreement with Thurston County and the Cities of Lacey and Olympia for the Regional Environmental Education Partnership (REEP)

1) Recommended Action:

Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the Interlocal Agreement (ILA) with the Cities of Olympia and Lacey, and Thurston County Implementing a Regional Environmental Education Partnership on the July 21, 2026, City Council consent calendar.

This agreement was recommended for approval by the Public Works Committee at their July 9, 2026 meeting.

2) Background:

REEP is a multijurisdictional partnership between the cities of Lacey, Olympia, Tumwater, and Thurston County initiated in 1990 (2025 marks 35 years!). The ILA is a 5-year agreement providing for a shared annual work plan and budget. This 3rd iteration covers the years 2025-2029.█

REEP's primary mission is to provide environmental education and outreach in the region to help meet requirements for the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Permit from the Department of Ecology. Doing this as a regional partnership helps share resources and ensures consistent messaging is amplified across Thurston County.

3) Policy Support:

- Western Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit - S5(C)(2): Public Education & Outreach, S5(C)(3): Public Involvement & Education
 - Partnership - We actively partner with other jurisdictions to address regional, state, and even broader issues.
 - Environmental Stewardship - Promote community involvement in environmental programs, including highlighting local career pathways for students.
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4) Alternatives:

Reject the agreement and terminate a 35-year partnership with other local agencies, Tumwater would lose access to StreamTeam programs and would have to develop and deliver all of the education and outreach material and programs as required by the stormwater permit.

5) Fiscal Notes:

The annual budget for the city's contribution to the regional program equals \$14,400 funded by the Stormwater Utility year over year for the duration of the contract, for a total agreement cost not to exceed \$72,000.

6) Attachments:

- A. REEP Interlocal Agreement
- B. Annual Report