MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager
From: Kathy Brown, Public Works Director
Ray Steiger, P.E., Public Works Superintendent

Date: May 6, 2019
Subject: 2019 PUBLIC WORKS WEEK PROCLAMATION

RECOMMENDATION:

City Council authorizes the Mayor to proclaim May 19-25, 2019, as “National Public Works Week” in the City of Kirkland.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

Each year, the American Public Works Association promotes Public Works Week throughout the Nation, and cities, counties, and special districts can choose the extent to which they celebrate and acknowledge Public Works Week. Historically, Kirkland has adopted a proclamation designating the week, and through various means Public Works staff has provided displays or outreach to the community highlighting public works and the role the community plays in sustaining public works. This year, staff will not be providing specific outreach, but is recommending making an official proclamation. The theme for 2019 is, “IT STARTS HERE.”

Public Works Week is an opportunity for the community to be reminded of the value it receives for investments in public works. Public awareness is raised, not only of the physical infrastructure necessary to support daily community needs, but also of the efforts and contributions of public works professionals such as City staff, consultants, contractors, and others. Businesses and residents provide a myriad of financing for public works and public works services through utility rates, user fees, charges, and taxes, and they benefit directly by these services. Services such as a robust multimodal transportation system, solid waste collection/disposal and recycling, clean and fresh drinking water, reliable water systems for fire protection, reduced flooding and erosion, protection of natural water courses and lakes, and wastewater collection and treatment are all made available through the community’s investment.

It is also crucial to provide ongoing educational programs to inform the community members of the role they play in making good choices to help develop and maintain their public infrastructure and the natural environment. Specifically, their decisions in solid waste recycling, conserving water, travelling by alternative modes other than single occupancy vehicles, protecting natural systems, protecting and enhancing surface water
quality, tree stewardship, and reporting problems with infrastructure are some of the ways the Kirkland community can continue to participate in managing and protecting the public works systems, natural resources, and the environment.

Attachment A: Proclamation
A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND

Designating May 19-25, 2019, as “National Public Works Week” in the City of Kirkland, Washington

WHEREAS, the American Public Works Association acknowledges “National Public Works Week” each year in the third full week in May as a way to honor the tens of thousands of men and women in North America who provide and maintain the infrastructure and services collectively known as public works, and

WHEREAS, the theme for the 2019 campaign is “It Starts Here;” and

WHEREAS, the Kirkland City Council has long recognized that the Kirkland Public Works Department provides many essential services for a healthy, safe, and vibrant community through the management, design, construction, and maintenance of vital infrastructure. Components such as clean drinking water distribution, safe and accessible multimodal infrastructure, reliable wastewater collection, efficient surface water systems, timely solid waste collection, a functional and healthy public tree canopy, and vehicles critical to emergency response are provided; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kirkland, through City Council action and support, has been a leader in the application of development and maintenance standards, capital investments, sustainability, recycling, and pedestrian and bicycle safety; and

WHEREAS, these services are provided by a diverse workforce with a variety of backgrounds and experience levels that share a common mission: “Caring for your infrastructure to keep Kirkland healthy, safe, and vibrant;” and

WHEREAS, Kirkland citizens and Public Works employees are essential stewards of the City’s infrastructure;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Penny Sweet, Mayor, do hereby proclaim the week of May 19-25, 2019, as “National Public Works Week” in the City of Kirkland, Washington, and call upon all citizens to join in celebrating their investment in the Public Works of their City.

Signed this 21st day of May, 2019,

Penny Sweet, Mayor