

Apr. 25, 2022

**Issue: RFA Boundaries**

**Background:** The RFA Plan needs to identify the boundaries of the RFA and the implications if the cities annex areas in the future, as well as the RFA's ability to annex other proximate jurisdictions. The following language sets forth the recommended approach to confirming the RFA Boundaries and how they may change over time. The goal is to minimize the need for elections to accomplish annexations if such elections are not otherwise required by statute, and to confirm the RFA will have independent authority to seek to annex areas (requires voter approval). With support of the Planning Committee, language below will be inserted into the draft RFA Plan.

**Staff recommendation:** Approve the proposed language.

**A. JURISDICTIONAL BOUNDARIES ON DATE OF FORMATION**

1. On the Effective Date of the RFA, the jurisdictional boundaries of the RFA shall be the legal boundaries of the Participating Jurisdictions --- the City of Olympia and the City of Tumwater.

**B. CHANGES IN JURISDICTIONAL BOUNDARIES AFTER FORMATION OF THE RFA**

**1. Boundary changes that do not require an RFA Plan amendment:**

**1.1. City annexations of areas not included within current city boundaries.** On the effective date of such annexation, the territory annexed shall automatically be included within the boundaries of the RFA pursuant to RCW 52.26.290. The territory added to the RFA by such annexation shall be subject to the taxation, charges, and bonded indebtedness (if approved as part of the annexation process) of the RFA. Any transfer of assets or employees that occurs because of annexation shall be between the transferring entity and the RFA.

**1.2. RFA Annexations.** Pursuant to RCW 52.26.090(g), the RFA shall have the authority to conduct annexations of unincorporated territory adjacent to the RFA pursuant to the statutory authority and procedures set forth in RCW 52.04.001 through RCW 52.04.051.

**1.3. RFA Partial Mergers.** Pursuant to RCW 52.26.090(g), the RFA shall have the authority to participate in the partial merger process under the authority and pursuant to the procedures set forth in RCW 52.06.090 and RCW 52.06.100.

**2. Boundary Changes that require an RFA Plan Amendment.**

**2.1. Annexations of Adjacent Fire Protection Jurisdictions [including cities or fire districts in proximity to the RFA's boundaries].** Other fire protection jurisdictions that are adjacent to the boundaries of the RFA are eligible for annexation by the RFA. Upon Plan amendment and voter approval as provided in the annexation procedures of RCW 52.26.300, the boundary of the RFA will be expanded to include adjacent fire protection jurisdictions.