

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Resolution authorizing execution of a Cooperative Watershed Management grant agreement with King County to accept reimbursement grant funds in the amount of \$150,000 for a feasibility study to remove a fish passage barrier on lower Kelsey Creek, and to authorize the expenditure of such funds.

Nav Ota, Director, 452-2041

Linda De Boldt, Assistant Director of Engineering, 452-4625

Utilities Department

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Resolution authorizes execution of a Cooperative Watershed Management grant agreement with King County to accept reimbursement grant funds for a feasibility study to remove a fish passage barrier on lower Kelsey Creek.

RECOMMENDATION

Move to adopt Resolution No. 10006

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

Currently, a multi-chambered box culvert conveys the mainstem of Kelsey Creek under the west bound lanes of the Lake Hills Connector. The box culvert is located in the City of Bellevue, on land that is also owned by the City. The current culvert is a four chambered concrete box. Each chamber is approximately eight feet wide, seven feet high, and 60 feet long. In 2018, the City documented this structure as a low-flow barrier with substantial small woody debris and sediment blocking several of the chambers. Sedimentation and beaver dams regularly constructed in the box culvert also impede fish passage. In May of 2019, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) determined this culvert is a full fish passage barrier at this location. The WDFW hydraulic code requires owners of fish passage barriers to repair, replace, or modify structures to ensure unimpeded fish passage. In addition to this regulatory driver, restoring fish passage to quality habitat in the Kelsey Creek watershed is an environmental goal of Bellevue Utilities.

Before fish passage can be restored in lower Kelsey Creek, a feasibility study and design alternatives analysis are necessary. This feasibility study project will evaluate several options to improve fish passage, ranging from modifications to the culverts and/or channel to full replacement of the structure. The preferred alternative will meet the following goals: 1) allow unimpeded fish passage, and 2) improve the performance of the water crossing structure to better convey sediment and instream wood during all stream flows (i.e. to not create a high or a low flow barrier). This feasibility study project will evaluate the preferred alternative with concept-level design and project cost estimation.

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

Policy Impact

City Comprehensive Plan policies: Provide a storm and surface water system that controls damage from storms, protects surface water quality, provides for the safety and enjoyment of citizens, supports fish and wildlife habitat, and protects the environment.

Utilities Department policies: Retain existing open surface water systems in a natural state and restore conditions that have become degraded.

Fiscal Impact

This project is funded in CIP Program D-81 Fish Passage Improvement Project. Sufficient funds have been budgeted to fund this project in the 2021-2027 CIP budget.

OPTIONS

1. Adopt the Resolution authorizing execution of a Cooperative Watershed Management grant agreement with King County to accept reimbursement grant funds in the amount of \$150,000 for a feasibility study to remove a fish passage barrier on lower Kelsey Creek, and to authorize the expenditure of such funds.
2. Do not adopt the Resolution and provide alternative direction to staff.

ATTACHMENTS & AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS

Proposed Resolution No. 10006

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

Grant Agreement between City of Bellevue and King County (Cooperative Watershed Management Grant)