



## INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Transportation and Infrastructure Committee  
**FROM:** Henry Hash, Public Works Director *H.H.*  
**BY:** Mike Perfetti, Habitat Project Manager  
**CC:** Mayor Ekberg  
**DATE:** April 3, 2020  
**SUBJECT:** Nelsen Side Channel  
Project No. 91641203  
Grant Applications

### ISSUE

Authorize the submittal of a grant application to the Washington State Department of Ecology's (DOE) Floodplains by Design (FbD) grant program and other future grant opportunities to fund the Nelsen Side Channel project.

### BACKGROUND

The Nelsen Side Channel is a remnant section of the Green River as it existed prior to the construction of I-405 in the 1960s. The remnant channel is separated from the mainstem of the river by a constructed levee but offers potential for an off-channel rearing habitat for threatened Puget Sound Chinook salmon and Steelhead. Rearing habitat in the lower Green River and Duwamish River is limited, forcing fry migrants into Puget Sound much too early. Recent research by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) shows that less than 1% of fry forced out into Puget Sound return as adults, the lowest of inventoried Puget Sound rivers. The Nelsen Side Channel project will set the levee back to create a ±1.2-acre side channel, restore an acre of riparian forest, provide additional flood storage, and provide public access to the shore.

### DISCUSSION

DOE is currently seeking applications for its 2021-2023 FbD Program. Staff submitted a pre-application to obtain design funding and was invited to submit a grant application. City policy requires approval by the appropriate Committee before applying for grants.

### FISCAL IMPACT

There is no specified limit for requesting funding, and the City meets the Disadvantaged Community Criteria, thus waiving match requirements.

### RECOMMENDATION

Committee approval to submit for the FbD Program grant and other grant opportunities that may become available for the Nelsen Side Channel project.

