



Seattle City Light

SKAGIT RIVER HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT ORD

PARKS & CITY LIGHT COMMITTEE

April 1, 2026

HISTORICAL CONTEXT – SKAGIT LICENSING

- Original 50-year license issued in 1927
 - Gorge – original dam/powerhouse (1924); expand powerhouse (1951); high dam (1961)
 - Diablo – dam completed (1929); powerhouse completed (1937)
 - Ross Dam – dam construction started (1937); powerhouse completed (1956); High Ross Treaty (1984)
- 30-year license expired April 30, 2025 (now in annual license)
 - Based on Comprehensive Settlement Agreement (signed in April 1991)
 - Operating on annual licenses until new license is issued
- Began process for new 50-year license in 2018
 - Completed Studies – February 2023
 - Submitted License Application – April 2023
 - Concluded Settlement Discussions – December 2025
 - Council Adopts ORD authorizing Mayor to sign Settlement Agreement – April 2026
 - Submit 50-year License Comprehensive Settlement Agreement to FERC – May 2026

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- FERC Issues Public Notice/Public Comment Opportunities Begin
 - 20-day comment period
- FERC May Request Additional Information
- FERC Issues Ready For Environmental Assessment
- FERC Conducts NEPA Process
 - Draft EIS: minimum 45-day comment period
- NMFS/USFWS Conduct ESA Consultations
- Ecology Issues 401 Water Quality Certification
- New License is Issued (Anticipated 2030)
- City Council Requested to Pass Ordinance to Accept the License

EARLY ACTIONS

- **Governance & Program Startup**
 - Convene **Skagit License Implementation Committee (SLIC)** within 60 days
 - Initiate **Ecosystem Monitoring & Adaptive Management Plan**
- **Cultural Resources**
 - Complete **Historic Properties Management Plan** to protect cultural resources
- **Flow & Habitat Planning**
 - Launch **Riverscape Ecosystem Plan (REP)** studies:
 - ✓ Juvenile habitat & ramping impacts (salmonids focus)
 - ✓ Gravel augmentation pilot refinement
 - ✓ Develop Process Flow Adaptive Management Plan (AMP)
 - Begin **Estuary Habitat Enhancement Plan** (2-year timeline; early actions allowed)

CONTINUED

- **Operations & Water Quality**
 - Design **minimum instream flow structure** (Gorge Reach)
 - Continue **water quality & temperature monitoring**
 - Advance **TDG Attainment Plan** with Ecology
- **Fish Passage Program (Early Actions)**
 - Quarterly reporting to FERC
 - Initiate **early action studies** (within 1 year)
 - Complete **Cost & Schedule Report** (within 6 months)
 - Develop **Ross Access Report** (30% design, within 1 year)
 - Co-managers develop **Stock Selection & Management Plan** (within 1 year)
 - Develop **Fish Passage Implementation Plan (FPIP)** (within 2 years)



THANK YOU



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