

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

AGENDA TITLE:	Discussing Resolution No. 425 to Ratify the Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan Update
DEPARTMENT:	Public Works
PRESENTED BY:	Uki Dele, Surface Water and Environmental Services Manager
ACTION:	<input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution <input type="checkbox"/> Motion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion <input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing

PROBLEM/ISSUE STATEMENT:

In 1999, the federal government listed Puget Sound Chinook salmon as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Salmon have historically been, and continue to represent, a vital part of the culture and economy of the Lake Washington / Cedar / Sammamish Watershed, also known as Water Resource Inventory Area 8 (WRIA 8). The City of Shoreline is located within the watershed boundaries of WRIA 8, and Chinook salmon are found within Shoreline in McAleer Creek.

Implementation of salmon recovery actions, including habitat restoration and programmatic activities, is guided by the WRIA 8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan (WRIA 8 Plan), which was originally completed in 2005. In 2015, WRIA 8 partners recommitted to coordinated Chinook recovery in WRIA 8, and the Salmon Recovery Council directed WRIA 8 staff to initiate a 10-year update to the WRIA 8 Plan, resulting in the 2017 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan update.

The 2017 Plan is an addendum to the 2005 Plan, but is also intended to serve as a stand-alone document. As an addendum, the 2017 Plan continues themes and content discussed in the 2005 Plan, and incorporates new scientific information and lessons learned during the first 10 years of implementation. In order to continue its participation in the WRIA 8 Forum and, thereby meet the requirements of the ESA, the City of Shoreline will need to approve proposed Resolution No. 425 (Attachment A) to ratify the 2017 WRIA 8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan update. Tonight, Council is scheduled to discuss proposed Resolution No. 425. Staff will be joined by Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Manager, for tonight's discussion.

RESOURCE/FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Proposed Resolution No. 425 to ratify the 2017 WRIA 8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan does not have a financial impact and does not obligate the City to fund or implement Plan recommendations. Adoption of the resolution allows the City to participate in the regional WRIA 8 Forum at the same cost share amount of \$16,693 that has been paid annually from Surface Water Management funds since 2016.

RECOMMENDATION

No action is required at this time as this item is for discussion purposes only. Staff recommends that the City Council adopt proposed Resolution No. 425 to ratify the 2017 Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan when this item is brought back to Council for action on March 26, 2018.

Approved By: City Manager ***DT*** City Attorney ***MK***

BACKGROUND

In 1999, the federal government listed Puget Sound Chinook salmon as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Salmon have historically been, and continue to represent, a vital part of the culture and economy of the Lake Washington / Cedar / Sammamish Watershed, also known as Water Resource Inventory Area 8 (WRIA 8). The City of Shoreline is located within the watershed boundaries of WRIA 8, and Chinook salmon are found within Shoreline in McAleer Creek.

Under the ESA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries is required to develop and implement a plan to address the recovery of the species. Since previous recovery plans were developed solely by federal agencies with little or no input from the communities responsible for implementing the plan, the ESA prompted local governments in the WRIA 8 watershed to initiate a coordinated, watershed-scale partnership to recover salmon under an Interlocal agreement (ILA). The first ILA was initiated in 2001, updated in 2006, and most recently updated again in 2015. The current ILA, among 28 local government partners, was authorized by the City Council on October 26, 2015 at an annual cost share amount of \$16,693 from Surface Water Management funds through the end of December 2025 to support WRIA 8's salmon conservation efforts. The staff report for this Council action can be found at the following link:

<http://cosweb.ci.shoreline.wa.us/uploads/attachments/cck/council/staffreports/2015/staffreport102615-7c.pdf>.

Implementation of salmon recovery actions, including habitat restoration and programmatic activities, is guided by the WRIA 8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan (WRIA 8 Plan), which was originally completed in 2005, and ratified by the City Council. Here is the [link to Shoreline's resolution ratifying the 2005 Plan](#). Upon approving the 2005 WRIA 8 Plan, the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council set an initial 10-year implementation period, ending in 2015, to assess progress to date and consider whether or not to continue the watershed's collaborative regional salmon recovery partnership.

With the renewal of the ILA in 2015, WRIA 8 ILA partners recommitted to coordinated Chinook recovery in WRIA 8, and the Salmon Recovery Council directed WRIA 8 staff to initiate a 10-year update to the WRIA 8 Plan. This update process commenced in late 2015 and early 2016. WRIA 8 staff worked with the Implementation and Technical committees, and other regional and local stakeholders to inform the Plan update. The WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council received regular briefings during the update process and approved the 10-year update to the WRIA 8 Plan in September, 2017.

DISCUSSION

The 2017 WRIA 8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan update (2017 Plan) is an addendum to the 2005 Plan, but is also intended to serve as a stand-alone document. As an addendum, the 2017 Plan continues the themes and content discussed in the 2005 Plan, and incorporates new scientific information and lessons learned during the first 10 years of implementation. The 2017 WRIA 8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan Update can be found at the following link:

<http://www.govlink.org/watersheds/8/reports/pdf/wria-8-ten-year-salmon-conservation-plan-combined-10-25-2017.pdf>.

Major updates to the 2017 Plan include:

- Revised and updated list of habitat acquisition and restoration projects, to improve project definitions, reduce duplication, and add new projects.
- New habitat goals for five (5) key habitat elements to better evaluate and report progress towards achieving habitat restoration efforts.
- Twenty new and updated habitat recovery strategies.
- Revised and updated list of recommended land use actions and education and outreach actions.
- New monitoring and assessment plan that improves tracking and reporting on the Plan's implementation, and clearly defines adaptive management responses should the level of implementation fall below identified benchmarks.

Similar to the original 2005 WRIA 8 Plan, the 2017 Plan identifies priority actions for partners and other entities to take to improve habitat conditions to support recovery of Chinook salmon. The 2017 Plan does not obligate partners to take action or change local regulations, but it is intended to serve as the City/County's plan for salmon habitat protection and restoration and should inform other planning processes and regulatory updates.

In order to continue its participation in the WRIA 8 Forum and, thereby meet the requirements of the ESA, the City of Shoreline will need to approve proposed Resolution No. 425 (Attachment A) to ratify the 2017 WRIA 8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan update. Tonight, Council is scheduled to discuss proposed Resolution No. 425. Staff will be joined by Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Manager, for tonight's discussion.

RESOURCE/FINANCIAL IMPACT

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RECOMMENDATION

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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Proposed Resolution No. 425

RESOLUTION NO. 425

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON, RATIFYING THE 2017 UPDATE TO THE WATER RESOURCE INVENTORY AREA (WRIA) 8 CHINOOK SALMON CONSERVATION PLAN.

WHEREAS, on July 25, 2005, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 232 ratifying the *WRIA 8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan*, dated February 25, 2005 (“2005 WRIA 8 Plan”); and

WHEREAS, WRIA 8 is one of 15 watershed-based chapters of the *Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan*, approved by NOAA Fisheries (formerly National Marine Fisheries Service) on January 19, 2007, and encompasses Lake Washington and the Cedar and Sammamish river systems; and

WHEREAS, the Puget Sound Partnership serves as the Puget Sound regional organization and lead for planning and implementing the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan, approved by NOAA Fisheries; and

WHEREAS, the 2017 update to the 2005 WRIA 8 Plan (“2017 Update”) is an addendum to the 2005 WRIA 8 Plan, and includes a scientific framework, Chinook salmon population goals to achieve sustainable and harvestable populations, habitat restoration goals, recovery strategies, a list of priority projects and programmatic actions, and a monitoring and adaptive management plan; and; and

WHEREAS, the residents of the City of Shoreline values ecosystem health; water quality improvement; flood hazard reduction; open space protection; and maintaining a legacy for future generations, including commercial, tribal, and sport fishing, quality of life, and cultural heritage; and

WHEREAS, the residents of the City of Shoreline supports cooperation at the WRIA level to set common priorities for actions among partners, efficient use of resources and investments, and distribution of responsibility for actions and expenditures; and

WHEREAS, in WRIA 8, habitat protection and restoration actions to significantly increase Chinook productivity trends are necessary, in conjunction with other recovery efforts, to avoid extinction in the near term and restore WRIA 8 Chinook to viability in the long term; and

WHEREAS, the 2005 WRIA 8 Plan and the 2017 Update recognize that salmon recovery is a long-term effort, and focuses on a 10-year implementation time horizon to allow for evaluation of progress and updating Plan goals and priorities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Shoreline has implemented habitat restoration and protection projects, and uses the 2005 WRIA 8 Plan and salmon habitat recovery strategies and goals as guidance in its land use and public outreach policies and programs; and

Attachment A

WHEREAS, it is important to provide jurisdictions, the private sector, and the public with certainty and predictability regarding the course of salmon recovery actions that the region will be taking in WRIA 8, including the Puget Sound nearshore; and

WHEREAS, if insufficient action is taken at the local and regional level, it is unlikely Chinook salmon populations in WRIA 8 will improve and it is possible the federal government could list Puget Sound Chinook salmon as an endangered species, thereby decreasing local flexibility;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON, HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

The City Council for the City of Shoreline ratifies the *2017 update to the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan*, dated September 2017, as an addendum to the 2005 WRIA 8 Plan. Ratification is intended to convey the City of Shoreline's approval and support for the following:

1. Conserving and recovering Chinook salmon and other anadromous fish, focusing on preserving, protecting and restoring habitat with the intent to recover listed species, including sustainable, genetically diverse, harvestable populations of naturally spawning Chinook salmon.
2. Providing multiple benefits to people and fish through WRIA 8 Plan, as updated in 2017, implementation, including flood hazard reduction; water quality improvement; open space protection; and maintaining a legacy for future generations, including commercial, tribal and sport fishing, quality of life, and cultural heritage.
3. Continuing to work collaboratively with other jurisdictions and stakeholders in WRIA 8 to implement the WRIA 8 Plan, as updated in 2017.
4. Using the habitat goals and associated recovery strategies in the WRIA 8 Plan, as updated in 2017, as a basis for local actions recommended in these documents and as one source of best available science for future projects, ordinances, programmatic actions, and other appropriate local government activities.
5. Supporting implementation of the 2017 Update's Appendix A - *Monitoring and Assessment Plan* on a watershed basis, including an adaptive management approach to implementation and funding to address uncertainties and ensure cost-effectiveness by tracking actions, assessing action effectiveness, learning from results of actions, reviewing assumptions and strategies, making corrections where needed, and communicating progress.
6. Using the 2017 Update's Appendix F - *Site-Specific Project List*, Appendix H – *Land Use Action Recommendations*, and Appendix I – *Education and Outreach Recommendations*, and other actions consistent with the 2005 WRIA 8 Plan, as updated in 2017, as the suite of WRIA 8 actions to guide priorities for implementation and funding, including through grants, local capital improvement projects, ordinances, and other activities. Jurisdictions, agencies, and stakeholders can choose to implement these actions at any time.

Attachment A

7. Using an adaptive approach to funding the WRIA 8 Plan, as updated in 2017, through both local sources and by working together (within WRIA 8 and Puget Sound) to seek federal, state, grant, and other funding opportunities, and recognizing that funding assumptions, strategies, and options will be revisited periodically.

ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL ON MARCH 26, 2018.

Mayor Will Hall

ATTEST:

Jessica Simulcik Smith, City Clerk