



RESOLUTION NO. U-11612

1 A RESOLUTION related to Tacoma Water, authorizing an amendment to an
2 interlocal agreement between the City of Tacoma and King County for
3 Conservation Futures Tax Levy Grant funds.

4 WHEREAS the Department of Public Utilities, Water Division ("Tacoma
5 Water") requests authorization to amend an interlocal agreement with King
6 County previously authorized by Public Utility Board (Board") Resolution
7 U-11545 and City Council ("Council") Resolution No. 41727, and

8 WHEREAS Tacoma Water has been working to strategically acquire
9 land in the watershed as part of its Watershed Management Plan under the
10 2018 Water System Plan (SD-4, Measurement 2. Adherence to Watershed
11 Management Plan), and

12 WHEREAS acquiring these lands improves source water protection and
13 control, and

14 WHEREAS to reduce the financial impact of land acquisition on our
15 ratepayers, Tacoma Water has applied for and was awarded funds available
16 through King County CFT Levy Grant Program up to \$150,000, and

17 WHEREAS the CFT Funds are reimbursable and require a 25% match
18 from Tacoma Water in the amount of \$37,500, and

19 WHEREAS Tacoma Water paid the full purchase price up front and will
20 be reimbursed with the CFT Funds for 75% of the purchase of approximately 80
21 acres of forest land within the Green River Municipal Watershed in King County,
22 WA, and



WHEREAS advantageously, Tacoma Water acquired approximately 80
1 acres of strategically important forest lands at a substantially reduced cost, and

2 WHEREAS this agreement will further protect our high-quality drinking
3 water source and reduce the financial impact to our downstream customers,
4 and
5

6 WHEREAS Chapter 39.34 RCW Interlocal Cooperation Act requires
7 each participant's governing body to approve the amended agreement, and
8 Tacoma Water is seeking both Public Utility Board and Council approval, Now,
9 Therefore,
10

11 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PUBLIC UTILITY BOARD OF THE CITY OF TACOMA:

12 That Tacoma Water's request to enter into an amendment to the
13 interlocal agreement between the City of Tacoma and King County, to receive
14 up to \$150,000 in Conservation Futures Tax (CFT) Levy Grant funds, and
15 reimburse Tacoma Water for 75% of the purchase of approximately 80 acres of
16 forest land within the Green River Municipal Watershed, is approved, and the
17 Council of the City of Tacoma is requested to concur in the approval and
18 authorize the proper officers of the City to execute said agreement substantially
19 in the form on file, with the final form approved by the City Attorney's Office.
20

21 Approved as to form:

22	_____	Chair
23	/s/ _____	Secretary
24	Chief Deputy City Attorney	Adopted _____
25	_____	
26	Clerk	



Board Action Memorandum

TO: Jackie Flowers, Director of Utilities
COPY: Charleen Jacobs, Director and Board Offices
FROM: Keri Burchard-Juarez, Water Superintendent
MEETING DATE: July 8, 2026
DATE: June 12, 2026

GUIDING PRINCIPLE ALIGNMENT (select as many that apply):

Please indicate which of the Public Utility Board's Guiding Principle(s) is supported by this action.

- ☒ Customer and Community
- ☒ Resource Sustainability and Stewardship
- ☐ Employees and Culture

SUMMARY: Tacoma Water is looking for Public Utility Board and City Council support to amend an interlocal cooperation agreement between the City of Tacoma and King County necessary to receive up to \$150,000 in Conservation Futures Tax (CFT) Levy Grant funds. These funds reimburse Tacoma Water for 75% of the purchase of approximately 80 acres of forest land within the Green River Municipal Watershed in King County, WA to further protect our high-quality drinking water source and reduce the financial impact to our downstream customers.

BACKGROUND: Tacoma Water has been working to strategically acquire land in the watershed as part its Watershed Management Plan under the 2018 Water System Plan (SD 5, Measurement 2. Adherence to Watershed Management Plan). Acquiring these lands improves source water protection and control. To reduce the financial impact of land acquisition on our ratepayers, Tacoma Water applied for and was awarded funds available through King County's CFT Levy Grant Program up to \$150,000. The CFT Funds are reimbursable and require a 25% match from Tacoma Water in the amount of up to \$37,500. Tacoma Water paid the full purchase price up front and will be reimbursed with the CFT Funds. Therefore, Tacoma Water acquired approximately 80 acres of strategically important forest lands at a substantially reduced cost.

ARE THE EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES PLANNED AND BUDGETED? Yes

IF THE EXPENSE IS NOT BUDGETED, PLEASE EXPLAIN HOW IT IS TO BE COVERED.

IF THE ACTION REQUESTED IS APPROVAL OF A CONTRACT, INCLUDE LANGUAGE IN RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING \$200,000 INCREASE IN ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY TO DIRECTOR? No

ATTACHMENTS: Amendment to Interlocal Cooperative Agreement between City of Tacoma and King County

CONTACT:

Primary Contact: Tyler Patterson, Watershed Services Manager, (253) 606-2636
Supervisor's Name: Jerrod Davis, Source Water & Treatment Operations Division Manager,
(253) 532-1483



City of Tacoma

City Council Action Memorandum

TO: Hyun Kim, City Manager
FROM: Keri Burchard-Juarez, Tacoma Water Superintendent
Jackie Flowers, Director of Tacoma Public Utilities
COPY: Tacoma City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Request Approval of Interlocal Agreement between the City of Tacoma and King County -
Conservation Futures Tax (CFT) Levy Grant Funds
DATE: July 21, 2026

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:

Tacoma Water is looking for Public Utility Board and City Council support to amend an interlocal cooperation agreement between the City of Tacoma and King County necessary to receive up to \$150,000 in Conservation Futures Tax (CFT) Levy Grant funds. These funds reimburse Tacoma Water for 75% of the purchase of approximately 80 acres of forest land within the Green River Municipal Watershed in King County, WA to further protect our high-quality drinking water source and reduce the financial impact to our downstream customers.

BACKGROUND:

This Department's Recommendation is Based On:

The Green River Watershed is the source of high-quality drinking water for nearly 1 million downstream residents, and it retains some of the last and best salmonid habitat in King County. Tacoma Water has been working to strategically acquire land in the watershed as part its Watershed Management Plan under the 2018 Water System Plan (SD 5, Measurement 2. Adherence to Watershed Management Plan). Acquiring these lands improves source water protection and control. To reduce the financial impact of land acquisition on our ratepayers, Tacoma Water applied for and was awarded funds available through King County's CFT Levy Grant Program up to \$150,000. The CFT Funds are reimbursable and require a 25% match from Tacoma Water in the amount of up to \$37,500. Tacoma Water paid the full purchase price up front and will be reimbursed with the CFT Funds. Therefore, Tacoma Water acquired approximately 80 acres of strategically important forest lands at a substantially reduced cost.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ CUSTOMER RESEARCH:

To protect public health and ensure a safe drinking water supply, it is necessary that the water be maintained at its source in a state of the highest natural quality. That is why we work closely with landowners, including the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, in the Green River Watershed and other interest groups to assess and prioritize lands for acquisition to improve source water protection and control.

2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Equity and Accessibility:

Leveraging grant funds to acquire land in the Green River Watershed reduces utility capital and operating costs for our retail customers while improving source water protection and control.



Livability:

The Green River Watershed is the source of high-quality drinking water for nearly 1 million downstream residents, and it retains some of the last and best salmonid habitat in King County. These funds reimburse Tacoma Water for forest land within the Green River Municipal Watershed to further protect our high-quality drinking water source and reduce the financial impact to our downstream customers.

Explain how your legislation will affect the selected indicator(s).

Tacoma Water's mission is to provide clean and reliable drinking water as well as provide natural resource stewardship. Leveraging grant funds to reduce utility capital and operating costs helps keep rates stable for all retail customers and ensure Tacoma Water can continue to meet its mission long-term and ensure safety and quality of life for the community it serves.

ALTERNATIVES:

Alternative(s)	Positive Impact(s)	Negative Impact(s)
1. Don't approve grant funding opportunity		This would be a missed opportunity to leverage grant funds for already acquired land to reduce the financial impact to ratepayers and improve source water protection and control.
2.		
3.		

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP:

Tacoma Water has a strategic initiative goal to assess prospective land acquisitions within the Green River Watershed. We've completed a comprehensive Geographic Information System (GIS) analysis prioritizing lands for acquisition or protection according to criteria critical to the utility.

STAFF/SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the proposed amendment to the Interlocal Agreement between the City of Tacoma and King County.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Fund Number & Name	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	Cost Element	Total Amount
1.4600-SDC	WTR-00633	6311185	37,500
2.			



City of Tacoma

City Council Action Memorandum

TOTAL			
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What Funding is being used to support the expense?

N/A

Are the expenditures and revenues planned and budgeted in this biennium's current budget?

YES

Are there financial costs or other impacts of not implementing the legislation?

YES

Will the legislation have an ongoing/recurring fiscal impact?

No

Will the legislation change the City's FTE/personnel counts?

No

ATTACHMENTS:

- Amendment to the Interlocal Agreement between City of Tacoma and King County

**AMENDMENT TO THE CONSERVATION FUTURES
INTERLOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT
BETWEEN KING COUNTY AND THE CITY OF TACOMA
FOR OPEN SPACE ACQUISITION PROJECTS**

The King County Council, through Ordinance 9128, has established a Conservation Futures Levy Fund and appropriated proceeds to King County and certain cities. This amendment is entered into to provide for the allocation of additional proceeds made available for open space acquisition.

THIS AMENDMENT is entered into between the CITY OF TACOMA and KING COUNTY, and amends and attaches to and is part thereof of the existing Interlocal Cooperation Agreement entered into between the parties on the 10th day of December, 2025.

The parties agree to the following amendment:

The Interlocal Cooperation Agreement is hereby amended by adding Exhibit 1, attached hereto.

In all other respects, the terms, conditions, duties and obligations of both parties shall remain the same as agreed to in the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement.

Once fully executed, this Amendment shall be incorporated into the existing Interlocal Cooperation Agreement as if fully set forth, and shall become Amendment 1.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, authorized representatives of the parties hereto have signed their names in the spaces set forth below:

KING COUNTY

CITY OF TACOMA

TACOMA PUBLIC
UTILITIES

Girmay Zahilay
King County Executive
Date: _____

Jackie Flowers
Tacoma Public Utilities
Director
Date: _____

Keri Burchard-Juarez
Utility Director – Water
Superintendent
Date: _____

Approved as to form:

Approved as to form:

Leesa Manion
King County Prosecuting
Attorney

Michael W. Smith
Deputy City Attorney,
City of Tacoma

EXHIBIT 1

2026 CONSERVATION FUTURES LEVY PROCEEDS CITY OF TACOMA ALLOCATION

Jurisdiction	Project Name	Allocation
Tacoma	Tacoma Water Abston Acquisition 2026	\$150,000
TOTAL		\$150,000

Project Description:

Project #1150363: Tacoma – Tacoma Water Abston Acquisition 2026

Tacoma Water is requesting funding to acquire 80 acres within the regionally significant Upper Green River Watershed, which provides clean drinking water to over 600,000 residents in King and Pierce Counties. This forested land will be protected, managed, and restored by Tacoma Water Environmental Stewardship staff. Match funding comes from the Tacoma Water budget. Project funding was authorized in King County Ordinance 20023.

Is this a Bond-financed Project? No