

## SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE\*

<b>Department:</b>	<b>Dept. Contact:</b>	<b>CBO Contact:</b>
Seattle Public Utilities	Zoe Loutos	Akshay Iyengar

*\* Note that the Summary and Fiscal Note describes the version of the bill or resolution as introduced; final legislation including amendments may not be fully described.*

### **1. BILL SUMMARY**

**Legislation Title:** AN ORDINANCE relating to the Cedar River Municipal Watershed; amending the Secondary Use Policies, adopted by Ordinance 114632, to provide for the limited application of the herbicide imazapyr to treat invasive knotweed species; and ratifying and confirming certain prior acts.

**Summary and Background of the Legislation:**

This legislation would amend a 1989 ordinance banning herbicide use in the Cedar River Municipal Watershed. Knotweed is required for control on the Cedar River and its tributaries per RCW 17.10 and WAC 16-750.

Knotweed spreads rapidly along stream banks, posing a significant threat to water quality and fish and wildlife habitat by displacing native vegetation and eroding stream banks. The utility attempted manual control of knotweed from 2002 to 2010 by covering patches with geotextile fabric and digging isolated plants. This strategy was labor intensive and costly and is impractical for treating acres of knotweed infestations. Manual control can also spread knotweed; the tiny stem and root fragments that break off when pulling or digging are easily transported downstream in high flow events and can create new infestations. After exhausting all other control options and still not seeing a reduction in knotweed coverage, the utility investigated the use of the herbicide imazapyr. Land managers downstream of the municipal watershed use imazapyr to control knotweed and the ecological risk of imazapyr is widely accepted to be significantly lower than the ecological risk of uncontrolled knotweed.

This legislation would amend the Secondary Use Policies, enacted in 1989 by Ordinance 114632. The Secondary Use Policies include an herbicide moratorium intended to prevent the broadcast spraying of roadside vegetation and did not consider how herbicide may be selectively applied to control invasive species. The City Council took similar action in 2010, 2013, 2015, and 2019, each authorizing application of the herbicide imazapyr for three years.

This ordinance would allow limited application of the herbicide imazapyr to continue treating knotweed within the municipal watershed for three additional years, through 2025.

### **2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

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

### **3. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**



- 2. 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.**

The action authorized by this legislation would increase Seattle’s resiliency to climate change. Knotweed poses a significant threat to biodiversity by outcompeting and displacing native plant species. Preserving diversity of our native plant communities will also enhance Seattle’s resiliency to disease and pests, which are predicted to become more prevalent with climate change.

- g. 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)?**

No.