

CITY OF SEATTLE

RESOLUTION 32031

A RESOLUTION ratifying the 2021 Update to the Green/Duwamish and Central Puget Sound Watershed or Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA 9) Salmon Habitat Plan, Making Our Watershed Fit for a King.

WHEREAS, the 2021 Update to the WRIA 9 Salmon Habitat Plan (“WRIA 9 Plan”) is an addendum to the 2005 WRIA 9 Salmon Habitat Plan, and includes new science, revised habitat goals and recovery strategies, an updated capital project list, and a monitoring and adaptive management plan; and

WHEREAS, 17 local governments in WRIA 9 (“Parties”) have partnered through an inter-local agreement (“ILA”) since 2001 to jointly fund development and implementation of the WRIA 9 Plan to address a shared interest in, and responsibility for, long-term watershed planning and salmon recovery in the Green/Duwamish and Central Puget Sound Watershed (“Watershed”); and

WHEREAS, in March 1999, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (“NOAA”) Fisheries listed the Puget Sound Chinook salmon evolutionary significant unit, including the Green River Chinook salmon population, as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act (“ESA”); and

WHEREAS, local jurisdictions have authority over certain habitat-based aspects of Chinook survival through land use and other policies and programs, and the State of Washington and tribes, who are the legal co-managers of the fishery resource, are responsible for addressing harvest and hatchery management; and

1 WHEREAS, the WRIA 9 partners recognize participating in the ILA and implementing priorities
2 in the WRIA 9 Plan demonstrates their commitment to address the ESA listing of
3 Chinook salmon; and

4 WHEREAS, coordination and cooperation among federal, state, and local agencies, tribes,
5 businesses, non-governmental organizations, landowners, citizens, and other interests are
6 essential to implement and adaptively manage a salmon recovery plan; and

7 WHEREAS, the Puget Sound Partnership is the Puget Sound region's lead agency for planning
8 and implementing the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan, approved by NOAA
9 Fisheries; and

10 WHEREAS, the WRIA 9 Plan is one of 15 watershed-based chapters of the Puget Sound Salmon
11 Recovery Plan; and

12 WHEREAS, The City of Seattle supports cooperation at the WRIA level to set common
13 priorities for actions among partners, efficient use of resources and investments, and
14 distribution of responsibility for actions and expenditures; and

15 WHEREAS, habitat protection and restoration actions to increase Chinook salmon productivity
16 trends are necessary throughout the watershed, in conjunction with other recovery efforts,
17 to avoid extinction in the near term and restore WRIA 9 Chinook salmon to viability in
18 the long term; and

19 WHEREAS, salmon recovery is interrelated with flood risk reduction, water quality
20 improvement, open-space protection, recreation, economic development, and tribal treaty
21 rights; and

22 WHEREAS, The City of Seattle has a strong interest to achieve multiple benefit outcomes for
23 people and fish across the watershed; and

1 WHEREAS, the WRIA 9 Plan recognizes that salmon recovery is a long-term effort, and focuses
2 on a ten-year implementation time horizon to allow for evaluation of progress and
3 adaptation of goals and implementation strategies; and

4 WHEREAS, it is important to provide jurisdictions, the private sector, and the public with
5 certainty and predictability regarding salmon recovery actions in WRIA 9; and

6 WHEREAS, the WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum supports the concept of basin stewards to
7 help implement the plan, and the City of Seattle, City Tukwila, King County, and the Port
8 of Seattle have recently agreed to jointly fund a new Duwamish Basin Steward, in
9 addition to a Green River Steward already working in the watershed; and

10 WHEREAS, if insufficient action is taken at the local and regional level, Chinook salmon
11 populations in WRIA 9 are unlikely to improve and the federal government could list
12 Puget Sound Chinook salmon as an endangered species, thereby decreasing local
13 flexibility; and

14 WHEREAS, the Parties previously took formal action to ratify the 2005 Salmon Habitat Plan;

15 NOW, THEREFORE,

16 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, THE**
17 **MAYOR CONCURRING, THAT:**

18 Section 1. The City of Seattle ratifies the Green/Duwamish and Central Puget Sound
19 Watershed, Water Resource Inventory Area 9 Salmon Habitat Plan Update, Making Our
20 Watershed Fit for a King (“WRIA 9 Plan”), attached to this ordinance as Attachment 1.

21 Ratification is intended to convey The City of Seattle’s support for the following:

1 A. Protecting and restoring habitat based on best available science with the intent to
2 achieve sustainable, resilient, and harvestable populations of naturally spawning Chinook
3 salmon.

4 B. Pursuing a multi-benefit approach to WRIA 9 Plan implementation that integrates
5 salmon recovery, flood hazard reduction, water quality improvements, open space and
6 recreation, and equity and social justice to improve outcomes for people and fish.

7 C. Using the WRIA 9 Plan as a source of best available science to inform local
8 government actions, including, but not limited to land use, shoreline, and transportation
9 planning/permitting.

10 D. Using capital project guidance, programmatic actions, and policy outlined with the
11 WRIA 9 Plan to inform local priorities for implementation via grants, capital improvements,
12 ordinances, and other activities. Ratification does not obligate any partner to implement any
13 specific actions or adhere to specific timelines for such actions.

14 E. Working collaboratively with local, state, federal partners, and tribes to support and
15 fund implementation of the WRIA 9 Plan, including monitoring and adaptive management to
16 address scientific uncertainty, tracking, and communicating progress, and refining strategies to
17 ensure cost effective investments.

