



## INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM

TO: **Transportation and Infrastructure Services Committee**  
 FROM: **Hari Ponnekanti, Public Works Director/ City Engineer**  
 BY: **Brittany Robinson, Public Works Grant Analyst**  
**Josh Hopkins, Project Manager**  
 CC: **Mayor Ekberg**  
 DATE: **February 3, 2023**  
 SUBJECT: **Surface Water Fund – Nelsen Side Channel**  
**Project No. 91641203**  
**Grant Application**

### ISSUE

Authorize the submittal of a grant application to the King County Conservation Futures (CFT) grant program.

### BACKGROUND

The Nelsen side channel is a remnant section of the Green River as it existed prior to the construction of the I-405 in the 1960s. The remnant channel is separated from the mainstem of the river by a constructed levee but offers potential as off-channel rearing habitat for threatened Puget Sound Chinook salmon and other aquatic species. This 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 river. Currently, there is a concept design in place for this project and property transfer arrangements are underway between the City, WDNR and WSDOT.

### DISCUSSION

King County is currently seeking applications for its CFT grant program. The CFT program goal is to deliver projects that protect forests, shorelines, farms, greenways, and trails for future generations to enjoy forever. Grant submissions are due on March 6, 2023.

### FISCAL IMPACT

The City is seeking \$200,000 from the CFT grant program to fund acquisition costs of the Nelson Family Trust property (shown on the attached map) for the Nelsen Side Channel Project. The grant application indicates that the City must match the grant 1:1. The match would come from the Surface Water utility fund and the Open Spaces River Corridor grant, which has \$25,000 allocated for acquisition. Staff are also applying for a match waiver, and if approved, the CFT grant would fund the project 100%.

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Fund Source</u>	<u>2023-2024 Match Budget</u>
CFT Grant	\$200,000	OSRC	\$25,000
Match	<u>200,000</u>	Utility Fund	<u>200,000</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$400,000</b>		<b>\$250,000</b>

### RECOMMENDATION

Committee is being asked to approve the submittal of the Conservation Futures grant application for the Nelsen Side Channel project.

**Attachments:** 2023 CIP Page, pg. 83  
Project Map and Site Photos

# CITY OF TUKWILA CAPITAL PROJECT SUMMARY

2023 to 2028

**PROJECT:** Nelsen Salmon Habitat Side Channel

Project No. 91641203

**DESCRIPTION:** Create an off-channel salmon rearing habitat side channel by connecting a segment of historic river channel with the Green River.

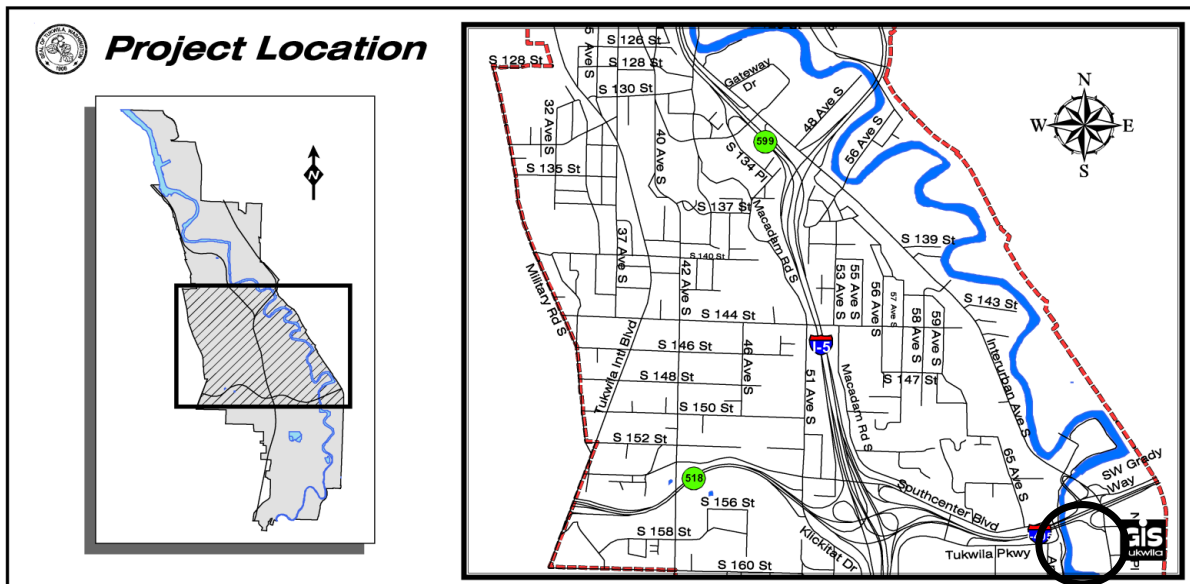
**JUSTIFICATION:** WRIA 9 has identified this project a proposed action in the Salmon Habitat Plan.

**STATUS:** The project area is primarily within State lands, but the intent is to transfer to City. The project may take place under an aquatic lease (DNR), depending on timing. Grant application for design funding submitted to Floodplains in 2020 with a low probability of success.

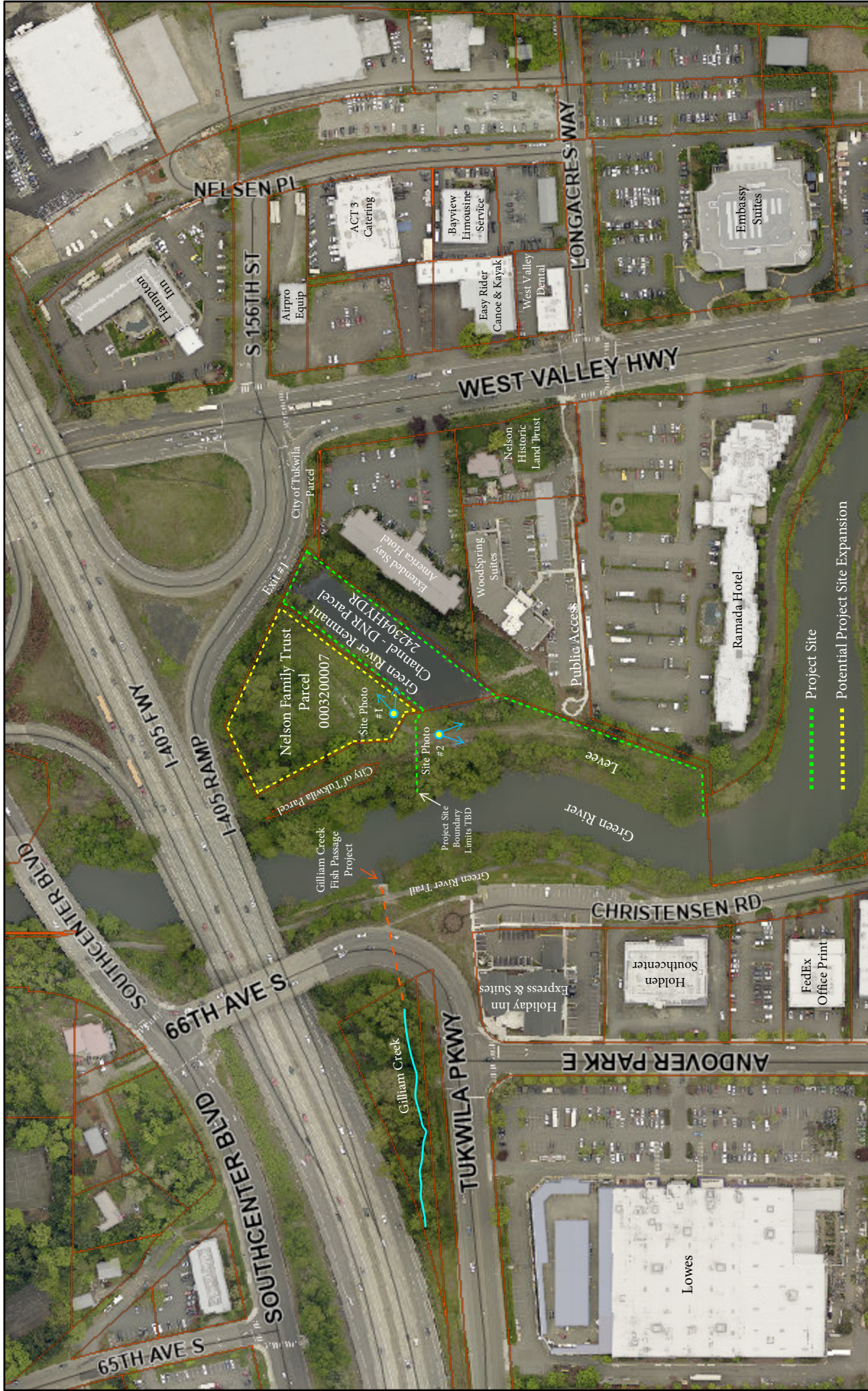
**MAINT. IMPACT:** Expected to increase maintenance

**COMMENT:** Property acquisition to the north could create the opportunity for a side channel and additional flood storage, or potentially combine this with Gilliam Creek Fish Barrier project depending on funding source feedback.

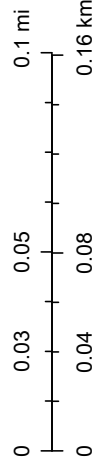
FINANCIAL (in \$000's)	Through		Estimated								TOTAL
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	BEYOND		
<b>EXPENSES</b>											
Design		50	300	300							650
Land (R/W)		5	300								305
Monitoring											0
Const. Mgmt.					385						385
Construction					1,440						1,440
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>1,825</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,780</b>
<b>FUND SOURCES</b>											
Awarded Grant		50	150	150							350
Proposed Grant			300	100	1,232						1,632
Mitigation Actual											0
Mitigation Expected											0
Utility Revenue	0	5	150	50	593	0	0	0	0	0	798
<b>TOTAL SOURCES</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>1,825</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,780</b>



# Map - Parcel Map and Site Photos



1:4,514



- Parcels
- Buildings
- Street

## Site Photos



Site Photo 1. View east over remnant Green River channel taken from the levee on the west side of the project site. To the right is a hedgerow screening the adjacent Extended Stay America Hotel. In the background is the I-405 Exit #1 Off-ramp to State Route 181 West Valley Highway. In the foreground and middle ground is a mix of native and non-native woody vegetation surrounding the remnant channel. See Site Map for Site Photo 1 Viewpoint.

## Site Photos



Site Photo 2. View south along levee towards public access and parking lots for Wood Spring Suites and Ramada Hotel. To the left is native and non-native vegetation bordering the backwater channel. To the right is native and non-native vegetation along the Green River buffer. See Site Map for Site Photo 2 Viewpoint.