

March 19, 2018

## **CITY COUNCIL AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

### **SUBJECT**

Resolution ratifying the 2017 Update of the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan for Watershed Resource Inventory Area 8 (WRIA 8).

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

N/A

### **STAFF CONTACTS**

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### **POLICY CONSIDERATION**

In 1999, the Puget Sound chinook salmon was listed as “threatened” under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). When a species is listed, the ESA requires a scientifically-based plan of actions and implementation strategies to protect and restore the species to self-sustaining populations. In response to the listing, Bellevue and other local governments, agencies, and stakeholders formed the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish (WRIA 8) Salmon Recovery Council. This group worked under an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) beginning in 2001 and in 2005 developed a 10-year plan of strategies and actions for restoring chinook salmon habitat within the boundaries of WRIA 8 (WRIA 8 Plan). Last year, the WRIA 8 Plan was updated to identify actions covering the next 10 years.

At the Feb. 26 Regional Issues Study Session, Council directed staff to bring forward the resolution endorsing the 2017 Update of the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan for Watershed Resource Inventory Area 8 (WRIA 8).

### **BACKGROUND**

The WRIA 8 Plan is based on local control and voluntary actions to improve habitat that provides for the recovery of salmon within the constraints of urban watersheds.

The WRIA 8 Plan includes:

- Technical Guidance on habitat conditions that chinook need;
- On-the-ground projects to restore critical habitat;
- Guidance for conservation, incentives, and regulatory programs; and
- Outreach and stewardship projects.

The WRIA 8 Plan has the goal of sustainable, harvestable levels of chinook and eventually, de-listing of

chinook salmon as a threatened species under the ESA. The WRIA 8 Plan was incorporated as a chapter of the Puget Sound Chinook Recovery Plan and is currently coordinated with other Washington State chinook recovery efforts through the Puget Sound Partnership efforts. The Puget Sound Chinook Recovery Plan was adopted by NOAA Fisheries in the Federal Register as the official federal recovery plan for the species.

The plan update is a guide for the continued collaboration and voluntary salmon recovery actions in WRIA 8. The WRIA 8 Plan is based on local control to improve habitat that provides for the recovery of salmon within the constraints of urban watersheds. Bellevue has utilized the plan to inform capital programs in the past and intends to utilize the update to inform future actions.

The WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council adopted the plan update in 2017 and is asking Bellevue and the other WRIA 8 local governments to ratify the update by March 31, 2018. Once the update is ratified by the WRIA 8 local governments, it will be submitted to the federal agencies as part of the update to the Puget Sound Chinook Recovery Plan.

#### **EFFECTIVE DATE**

If approved, this Resolution becomes effective immediately upon Council adoption.

#### **OPTIONS**

1. Adopt the Resolution ratifying the 2017 Update of the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan for Watershed Resource Inventory Area 8 (WRIA 8).
2. Do not adopt the Resolution and provide alternative direction to staff.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Option 1

#### **MOTION**

Move to adopt Resolution No. 9389 ratifying the 2017 Update of the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan for Watershed Resource Inventory Area 8 (WRIA 8).

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

Proposed Resolution No. 9389

#### **AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL DOCUMENT LIBRARY**

Links to the complete WRIA 8 10-year Plan Update and appendices:

<http://www.govlink.org/watersheds/8/reports/chinook-plan-update.aspx>