

SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE

Department:	Dept. Contact:	CBO Contact:
Seattle Public Utilities	Martha Neuman	Akshay Iyengar

1. BILL SUMMARY

Legislation Title: AN ORDINANCE authorizing the General Manager/CEO of Seattle Public Utilities to enter into two interlocal agreements to provide for the implementation of Chinook salmon conservation plans for the Lake Washington, Cedar River, Sammamish Watershed and the Green River, Duwamish River, and Central Puget Sound Watershed; and ratifying and confirming certain prior acts.

Summary and Background of the Legislation:

The City of Seattle has been participating in regional Chinook salmon recovery efforts since the 1999 listing of the species as Threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act. In 2001, Seattle and other jurisdictions in the Puget Sound region began working together on salmon recovery.

Puget Sound salmon recovery efforts are organized by watersheds. Each watershed has a unique recovery plan that rolls up into the federally approved regional plan. Seattle participates in both the Cedar River, Sammamish Watershed Water Resource Inventory Area 8 (WRIA 8) and the Green River, Duwamish River, and Central Puget Sound Watershed Water Resource Inventory Area 9 (WRIA 9) efforts. Seattle City Council members represent the City on the decision-making bodies. Seattle has been party of Interlocal Agreements (ILAs) with WRIA 8 and WRIA 9 since 2001. The current ILAs expire at the end of 2025. The WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council and the WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum approved the 2026-2035 ILAs in January 2025 and November 2024 respectively.

The ILAs serve as a cost-share mechanism with a formula that includes population, assessed value, and land base. For 2025, Seattle's cost share is \$193,716 for WRIA 8 and \$157,008 for WRIA 9. Seattle's Drainage and Wastewater Fund and Drinking Water Fund pay for this work. The ILA staff are housed at King County, which is the state designated lead for the salmon recovery work in these two watersheds.

While each watershed is unique in terms of habitat needs and how the decision-making groups function, they share general work tasks. These tasks include identifying, prioritizing, and implementing habitat restoration projects, advocating for state, federal, and other funding, coordinating at the Puget Sound level, promoting policy that aids salmon recovery work, advocating for project implementing, supporting one another to implement projects, monitoring salmon populations and effectiveness of projects, and supporting research, technical understanding, education, and outreach.

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

Expenditure Change (\$); General Fund	2025	2026 est.	2027 est.	2028 est.	2029 est.
	0	0	0	0	0
Expenditure Change (\$); Other Funds	2025	2026 est.	2027 est.	2028 est.	2029 est.
SPU DWW WRIA 9 + WRIA 8@10%	\$176,380	\$181,671	\$187,121	\$192,735	\$198,517
SPU Drinking Water WRIA 8@90%	\$174,344	\$179,575	\$184,962	\$190,511	\$196,226

Revenue Change (\$); General Fund	2025	2026 est.	2027 est.	2028 est.	2029 est.
Revenue Change (\$); Other Funds	2025	2026 est.	2027 est.	2028 est.	2029 est.

Number of Positions	2025	2026 est.	2027 est.	2028 est.	2029 est.
	0	0	0	0	0
Total FTE Change	2025	2026 est.	2027 est.	2028 est.	2029 est.
	0	0	0	0	0

3.a. Appropriations

☐ This legislation adds, changes, or deletes appropriations.

Appropriations Notes:

3.b. Revenues/Reimbursements

☐ This legislation adds, changes, or deletes revenues or reimbursements.

Anticipated Revenue/Reimbursement Resulting from This Legislation:

Revenue/Reimbursement Notes:

3.c. Positions

☐ This legislation adds, changes, or deletes positions.

Total Regular Positions Created, Modified, or Abrogated through This Legislation, Including FTE Impact:

** List each position separately.*

Position Notes:

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. No

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.

These costs are assumed in the existing budgets and have been planned for annually.

Please describe any financial costs or other impacts of *not* implementing the legislation. Seattle is a key partner in the region for implementing the recovery plans. There are political risks to withdrawing from the long-established effort to work together on salmon recovery. Jurisdictions cannot “go it alone” because the ecosystems are interconnected.

Please describe how this legislation may affect any City departments other than the originating department.

This legislation benefits other City departments working on local salmon recovery efforts, particularly Seattle Parks and Recreation. Other capital departments, especially Seattle City Light, are also active in salmon recovery efforts. SPU and these other departments have habitat restoration projects. We have more access to grant funds and technical assistance through the collaborative work of the WRIAs. There are no downsides for other departments and they have expressed appreciation for SPU and Council leadership on this regional work.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

a. Is a public hearing required for this legislation? No

- b. Is publication of notice with The Daily Journal of Commerce and/or The Seattle Times required for this legislation? No**
- c. Does this legislation affect a piece of property? No**
- d. 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.** Salmon recovery is a race and social justice issue. Chinook salmon are important food source and cultural asset of local tribes, including those with treaties. In addition, many people, often lower income, fish for food in our local rivers. Improving habitat and fish populations benefits these communities. In addition, Seattle's formal participation in the regional efforts gives us a position and voice to advocate and support increased tribal participation if they desire, and outreach to historically disadvantaged communities.
 - ii. Please attach any Racial Equity Toolkits or other racial equity analyses in the development and/or assessment of the legislation.**
 - iii. What is the Language Access Plan for any communications to the public?** SPU does not directly communicate with the public about the ILAs or the collaborative work. This work is generally led by King County. SPU staff and Council members can review and comment on communications and can continue to voice the need for language access. King County is aware of the needs.
- e. 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.** None
 - 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.** Salmon recovery work, especially habitat restoration, has many other benefits including resilience to climate change. Projects that benefit habitat can also reduce flooding impacts, improve water quality, address stormwater pollution, improve shade and temperature concerns, and help ensure habitat for salmon to survive.

- f. **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?** The ILAs are not a new initiative or a major programmatic expansion.
- g. **Does this legislation create a non-utility CIP project that involves a shared financial commitment with a non-City partner agency or organization?** No

5. ATTACHMENTS

Summary Attachments: None