

SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE

Department:	Contact Person/Phone:	Executive Contact/Phone:
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1. BILL SUMMARY

Legislation Title: AN ORDINANCE relating to the Cedar River Municipal Watershed and amending the Secondary Use Policies, adopted by Ordinance 114632, to provide for the limited application of the herbicide Imazapyr to treat invasive knotweed species.

Summary and background of the Legislation:

This legislation would amend a 1989 ordinance prohibiting herbicide use in the Cedar River Municipal Watershed, and extends 2010 and 2013 City ordinances that allow limited application of the herbicide Imazapyr to treat knotweed. Knotweed is an invasive species that is extremely harmful to native plants and aquatic habitats. This ordinance would allow for three additional years, through 2018, of limited application of the herbicide Imazapyr to continue treating the knotweed within the municipal watershed, with the goal of eradicating the knotweed.

In 2010 and 2013 the City Council granted SPU the authority to use Imazapyr to control knotweed in the Cedar River Municipal Watershed, each for three years. Extensive water quality monitoring was conducted during this time and no trace of the herbicide was detected in the drinking water supply. Land managers and restoration experts throughout the region and the U.S. are learning that at least eight consecutive years of treatment with Imazapyr is required to effectively control knotweed to prevent re-growth. SPU is requesting a three-year extension, through 2018, of the authorization to apply Imazapyr in the Cedar River Municipal Watershed to maximize the potential effectiveness of this treatment, avoid re-infestation of the areas treated, and hopefully eradicate knotweed from the municipal watershed.

2. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

 X **This legislation does not have direct financial implications.**

The cost of the treatment plan is in the current 2015 budget and will be included in future budget appropriations under the Invasive Species Program.

3. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- a) **Does the legislation have indirect or long-term financial impacts to the City of Seattle that are not reflected in the above?**

The long-term implications of this legislation are cost savings. See b) below.

b) Is there financial cost or other impacts of not implementing the legislation?

There are significant economic and potential environmental costs of not enacting this proposed ordinance because the legislation authorizes the most effective control alternative. Covering knotweed patches is proven to be ineffective on large patches. The no action alternative was ruled out because the infested areas would continue to be sources of knotweed, undermining efforts by SPU and King County to control the plant in downstream areas, ultimately increasing the cost of control and/or resulting in substantial negative ecological impacts. More than \$1 million has been spent controlling knotweed under a related but different program downstream and outside the City's Municipal Watershed boundary. These efforts would be put at risk if control of the knotweed in the municipal watershed is discontinued.

c) Does this legislation affect any departments besides the originating department?

No

d) Is a public hearing required for this legislation?

No

e) Is publication of notice with *The Daily Journal of Commerce* and/or *The Seattle Times* required for this legislation?

No

f) Does this legislation affect a piece of property?

This legislation affects a very small portion of the 92,000-acre Cedar River Municipal Watershed identified in Figure 1 of Exhibit A.

g) Please describe any perceived implication for the principles of the Race and Social Justice Initiative. Does this legislation impact vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities?

None

h) If this legislation includes a new initiative or a major programmatic expansion: What are the long-term and measurable goals of the program? Please describe how this legislation would help achieve the program's desired goals.

NA

i) Other Issues:

List attachments below: