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June 4, 2019

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council members

FROM: Patty O'Toole

SUBJECT: Fish and Wildlife Program Amendment: review Committee-recommended draft addendum

BACKGROUND:

Presenter: Staff

Summary: The Fish and Wildlife Committee and staff will present the Committee-recommended draft addendum as amendment to the 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program, for the Council's review and discussion.

Relevance: The Council is in the midst of its Fish and Wildlife amendment process. The Council called for recommendations to amend its Program in May of 2018 and recommendations were due on December 13, 2018.

Workplan: Amending the Fish and Wildlife Program is described in the Fish and Wildlife Division workplan

Background:

The Fish and Wildlife Committee has concluded its work in developing draft fish and wildlife amendments for review and consideration by the full Council. A pre-decisional draft of the addendum to the 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program will be sent to Council members separately from this memo.

Early in the amendment process, the Council recognized that this amendment cycle is an appropriate time to focus on a few key Program areas. When the Council called for recommendations, it requested that the recommending entities focus on the most significant issues about the Program or its implementation that require change. The

recommendations the Council received emphasized two aspects of the Council's program: how it is implemented and how we assess and report on the effects of implementation, otherwise known as program performance. In April of this year, the Council supported the Committee recommendation that the amendments be addressed through the development of an addendum to amend the 2014 Program. The Fish and Wildlife Committee, working with staff, developed the draft addendum during seven Fish and Wildlife Committee work-sessions from February through May of this year.

The draft addendum consists of three main sections: Introduction, Part I, and Part II. The introduction describes the purpose of the addendum, how it extends the 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program, and how it relates to the program amendment recommendations the Council received. It also includes a list of program accomplishments and challenges. Part I of the addendum describes how the Council and others will assess the program's performance and improve program implementation using an adaptive management approach. This section also includes a reorganization and elaboration of the program's goals, objectives and performance indicators as needed for this task. Part II identifies near-term priorities for implementation and funding as well as program guidance on program and project implementation.

In consultation with the Council chair, the staff proposes three opportunities for the Council to review and provide input on the draft addendum. The first opportunity will be at the full Council meeting in June. At this meeting, the staff will provide an overview and orientation to the draft addendum. The next opportunity will be Monday, June 24, when the Council will hold a three-hour webinar for the purpose of detailed review and discussion of any proposed edits. Then, at the July Council meeting, the Council will have an additional opportunity for final review and input on the draft addendum. The current schedule targets July for a Council decision to release a draft amendment document for public review.

Staff is also developing a draft "findings" document that explains how the Council used the program amendment recommendations in developing the addendum but is not otherwise amending the 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program text. This will be a draft version of the document the Council typically approves at the end of the program amendment process. This document will contain the required written findings on recommendations and responses to comments. Staff recommends the Council make the draft findings document available when the Council releases the draft program addendum for public review and comment. The staff recommends, however, that the Council release it as a staff-draft document to provide context and explanations about the addendum, not as a Council-approved document. The draft "findings" document will be available to the Council later in June.

During public review, the Council will hold formal public hearings and consultations, likely to begin in late August and continue through the month of September and into October. More information about the public review period and process will be shared with the Fish and Wildlife Committee at the June meeting and with the full Council at future meetings.