

TO: City Council
FROM: Lisa Parks, City Administrator
DATE: September 24, 2024
SUBJECT: Deschutes Estuary Restoration Project Interlocal Agreement and Boardwalk and Related Infrastructure Agreement

1) Recommended Action:

No action required. This is informational only.

2) Background:

The Washington State Department of Enterprise Services (DES) will present information related to the final draft of an Interlocal Agreement between the State and area local governments, including the City of Tumwater, to address shared responsibilities for long-term sediment management in a restored Deschutes River Estuary. Below is an excerpt from the agreement describing the background for how this draft agreement came to be.

“In 2018, the Washington State Department of Enterprise Services began a process to evaluate long-term management alternatives for Capital Lake. To evaluate the alternatives, DES used the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process. Through this process, DES carefully considered comprehensive technical analyses, evaluated benefits and costs of project alternatives, solicited feedback from key stakeholders, and reviewed public comments. In 2022, DES issued a final EIS identifying the Estuary Alternative as the preferred long-term plan. The Estuary Alternative involves removal of the 5th Avenue Dam, restoration of tidal flats and marsh habitat in the 260-acre basin, construction of physical assets such as a new 5th Avenue Bridge, and long-term management of sediment naturally transported into navigational areas of Budd Inlet.

Removal of the 5th Avenue Dam will also restore natural sediment transport processes. This will result in increased sediment accumulation in navigational areas of West Bay compared to existing conditions, similar to the sediment processes that existed prior to dam construction. Sediment accumulation, if unaddressed, will affect commercial and recreational uses in West Bay including the marinas and, to a lesser extent, the Port vessel berths.

At the direction of the Washington State Legislature, DES convened a Funding and Governance Work Group (FGWG) comprising the Parties to explore long-term funding and governance options. The Parties considered several funding and governance options for long-term management of the restored Deschutes Estuary and reached consensus as set forth in this Agreement.”

The City of Tumwater has been participating in the FGWG process throughout the EIS process, and was a signatory to the Memorandum of Understanding that preceded this Interlocal Agreement. In the MOU, the City agreed to participate with our partners in managing the reintroduced sediment from the Deschutes River into Budd Inlet, and to take

ownership and on-going maintenance responsibilities for recreation improvements proposed in the south basin portion of the project area which are to be developed within Tumwater's Historical Park. Some of the other participants in the MOU and this proposed ILA will also have ownership of new improvements within the overall project.

3) Policy Support:

VISION | MISSION | BELIEFS

- Partnership | We work collaboratively with residents, businesses, and community organizations. We also actively partner with other jurisdictions to address regional, state, and even broader issues.
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4) Alternatives:

This is informational only.

5) Fiscal Notes:

There is no cost associated with this presentation.

6) Attachments:

- A. Draft Deschutes Estuary Restoration Project Interlocal Agreement and Board and Related Infrastructure Agreement