

Environmental Remediation Fund

Managing Bureau: Bureau of Environmental Services

Statement of Purpose: The Environmental Remediation Fund (ERF) was established by City Council in FY 1993-94 to provide funding to remediate former solid waste disposal sites for which the City is liable.

Beginning in FY 2005-06, funding for the Portland Harbor Superfund program moved to the Environmental Remediation Fund with resources provided by cash transfers from the Sewer System Operating Fund supplemented by interest earnings from the ERF. The cash transfers have since been substituted by depositing the dedicated Portland Harbor Superfund charge directly into the ERF. Including the Portland Harbor Superfund program within the ERF is consistent with the purposes of the ERF and distinguishes the program from the routine sewer system operations that are budgeted for, and funded within, the Sewer System Operating Fund.

The Guilds Lake property is a former landfill operated by the City from 1910 through the late 1940s. The acquisition and remediation of this site was financed by the Environmental Remediation 1993 Series A Revenue Bonds issued in November 1993. The Guilds Lake remediation was completed in FY 1994-95. Property maintenance and management and environmental monitoring of the site are funded as required by the Department of Environmental Quality.

Lease income from current tenants on the City-owned Guilds Lake site supports the ERF's operating and capital expenditures. This revenue source, along with the fund's interest earnings and cash transfers, are used for remediation projects.

Sources of Revenue: Revenues earned in the fund include but are not limited to revenues from a dedicated Portland Harbor Superfund charge on retail sewer and stormwater bills, rental income from lessees at the Guilds Lake site, and cost-sharing arrangements with DEQ and other City bureaus. Interest on investments. Currently, a subfund contains ODOT monies for joint Portland Harbor restoration projects, with the use of those funds controlled via a 2011 intergovernmental agreement.

Contingency Requirements: Per Financial Policy 2.04, contingency funds should be used to address reasonable but unforeseen requirements within the fiscal year. There are no minimum or maximum contingency requirements for the Environmental Remediation Fund.

Reserve Requirements: There are no reserve requirements for this fund.

Disposition of Funds: In the event the fund is closed, all remaining resources shall revert to the Solid Waste Management Fund. This is based on the language "Should this Fund become unnecessary any monies remaining in this Fund shall be paid to the Refuse Disposal Fund." (Ordinance 167121, Passed on November 17, 1993). Note, the Refuse Disposal Fund was renamed the Solid Waste Management Fund with Ordinance 175089, on November 15, 2000.