RESOLUTION NO. R2026-017

A RESOLUTION of the City Council of the City of Tumwater, Washington supporting state and federal funding to implement the Deschutes Estuary Restoration Project.

WHEREAS, the Deschutes Estuary Restoration Project ("Project") is a transformative, once-in-generations opportunity to restore the Deschutes Estuary, improve the health of Budd Inlet and the Deschutes River watershed, and address long-standing water quality, habitat, sediment, and public access challenges associated with the existing Capitol Lake Basin; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Department of Enterprise Services, acting on behalf of the State of Washington, led the environmental review process for the Project, including completion of the Environmental Impact Statement process and selection of the Estuary Alternative as the preferred long-term management plan; and

WHEREAS, the Washington Department of Ecology, per direction of the Legislature, took over the planning process for the Project in 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Project will remove the 5th Avenue Dam, restore tidal exchange and estuarine habitat, improve ecological function, support recovery of salmon and other native species, improve water quality in Budd Inlet, and enhance the resilience of public infrastructure and natural systems in the face of sea level rise and other changing environmental conditions; and

WHEREAS, the State of Washington constructed the 5th Avenue Dam and has long held management responsibility for Capitol Lake, and the State, acting through Department of Ecology, is responsible for leading, funding, managing, and administering Project planning, design, permitting, estuary restoration, and construction of Project-related physical assets; and

WHEREAS, state construction funding is primary and essential to initiate and advance Project implementation, because the State was responsible for constructing the 5th Avenue Dam, which created the environmental and infrastructure challenges that exist today, and bears responsibility for managing the State Capitol Campus assets in compliance with all relevant state and federal laws and policies; and

WHEREAS, the scale and importance of the Project require a funding partnership that reflects the Project's statewide, regional, tribal, local, environmental, cultural, economic, and infrastructure benefits; and

WHEREAS, federal funding is an appropriate and necessary supplement to state funding for construction because the Project advances federal interests in infrastructure resilience, water quality protection, endangered species recovery, and natural hazard resilience; and

WHEREAS, the City of Olympia, City of Tumwater, Thurston County, Squaxin Island Tribe, LOTT Clean Water Alliance, and the Port of Olympia ("Regional Partners") have demonstrated substantial commitment to the Project, as called upon and acknowledged by the Washington State Legislature (HB 2926, 2015; ESSB 6095, 2018; ESSB 5187, 2023; and SSB 6003, 2026) by entering into the Deschutes Estuary Restoration Project Interlocal Agreement and related subsidiary agreements ("Interlocal Agreement"), which establish roles and responsibilities for long-term sediment management, governance, funding, coordination, asset transfer, and operations and maintenance; and

WHEREAS, under the Interlocal Agreement, local parties will participate in long-term funding and governance for sediment management in navigational areas of West Bay through 2050 to support continued commercial and recreational navigation and allow the restored estuary and working waterfront to coexist; and

WHEREAS, local entities have also committed to long-term ownership, operation, maintenance, and risk-of-loss responsibilities consistent with the Interlocal Agreement; and

WHEREAS, these local commitments represent meaningful, durable, and ongoing support for the Project beyond construction and demonstrate that local partners are prepared to steward the Project's long-term success; and

WHEREAS, continued coordination among the Regional Partners, in collaboration with the State, federal agencies, and community partners will be necessary to secure construction funding and successfully implement the Project; and

WHEREAS, timely state and federal investment in the Project is in the public interest.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TUMWATER AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. **Support for the Project.** The City of Tumwater supports implementation of the Deschutes Estuary Restoration Project and recognizes Washington State Department of Ecology, acting on behalf of the State of

Washington, as the lead public agency responsible for Project design, permitting, funding, construction, and overall implementation.

Section 2. Support for State Funding. The City of Tumwater urges the Washington State Legislature, the Governor, and appropriate state agencies to continue providing support to secure the state funding necessary to initiate construction without delay and commit to full project implementation as quickly as reasonably feasible.

Section 3. Support for Federal Funding. The City of Tumwater supports and urges the pursuit and award of federal funding to supplement state funding for Project construction and implementation, including funding available for transportation infrastructure, natural hazard mitigation, Puget Sound recovery, endangered species recovery, water quality improvement, navigation, and utility infrastructure programs.

Section 4. Recognition of Local Commitment. The City of Tumwater reaffirms its commitment to the Deschutes Estuary Restoration Project Interlocal Agreement, including participation in long-term sediment management funding and governance, coordination on dredging and navigation issues, and acceptance of long-term ownership, operation, maintenance, and asset-management responsibilities where applicable.

Section 5. Continued Local Support. The City of Tumwater commits to continuing to work collaboratively with the State of Washington, other members of the Regional Partnership, federal agencies, and other stakeholders to support funding, permitting, coordination, and implementation of the Project consistent with the Interlocal Agreement and any applicable subsidiary agreements.

Section 6. Transmittal. The City Clerk is directed to transmit this resolution to the Governor of the State of Washington, members of the Washington State Legislature representing the region, the State's Congressional delegation, appropriate federal agencies, and other Project partners.

Section 7. **Ratification**. Any act consistent with the authority and prior to the effective date of this Resolution is hereby ratified and affirmed.

Section 8. **Severability**. The provisions of this Resolution are declared separate and severable. The invalidity of any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section, or portion of this Resolution or the invalidity of the application thereof to any person or circumstance, shall not affect the validity of the remainder of the Resolution, or the validity of its application to other persons or circumstances.

Section 9. **Effective Date**. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption and signature as provided by law.

RESOLVED this ___ day of _____, 20____.

CITY OF TUMWATER

_____
Leatta Dahlhoff, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
Melody Valiant, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

_____
Karen Kirkpatrick, City Attorney