

## SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE

| <b>Department:</b> | <b>Dept. Contact:</b> | <b>CBO Contact:</b> |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Seattle City Light | Mike Haynes           | Greg Shiring        |

### 1. BILL SUMMARY

**Legislation Title:** A RESOLUTION relating to the City Light Department; recording review of and adopting the City Light Department’s wildfire mitigation plan.

**Summary and Background of the Legislation:** When the Washington Legislature passed [House Bill 1032](#) in July 2023 it stated that, *it is in the best interest of the state, our citizens, and our natural resources to identify the sources of wildland fires; identify and implement best practices to reduce the prevalence and intensity of those wildland fires; put those practices in place; and by putting those practices in place, reduce the risk of wildland fires and damage and losses resulting from those fires.*

The Legislature directed the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR), in consultation with the Energy Resilience and Emergency Management Office of the Department of Commerce, to contract with an independent consultant with experience in developing electric utility wildfire mitigation plans to develop an electric utility wildfire mitigation plan format (i.e., template) and a list of elements to be included in electric utility wildfire mitigation plans. The Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP) template achieves the direction of the Legislature. By October 31, 2024, and every three years thereafter, each consumer-owned utility and investor-owned utility must review, and if appropriate revise, and adopt its wildfire mitigation plan. When reviewing or revising a wildfire mitigation plan, utilities must use the recommended format and elements contained in the WMP template. The plan must be submitted to the Utility Wildland Fire Prevention Advisory Committee created in RCW 76.04.780 to be posted on their website.

The City Light Department (“City Light”) drafted a utility wildfire mitigation plan that includes all the elements required in RCW 76.04.185. This resolution records City Council’s review of and adoption of the utility’s wildfire mitigation plan.

### 2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

**Does this legislation create, fund, or amend a CIP Project?**  Yes  No

### 3. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

**Does this legislation have financial impacts to the City?**  Yes  No

### 3.d. Other Impacts

**Does the legislation have other financial impacts to The City of Seattle, including direct or indirect, one-time or ongoing costs, that are not included in Sections 3.a through 3.c? If so, please describe these financial impacts.**

Yes. City Light proposes to increase investment in contracted vegetation management program by \$814,089 in 2025, to reduce the risk of wildfire in transmission rights-of-way. There will be additional future year investments for wildfire mitigation that will be included in out-year budget proposals when the costs are identified.

**If the legislation has costs, but they can be absorbed within existing operations, please describe how those costs can be absorbed. The description should clearly describe if the absorbed costs are achievable because the department had excess resources within their existing budget or if by absorbing these costs the department is deprioritizing other work that would have used these resources.**

N/A

**Please describe any financial costs or other impacts of *not* implementing the legislation.**

N/A

### 4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

**a. Please describe how this legislation may affect any departments besides the originating department.**

N/A

**b. Does this legislation affect a piece of property? If yes, please attach a map and explain any impacts on the property. Please attach any Environmental Impact Statements, Determinations of Non-Significance, or other reports generated for this property.**

No, this legislation does not affect a particular piece of property. This legislation will reduce wildfire risks at a wide range of City Light assets.

**c. Please describe any perceived implication for the principles of the Race and Social Justice Initiative.**

**i. How does this legislation impact vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities? How did you arrive at this conclusion? In your response please consider impacts within City government (employees, internal programs) as well as in the broader community.**

Section 8.1 of the plan discusses engaging with communities, including vulnerable communities, to share information on efforts we're taking to reduce wildfire risks.

**ii. Please attach any Racial Equity Toolkits or other racial equity analyses in the development and/or assessment of the legislation.**

N/A

- iii. What is the Language Access Plan for any communications to the public?**  
Section 8.1 of the plan mentions ensuring information is appropriate and accessible for all audiences, including language access and tailored, targeted outreach, via the City Light Communications Division.

**d. Climate Change Implications**

- i. Emissions: How is this legislation likely to increase or decrease carbon emissions in a material way? Please attach any studies or other materials that were used to inform this response.**

N/A

- ii. Resiliency: Will the action(s) proposed by this legislation increase or decrease Seattle’s resiliency (or ability to adapt) to climate change in a material way? If so, explain. If it is likely to decrease resiliency in a material way, describe what will or could be done to mitigate the effects.**

This plan is informed by our climate-change research and adaptation program designed to increase resilience to our changing climate, which is contributing to longer and more active fire seasons.

- e. If this legislation includes a new initiative or a major programmatic expansion: What are the specific long-term and measurable goal(s) of the program? How will this legislation help achieve the program’s desired goal(s)? What mechanisms will be used to measure progress towards meeting those goals?**

N/A

**5. CHECKLIST**

- Is a public hearing required?
- Is publication of notice with *The Daily Journal of Commerce* and/or *The Seattle Times* required?
- If this legislation changes spending and/or revenues for a fund, have you reviewed the relevant fund policies and determined that this legislation complies?
- Does this legislation create a non-utility CIP project that involves a shared financial commitment with a non-City partner agency or organization?

**6. ATTACHMENTS**

**Summary Attachments:** None.