

TO: Public Works Committee
FROM: Dan Smith, Water Resources & Sustainability Director
DATE: May 9, 2024
SUBJECT: Floodplains by Design Application Update

1) Recommended Action:

None, informational only.

2) Background:

Floodplains by Design is a funding program from the Department of Ecology that funds integrated watershed-based projects seeking to reduce flood risks and restore habitats. For the first time ever, the Deschutes River watershed submitted an application for funding, led by the City of Tumwater. Together with Capitol Land Trust, Deschutes Estuary Restoration Team, South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group, Squaxin Island Tribe, Thurston Conservation District, and Thurston Regional Planning Council, this proposal seeks to implement 11 projects across the watershed.

The City of Tumwater is serving as the project sponsor for this application and will manage the grant with the Department of Ecology and reimburse project partners quarterly. If the application is successful, Tumwater will receive \$3,693,000 to complete four projects. This includes an alternative analysis for project opportunities at the Old Olympia Brewery Property, design work to restore the E Street wetland, design and construction funding to build the Tumwater Valley Regional Stormwater Facility, and implementation funding to begin restoring the riparian area along the Tumwater Valley Golf Course.

3) Policy Support:

Strategic Priority A – Build a Community Recognized for Quality, Compassion and Humanity

- Build tribal relations

Strategic Priority B – Be a Leader in Environmental Sustainability

- Remove obstructions to fish passages

4) Alternatives:

☐ None, informational presentation only

5) Fiscal Notes:

The full budget for this project is \$12,500,000 with a 20% match requirement. Match is coming in part from previously secured grants from other project partners as well as from previously acquired land. Tumwater is helping to contribute to the \$2,500,000 match requirement with cash match from the stormwater utility fund. Tumwater has committed \$175,000 towards this project which is coming from the Tumwater Valley Regional Facility (SD-03) and Deschutes Habitat Restoration Projects (SD-05/SD-06), as shown in the 2024-2029 Capital Facilities Plan.

6) Attachments:

A. Phase 1 Projects Map