



Nick Fish, Commissioner
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187526



IMPACT STATEMENT

Date: November 2, 2015

Council Date: December 16, 2015

Legislation Title: Authorize the Water Bureau to enter into a Multi Funded Research Agreement with the Water Research Foundation, Seattle Public Utilities, and Confluence Engineering, Inc. for a Tailored Collaboration in an amount not to exceed \$50,000 (Ordinance)

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Purpose of proposed legislation and background information:

The purpose of this legislation is to authorize the Water Bureau to enter into a Multi Funded Research Agreement with the Water Research Foundation (WRF), Seattle Public Utilities, and Confluence Engineering, Inc. for a Tailored Collaboration to better understand under what circumstances flushing is a corrective action under the Total Coliform Rule; help utilities justify development and implementation of preventative and reactive flushing programs; as well as provide guidance on modification and optimization of existing flushing practices.

Utilities spend a considerable amount of time and resources flushing to maintain or improve distribution system water quality. Flushing programs may be preventative, responsive, or both and there are a variety of flushing techniques that can be implemented as part of an overall program. However, very little is known about the effectiveness and duration of benefits associated with various flushing approaches specifically as a preventative tool or corrective action tool under the Total Coliform Rule. The purpose of the rule is to protect public health by ensuring the integrity of the drinking water distribution system and monitoring for the presence of microbial contamination. Utilities and regulators need specific guidance to demonstrate that flushing activities are preventing or addressing water quality issues.

The Water Bureau performs flushing both as a preventative tool and corrective action tool to maintain or improve distribution system water quality. The bureau seeks to learn more about the effectiveness of flushing on water quality within the distribution system and submitted a Tailored Collaboration research proposal to the WRF. The Water Bureau's Tailored Collaboration research proposal, "Use of Flushing as a Corrective Action under the Revised Total Coliform Rule," has been approved for matching funding by the Water Research Foundation.

The WRF is a centralized, nonprofit research organization for the water community. The WRF's Tailored Collaboration Program provides an opportunity for WRF subscribing utilities to partner with the WRF and mutually leverage research funding for a project that addresses an issue of interest to a significant subgroup of WRF subscribers. A Tailored Collaboration Team is comprised of one or more utilities, a Principal Investigator, and a WRF Project Advisory Committee. Each participating utility contributes funding to the Tailored Collaboration and WRF matches funding up to \$100,000. WRF reviews Tailored Collaboration proposals on an annual basis and selects proposals for WRF matching funding.

Financial and budgetary impacts:

The Water Bureau is one of the co-funders of this Tailored Collaboration and will contribute \$50,000 to the multi-funded research agreement. Funding is available in the FY 2015-2016 Budget.

Community impacts and community involvement:

The project will include flushing field trials of the distribution system and may result in service disruptions in the flushing area. Notification to surrounding homes and businesses will be provided prior to flushing. Notification will be the same as provided for regular flushing activities currently performed by the Water Bureau. There are no decisions on the project that require public involvement.

Budgetary Impact Worksheet**Does this action change appropriations?**

- ☐ YES: Please complete the information below.
☒ NO: Skip this section

Fund	Fund Center	Commitment Item	Functional Area	Funded Program	Grant	Sponsored Program	Amount


Michael Stuhr, P.E., Administrator11/30/15
Date