

TO: City Council
FROM: Grant Gilmore, Water Resources Specialist
DATE: January 21, 2025
SUBJECT: Interlocal Agreement (ILA) with the Cities of Olympia and Lacey, and Thurston County Implementing a Regional Environmental Education Program (REEP)

1) Recommended Action:

Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the ILA with the Cities of Olympia and Lacey, and Thurston County Implementing REEP. This ILA was recommended for approval on the Council consent agenda by the Public Works Committee at their January 9, 2025 meeting.

2) Background:

REEP is a multijurisdictional partnership between the cities of Lacey, Olympia, Tumwater, and Thurston County initiated in 2016 to formalize the collaborative work of the agencies ongoing since 1990 (2025 marks 35 years!). The ILA is a 5-year agreement providing for a shared annual work plan and budget. This 3rd iteration covers the years 2025-2029.

REEP's primary mission is to provide environmental education and outreach in the region to help meet requirements for the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit (Stormwater Permit) from the Department of Ecology. Doing this as a regional partnership helps share resources and ensures consistent messaging is amplified across Thurston County.

3) Policy Support:

- Western Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit
 - S5(C)(2): Public Education & Outreach, S5(C)(3): Public Involvement & Education
 - We Believe in PEOPLE
 - Partnership | ...We actively partner with other jurisdictions to address regional, state, and even broader issues.
 - Environment | We act to preserve and enhance the natural environment and the social fabric of our community.
 - Be a Leader in Environmental Health and Sustainability
 - Promote community involvement in environmental programs, including highlighting local career pathways for students.
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4) Alternatives:

- Reject the agreement, make recommendations for alternative options.
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5) Fiscal Notes:

The annual budget for the City's contribution to the regional program equals \$14,400 funded by the Stormwater Utility, for a total agreement cost not to exceed \$72,000.

6) Attachments:

- A. Interlocal Agreement