

WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council Consent Agenda Item

November 2021

Funding Guidance for the Cooperative Watershed Management Grant Program (King County Flood Control District)

Staff recommends status quo funding guidance

The King County Flood Control District (FCD) provides funding to the King County portions of WRIAs 7, 8, 9, and 10 through the Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) grant program. Eligible activities include habitat restoration and acquisition projects, monitoring, and outreach and education.

For each annual grant cycle, the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) is asked to provide funding targets for the three categories of eligible activities. The SRC-approved targets serve as guidance for the WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee as they develop grant funding recommendations. However, the SRC grants flexibility to the Project Subcommittee to deviate from these targets if there is a strong justification for doing so.

In March 2020, the King County FCD increased annual Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) funding, which increased WRIA 8's annual CWM funding from \$1.8 million to approximately \$3.6 million (which increases according to an annual inflationary adjustment). The SRC approved revised funding guidance for the 2021 CWM grant round to best support salmon recovery implementation priorities. The total amount available in 2022 is estimated to be \$3.75 million. No change is proposed to the funding targets for the 2022 CWM grant cycle. The table below shows 2022 CWM grant funding targets by category using status quo funding guidance. Any additional funds identified prior to the Project Subcommittee's funding meeting in the spring (i.e., returned funds) will be added to the restoration and acquisition category per past practice.

Table 1: 2022 Proposed CWM Funding Guidance/Targets

| Grant Category | Amount |
|---|---|
| Restoration projects and acquisitions (including up to 15% of this amount for riparian-only habitat projects) | \$2,808,000 (approx. 75% of available funding) |
| Monitoring | \$750,000 (approx. 20% of available funding) |
| Education and outreach | \$192,000 (approx. 5% of available funding) |
| Total | \$3,750,000 |