

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

AGENDA TITLE:	Motion to Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Professional Services with RW Beck for the Surface Water Master Plan Update and Rate Study
DEPARTMENT:	Public Works Department
PRESENTED BY:	Mark Relph, Director Jesus Sanchez, Operations Manager Brian Landau, SWM Supervisor

PROBLEM/ISSUE STATEMENT:

The City of Shoreline's first Surface Water Master Plan (SWM Plan) was completed and adopted by council in 2005, establishing a prioritization of capital projects focusing on flooding issues, water quality and habitat enhancement. It is now time to update the SWM six-year plan, determining the efficiency and effectiveness of the 2005 SWM Plan and evaluate existing planned CIPs against current and future surface water needs, and to determine an appropriate fee schedule to support future capital improvement projects (CIPs) and maintenance and operations (M&O). Staff is requesting Council to authorize the City Manager to execute a contract with RW Beck to prepare the 2010 Surface Water Master Plan Update and Rate Study.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The project will be funded from the Surface Water Utility Fund CIP Budget.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that Council authorize the City Manager to execute a contract for professional services with RW Beck in an amount not to exceed \$200,000.

Approved By: City Manager ____ City Attorney ____

INTRODUCTION

The Surface Water Master Plan (SWM Plan) developed in 2004 and adopted by Council in 2005, was the City's first SWM Plan. The SWM Plan was part of the City's Revised Comprehensive Plan as mandated by law. The SWM Plan is the blueprint for planning, designing, and managing the City's stormwater drainage infrastructure.

The SWM Plan called for the development of a six-year master plan designed to address critical issues in the city's stormwater infrastructure. The focus of the SWM Plan was to create a long-term (six-year) Surface Water Management and Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), designed to address long-standing flooding issues, water quality, and habitat enhancement.

Through an established priority matrix, City staff developed a hierarchy of program needs within each of the following categories: flooding issues, water quality and habitat enhancement.

BACKGROUND:

The City's original Surface Water Master Plan, developed in 2004 and adopted in 2005, included the development of a Capital Improvement Program (CIP), Fee Rate Study, and a Maintenance and Operations (M&O) plan to support the City's Surface Water Utility. The SWM Plan focused on short and long-range needs for the City's stormwater programs. The initial and critical needs were to address public safety, reduce damage caused by flooding, and meet legal mandates prescribed by federal and state laws such as the Clean Water Act, and finally Habitat Restoration.

The City's SWM Plan had to comply with a number of federal and state regulations that are pertinent to stormwater. Major regulatory drivers that helped guide the initial SWM Plan are: Washington State Department of Ecology's Basic and Comprehensive Stormwater Program, NPDES Phase I and II federal rule, Federal Endangered Species Act, and Federal Clean Water Act.

Since 2005, a number of factors affecting the City's surface water program have changed. Some of these include:

- completion of several capital improvements that have substantially reduced the number of flooding issues;
- institution of environmentally focused educational programs (environmental mini-grant programs, recycling and natural yard care, and Neighborhood Environmental Stewardship Program, or NEST);
- significant reduction of community complaints;
- implementation of water quality programs; real-time experience in National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)-required program and maintenance changes;
- construction of additional surface water management infrastructure improvements; and

- establishment of greater regional emphasis on sustainability, water quality, and habitat restoration.

DISCUSSION:

The City recognizes that some stormwater system needs with well-planned financial program cannot be clearly defined until basin plans can be completed for all basins (e.g., perform detailed system assessments and floodplain mapping). However, in developing a reasonable short- and long-range stormwater management plan, we need to first understand where we have been, how we have performed, what still needs to be addressed, and how do we pay for it, before we establish new goals and programs for the future to improve and enhance our level of service in stormwater management.

By understanding how our basins function, and what the primary critical issues unique to each basin are, we can begin to establish a reasonable stormwater management program. In addition, the update of the SWM Plan will yield sufficient information to allow the City to appropriately establish the level of rates needed long term to address our critical needs. Thus, the SWM Plan update will also include a rate study to assess the financial impacts of maintenance activities and other programmatic and capital needs over the next five years.

Finally, another critical element regarding all basins is the development of consistent hydrologic and hydraulic models to test the capacity of our infrastructure and verifying the location of floodplains. Since the City is a participant in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) as administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), floodplain mapping and management is a fundamental requirement necessary to all the basins. As the City delineates floodplains, we create critical and sensitive areas that must be protected and/or managed through code requirements in such a way that protects unsuspecting homeowners, sustains healthy habitat conditions and prevents serious erosion and flooding problems in our city.

Staff prepared a Request for Qualifications (RFQ No. 5797) for a consultant and received two proposals from qualified engineering service consultants. Both applicants were selected for final interviews. RW Beck was selected as the most qualified firm through the selection process.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

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RECOMMENDATION

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