

TO: Public Works Committee
FROM: Grant Gilmore, Water Resources Specialist
DATE: April 4, 2024
SUBJECT: 2024 Regional Environmental Education Partnership (REEP) and Water Resources & Sustainability (WRS) Outreach Update

1) Recommended Action:

No action requested. This is a briefing only.

2) Background:

REEP is a local interagency agreement between the Cities of Tumwater, Olympia, Lacey, and Thurston County, that provides for the collaboration of outreach and educational activities related to environmental health. Priorities align with regulatory requirements set forth by the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit, which address water quality, stormwater pollution and management, and education and outreach. REEP creates and manages all content and activities associated with Stream Team, including hands on science opportunities, stewardship, career pathways, and community partnerships.

A new initiative within WRS is a collaboration between the City, Tumwater School District (Careers in Technical Education, CTE), Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Pacific Education Institute. This unique collaboration has led to several new programs aimed at middle school through high school students with a focus on STEM careers. Career emphasis ranges from operations and maintenance, engineering, natural resource sciences, management, planning and public administration.

3) Policy Support:

Strategic Priority B – Be a Leader in Environmental Sustainability
Strategic Priority F – Refine and Sustain a Great Organization

4) Alternatives:

☐ NA

5) Fiscal Notes:

Per the REEP Interlocal Agreement, Tumwater commits \$12,000 to the total annual budget of \$90,000. Financial participation is based on the total population served. In addition, the City commits a total of 0.30 FTE to support the regional program and Stream Team-branded events.

2023 required additional staff time due to regional partnership staff vacancies/changes. Increased workload was also attributed to programing start-ups post pandemic (Hands on science, events, workshops, trainings).

6) Attachments:

A. 2024 REEP Work Plan