

**CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION**

Resolution authorizing and directing the City Manager to execute the First Amendment to the Interlocal Agreement for the Watershed Basins within Water Resource Inventory Area 8.

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*City Manager's Office*

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This is a “housekeeping” change in the interlocal agreement (ILA) that governs Bellevue’s participation in the Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 8 Salmon Recovery Council. Council action to approve the Resolution amending the ILA would update it to reflect Snohomish County’s return to WRIA 8. As you may recall, Snohomish County withdrew from the ILA in 2018 for financial reasons and elected to rejoin WRIA 8 ILA.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Move to adopt Resolution No. 9888

**BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS**

Puget Sound Chinook salmon were listed as “threatened” under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in 1999. As a listed species, actions that can be viewed as having an adverse effect on Chinook survival can be considered a “take” and could be prohibited unless steps are taken to reduce or eliminate impacts. While the species is listed, takes can include activities such as private and public development, or discharging stormwater carrying pollutants into lakes and rivers. Lawsuits regarding takes can be initiated by third parties including individuals, non-governmental organizations, and Indian Tribes. The four major issues impacting salmon populations include: habitat, hatcheries, hydropower, and harvest—often referred to as the four “H’s.” Of these, habitat is most under control of local governments, as they guide land use and operate and maintain public infrastructure that can affect local streams.

When the Chinook salmon were first listed under the ESA in 1999, local governments in the Puget Sound region were concerned the federal government might direct salmon recovery actions that were not appropriate for urban areas and could negatively impact the region’s economy. To address these concerns, local governments volunteered to develop a salmon recovery plan to retain control through local collective action to achieve efficient and appropriate identification of watershed health issues and implementation of salmon habitat protection and restoration actions.

Local governments and stakeholders in WRIA 8, with waters draining to Lake Washington and Lake Sammamish stretching from the northwest corner of the watershed in Edmonds, east to Redmond and Sammamish and southeast including Issaquah, jointly developed a plan to address habitat protection and restoration for two populations, Cedar River Chinook and Sammamish Chinook. The Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan (WRIA 8 Plan) was completed and approved by local government partners, including Bellevue, in 2005. Other watershed areas in the state also created plans based on this model. WRIA 8’s plan was later compiled with those

watershed plans around Puget Sound resulting in the Puget Sound Action Plan. The Plan was adopted by the federal government as the official Puget Sound Chinook Salmon Recovery Plan under the ESA in January 2007.

### **Interlocal Agreement (ILA)**

In 2006, the Bellevue City Council voted to participate in a 10-year ILA to support salmon recovery actions based on the WRIA 8 Plan. This ILA was renewed and approved for another 10 years in 2016. The ILA provides an effective, long-standing forum for regional coordination and a governance structure to implement the WRIA 8 Plan. Members of the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council include 26 cities and two counties, as well as various stakeholders such as environmental interest groups, businesses and state and federal agencies. Only cities and counties are official parties with voting rights under the ILA.

Those parties are:

|             |                   |                  |
|-------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Beaux Arts  | Kirkland          | Redmond          |
| Bellevue    | Lake Forest Park  | Renton           |
| Bothell     | Maple Valley      | Sammamish        |
| Clyde Hill  | Medina            | Seattle          |
| Edmonds     | Mercer Island     | Shoreline        |
| Hunts Point | Mill Creek        | Snohomish County |
| Issaquah    | Mountlake Terrace | Woodinville      |
| Kenmore     | Mukilteo          | Woodway          |
| Kent        | Newcastle         | Yarrow Point     |
| King County |                   |                  |

These local governments fund the actions and projects included in the Plan. The total annual budget under the ILA for 2020 and 2021 is \$629,774. Dues are assessed based on population, assessed value, and size of jurisdiction. The cost share value for each jurisdiction is recalculated every three years, unless there is a significant annexation that would significantly impact the assessment calculation. Bellevue's proportional share of the budget is 9.86 percent and dues of \$62,096 in 2020 and 2021.

The dues fund 3.5 staff who are employees of King County and support a variety of tasks, including: coordinating workplans and meeting logistics; links to regional, state and federal salmon recovery efforts; and, technical support and coordination for scientific studies and monitoring and outreach efforts. Additional funds to implement actions and projects in the Plan are provided by local governments and regional, state, and federal grant funds.

Snohomish County had been a party to the ILA since 2006 and entered into the most recent agreement in 2016. In October 2018, Snohomish County withdrew from the ILA citing revenue shortfalls and resulting cuts to its surface water program. Snohomish County did not pay dues in 2019--totaling \$62,460. The Salmon Recovery Council filled the budget gap by using unexpended funds from the 2018 budget and grant funds to cover staff costs.

In 2019, WRIA 8 leadership reached out to the Snohomish County Executive to underscore the importance of its participation in WRIA 8, and the County rejoined the group and paid its 2020 dues. The decision to rejoin the ILA necessitated this amendment to the ILA and Council approval is required

on all ILA's.

## **POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS**

### **Policy Impact**

City policies and principles adopted in 1999 and updated over the intervening years support salmon recovery efforts under the ESA. Bellevue has a long history of support for Chinook salmon recovery efforts to maintain the region's quality of life and diversity of species that protect and preserve a healthy environment and economy.

### **Fiscal Impact**

As noted earlier, Snohomish County did not pay a cost share in 2019 because it withdrew from the ILA. The total amount to replace Snohomish County's cost share of 10.17 percent in 2019 was \$62,460.

In 2020 and 2021, Snohomish County is contributing \$64,053 annually. Without Snohomish County's contribution all parties to the ILA would see their cost share rise proportionally to fund the annual budget. Without Snohomish County participating in the ILA, Bellevue's contribution would be an additional \$6,315 increasing the City's dues to \$68,411 per year.

## **OPTIONS**

1. Adopt the Resolution authorizing and directing the City Manager to execute the First Amendment to the Interlocal Agreement for the Watershed Basins within Water Resource Inventory Area 8.
2. Do not adopt the Resolution and provide alternative direction to staff.

## **ATTACHMENTS & AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS**

- A. First Amendment to Interlocal Agreement for the Watershed Basins within Water Resource Inventory 8  
Proposed Resolution No. 9888

## **AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY**

N/A