



CITY OF SEATTLE

City Council

Agenda

Tuesday, February 17, 2026

2:00 PM

Council Chamber, City Hall
600 4th Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

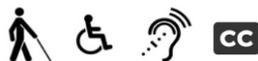
Joy Hollingsworth, Council President
Dionne Foster, Member
Debora Juarez, Member
Robert Kettle, Member
Eddie Lin, Member
Alexis Mercedes Rinck, Member
Maritza Rivera, Member
Rob Saka, Member
Dan Strauss, Member

Chair Info: 206-684-8803; Joy.Hollingsworth@seattle.gov

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CITY OF SEATTLE

City Council Agenda

February 17, 2026 - 2:00 PM

Meeting Location:

Council Chamber, City Hall, 600 4th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104

Committee Website:

<http://www.seattle.gov/council>

Members of the public may register for remote or in-person Public Comment to address the Council. Speakers must be registered in order to be recognized by the Chair. Details on how to register for Public Comment are listed below:

Remote Public Comment - Register online to speak during the Public Comment period at <https://www.seattle.gov/council/committees/public-comment>. Online registration to speak will begin one hour before the meeting start time, and registration will end at the conclusion of the Public Comment period during the meeting.

In-Person Public Comment - Register to speak on the public comment sign-up sheet located inside Council Chambers at least 15 minutes prior to the meeting start time. Registration will end at the conclusion of the Public Comment period during the meeting.

Written comments must be submitted prior to 10 a.m. to ensure that they are distributed to Councilmembers prior to the start of the meeting. Comments may be submitted at Council@seattle.gov or at Seattle City Hall, Attn: Council Public Comment, 600 4th Ave., Floor 2, Seattle, WA 98104. Comments received after 10 a.m. will be distributed after the meeting to Councilmembers and included as part of the public record.

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. ROLL CALL

C. PRESENTATIONS

D. PUBLIC COMMENT

Members of the public may sign up to address the Council for up to 2 minutes on matters on this agenda; Introduction and Referral Calendar; and Council's Work Program; and total time allotted to public comment at this meeting is up to one hour.

E. ADOPTION OF INTRODUCTION AND REFERRAL CALENDAR:

Introduction and referral to Council committees of Council Bills (CB), Resolutions (Res), Appointments (Appt), and Clerk Files (CF) for committee recommendation.

[IRC 511](#)

February 17, 2026

Attachments: [Introduction and Referral Calendar](#)

F. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**G. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR**

The Consent Calendar consists of routine items. A Councilmember may request that an item be removed from the Consent Calendar and placed on the regular agenda.

Journal:

1. [Min 555](#) February 10, 2026

Attachments: [Minutes](#)

Bills:

2. [CB 121162](#) AN ORDINANCE appropriating money to pay certain claims for the week of February 2, 2026, through February 6, 2026, and ordering the payment thereof; and ratifying and confirming certain prior acts.

Supporting Documents: [Summary and Fiscal Note](#)

H. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Discussion and vote on Council Bills (CB), Resolutions (Res), Appointments (Appt), and Clerk Files (CF).

CITY COUNCIL:

1. [CF 314547](#) State of the City address delivered by Mayor Katie B. Wilson on February 17, 2026.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE:

2. [CB 121158](#) AN ORDINANCE relating to information sharing for enforcement of civil immigration laws; prohibiting City provision of nonpublicly available personal information for use in civil immigration enforcement; clarifying the City's position on immigration enforcement being a federal matter; making technical corrections; adding a new Section 4.18.016 to the Seattle Municipal Code; amending Section 4.18.015 of the Seattle Municipal Code; and repealing Section 4.18.010 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

The Committee recommends that City Council pass the Council Bill (CB).

In Favor: 3 - Kettle, Saka, Rivera

Opposed: None

Abstain: 1 - Lin

Supporting Documents: [Summary and Fiscal Note](#)

GOVERNANCE AND UTILITIES COMMITTEE:

3. [CB 121155](#) AN ORDINANCE relating to the Bitter Lake Reservoir Replacement Project; transferring partial jurisdiction of a portion of Seattle Public Utilities' Bitter Lake Reservoir property to the Seattle Department of Transportation, situated in a portion of the Northeast quarter of the Northwest quarter of Section 19, Township 26 North, Range 4 East, Willamette Meridian, and Lots 1, 2, and 3, Block 3, Allendale; designating the property for street and sidewalk purposes; and laying it off as right-of-way.

The Committee recommends that City Council pass the Council Bill (CB).

In Favor: 4 - Hollingsworth, Kettle, Rivera, Strauss

Opposed: None

Attachments: [Att 1 - Legal Description for Partial Transfer of Jurisdiction](#)
[Att 2 - Transfer Area](#)

Supporting Documents: [Summary and Fiscal Note](#)
[Summary Ex A - Bitter Lake Reservoir Site](#)
[Summary Ex B - Racial Equity Toolkit](#)

4. [CB 121160](#) AN ORDINANCE authorizing the General Manager and CEO of Seattle Public Utilities to enter into an interlocal agreement to participate in the regional Water Supply Forum to coordinate and collaborate on current and future regional drinking water supply issues in King, Snohomish, and Pierce counties; and ratifying and confirming certain prior acts.

The Committee recommends that City Council pass the Council Bill (CB).

In Favor: 3 - Hollingsworth, Kettle, Rivera

Opposed: None

Attachments: [Att 1 - Water Supply Forum Interlocal Agreement 2026-2035](#)

Supporting Documents: [Summary and Fiscal Note](#)

5. [CB 121161](#) 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.

The Committee recommends that City Council pass the Council Bill (CB).

In Favor: 3 - Hollingsworth, Kettle, Rivera

Opposed: None

Supporting Documents:

[Summary and Fiscal Note](#)

[Summary Att 1 - Map of 2025 Knotweed distribution in the Cedar River Municipal Watershed](#)

I. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR

J. ADOPTION OF OTHER RESOLUTIONS

K. OTHER BUSINESS

L. EXECUTIVE SESSION*

Executive Session I on Pending, Potential, or Actual Litigation
(est. 30 min.)

Executive Session II on Pending, Potential, or Actual Litigation
(est. 20 min.)

**Executive Sessions are closed to the public*

M. ADJOURNMENT



Legislation Text

File #: IRC 511, Version: 1

February 17, 2026



Introduction and Referral Calendar

List of proposed Council Bills (CB), Resolutions (Res), Appointments (Appt) and Clerk Files (CF) to be introduced and referred to a City Council committee

| Record No. | Title | Committee Referral |
|---------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| <u>By: Strauss</u> | | |
| 1. CB 121162 | AN ORDINANCE appropriating money to pay certain claims for the week of February 2, 2026, through February 6, 2026, and ordering the payment thereof; and ratifying and confirming certain prior acts. | City Council |
| <u>By: Rinck</u> | | |
| 2. CB 121165 | AN ORDINANCE relating to land use and zoning; clarifying regulations related to detention centers and jails; amending Sections 23.47A.004, 23.49.044, 23.49.046, 23.49.092, 23.49.096, 23.49.144, 23.49.148, 23.49.300, 23.49.320, 23.49.324, and 23.84A.020 of the Seattle Municipal Code; approving a work plan; declaring an emergency; and establishing an immediate effective date; all by a 3/4 vote of the City Council. | City Council |
| <u>By: Hollingsworth</u> | | |
| 3. CF 314547 | State of the City address delivered by Mayor Katie B. Wilson on February 17, 2026. | City Council |
| <u>By: Hollingsworth</u> | | |
| 4. CB 121163 | AN ORDINANCE relating to cable television; authorizing the Mayor or the Mayor's designee to execute an amendment to the Cable Television Franchise Agreement with Comcast Cable Communications Management, LLC, authorized by Ordinance 124957; authorizing the Chief Technology Officer to enter into other agreements for the purpose of implementing or administering the amended franchise; amending Section 21.60.050 of the Seattle Municipal Code; and ratifying and confirming certain prior acts. | Governance and Utilities Committee |
| <u>By: Hollingsworth</u> | | |
| 5. CB 121166 | AN ORDINANCE relating to Seattle Public Utilities; declaring real property identified as King County Parcel Number 1623049405 located at South 138th St in SeaTac, WA to be surplus to the City's needs; authorizing the General Manager and Chief Executive Officer of Seattle Public Utilities or designee to execute all documents and take other necessary actions for the sale of the property to King County Water District 125; and ratifying and confirming certain prior acts. | Governance and Utilities Committee |

By: Kettle

6. [CB 121164](#)

AN ORDINANCE relating to civil immigration enforcement; prohibiting civil immigration enforcement staging on all real property that is City owned and controlled; and adding a new Chapter 14.125 to the Seattle Municipal Code.

Public Safety
Committee

By: Kettle

7. [Res 32193](#)

A RESOLUTION relating to law enforcement officer professionalism and standards; reaffirming Seattle values related to professional law enforcement conduct; condemning recent actions of federal law enforcement agents; articulating expectations for law enforcement conduct within Seattle; and directing Seattle Police Department officers to document and report violations of law enforcement professionalism standards.

Public Safety
Committee



Legislation Text

File #: Min 555, **Version:** 1

February 10, 2026

SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

600 Fourth Ave. 2nd Floor
Seattle, WA 98104



Journal of the Proceedings of the Seattle City Council

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

2:00 PM

Council Chamber, City Hall

600 4th Avenue

Seattle, WA 98104

City Council

Joy Hollingsworth, Council President

Dionne Foster, Member

Debora Juarez, Member

Robert Kettle, Member

Eddie Lin, Member

Alexis Mercedes Rinck, Member

Maritza Rivera, Member

Rob Saka, Member

Dan Strauss, Member

Chair Info: 206-684-8803; Joy.Hollingsworth@seattle.gov

A. CALL TO ORDER

The City Council of The City of Seattle met in the Council Chamber in City Hall in Seattle, Washington, on February 10, 2026, pursuant to the provisions of the City Charter. The meeting was called to order at 2:03 p.m., with Council President Hollingsworth presiding.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Foster, Hollingsworth, Kettle, Lin, Rinck, Rivera, Saka

Excused: 2 - Juarez, Strauss

C. PRESENTATIONS

Councilmember Foster presented a proclamation proclaiming February 2026 to be "Black History Month In Seattle."

By unanimous consent, the Council Rules were suspended to allow City Attorney Erika Evans to address the Council.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT

The following individuals addressed the Council:

- Amber Bergstrom
- Emi Koyama
- Madison Zack-Wu
- Bennett Haselton
- Jonathan Moore
- Steve Rubstello
- Alicia Bolivar
- Aries Lalonde
- Rose Legionaires
- Ruth
- Daniel
- Eli
- Toby
- Alex
- Keandray
- Howard Gale
- Carol Butterfield
- Yvette Dinish
- Alex Tsimerman
- Nathan Wall
- Ryan Makinster
- Joe Kunzler
- Lady Scribe
- David Haines

E. ADOPTION OF INTRODUCTION AND REFERRAL CALENDAR:

[IRC 510](#) **February 10, 2026**

By unanimous consent, the Introduction & Referral Calendar (IRC) was adopted.

In Favor: 7 - Foster, Hollingsworth, Kettle, Lin, Rinck, Rivera, Saka

Opposed: None

F. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

By unanimous consent, the Agenda was adopted.

G. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion was made by Council President Hollingsworth, duly seconded and carried, to adopt the Consent Calendar.

Journal:

- 1. [Min 554](#) February 3, 2026

The Minutes were adopted on the Consent Calendar by the following vote, and the President signed the Minutes (Min):

In Favor: 7 - Foster, Hollingsworth, Kettle, Lin, Rinck, Rivera, Saka

Opposed: None

Bills:

- 2. [CB 121159](#) AN ORDINANCE appropriating money to pay certain claims for the week of January 26, 2026, through January 30, 2026, and ordering the payment thereof; and ratifying and confirming certain prior acts.

The Council Bill (CB) was passed on the Consent Calendar by the following vote, and the President signed the Council Bill (CB):

In Favor: 7 - Foster, Hollingsworth, Kettle, Lin, Rinck, Rivera, Saka

Opposed: None

H. COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE, NATIVE COMMUNITIES, AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS COMMITTEE:

- 1. [CB 121153](#) AN ORDINANCE relating to the Social Housing Tax; authorizing the Mayor or designee to enter into an interlocal agreement with the Seattle Social Housing Developer to establish the terms and procedures for the implementation, administration, transfer, reporting, and oversight of the Social Housing Tax, including provisions for reimbursement of the City’s administrative and implementation costs and outstanding loan balances; creating the Social Housing Tax Fund; and ratifying and confirming certain prior acts.

The Committee recommends that City Council pass as amended the Council Bill (CB).

In Favor: 4 - Strauss, Hollingsworth, Kettle, Saka

Opposed: None

The Council Bill (CB) was passed by the following vote, and the President signed the Council Bill (CB):

In Favor: 7 - Foster, Hollingsworth, Kettle, Lin, Rinck, Rivera, Saka

Opposed: None

LAND USE AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE:

2. [CB 121093](#) **AN ORDINANCE** relating to land use and zoning; revising environmental review thresholds and related provisions addressing transportation-related requirements, and archaeological, and cultural resource preservation requirements; amending the title of Chapter 23.52, the title of Subchapter I of Chapter 23.52, and Sections 22.170.050, 22.170.070, 22.170.190, 23.52.004, and 25.05.800 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

The Committee recommends that City Council pass as amended the Council Bill (CB).

In Favor: 4 - Lin, Strauss, Foster, Rinck

Opposed: None

The Council Bill (CB) was passed by the following vote, and the President signed the Council Bill (CB):

In Favor: 7 - Foster, Hollingsworth, Kettle, Lin, Rinck, Rivera, Saka

Opposed: None

3. [CB 121135](#) **AN ORDINANCE** relating to land use and zoning; revising requirements for transportation impact analyses, transportation management plans, and construction management plans; adding new Sections 23.52.010 and 23.52.012 to the Seattle Municipal Code; amending the title of Chapter 23.52, Subchapter II, of the Seattle Municipal Code; and amending Sections 15.04.035, 23.48.230, 23.48.290, 23.48.610, 23.48.710, 23.49.019, 23.50A.360, 23.52.008, 23.71.018, and 23.90.018 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

The Committee recommends that City Council pass as amended the Council Bill (CB).

In Favor: 4 - Lin, Strauss, Foster, Rinck

Opposed: None

The Council Bill (CB) was passed by the following vote, and the President signed the Council Bill (CB):

In Favor: 7 - Foster, Hollingsworth, Kettle, Lin, Rinck, Rivera, Saka

Opposed: None

I. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR

There were none.

J. ADOPTION OF OTHER RESOLUTIONS

There were none.

K. OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

L. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 3:17 p.m.

Jodee Schwinn, Deputy City Clerk

Signed by me in Open Session, upon approval of the Council, on February 17, 2026.

Joy Hollingsworth, Council President of the City Council



Legislation Text

File #: CB 121162, **Version:** 1

CITY OF SEATTLE

ORDINANCE _____

COUNCIL BILL _____

AN ORDINANCE appropriating money to pay certain claims for the week of February 2, 2026, through February 6, 2026, and ordering the payment thereof; and ratifying and confirming certain prior acts.
BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Payment of the sum of \$16,608,464.00 on PeopleSoft 9.2 mechanical warrants numbered 4101005464 - 4101006784 plus manual or cancellation issues for claims, e-payables of \$53,784.34 on PeopleSoft 9.2 9100015960 - 9100015971, and electronic financial transactions (EFT) in the amount of \$105,871,347.46 are presented to the City Council under RCW 42.24.180 and approved consistent with remaining appropriations in the current Budget as amended.

Section 2. RCW 35.32A.090(1) states, “There shall be no orders, authorizations, allowances, contracts or payments made or attempted to be made in excess of the expenditure allowances authorized in the final budget as adopted or modified as provided in this chapter, and any such attempted excess expenditure shall be void and shall never be the foundation of a claim against the city.”

Section 3. Any act consistent with the authority of this ordinance taken prior to its effective date is ratified and confirmed.

Section 4. This ordinance shall take effect as provided by Seattle Municipal Code Sections 1.04.020 and 1.04.070.

Passed by the City Council the 17th of February, 2026, and signed by me in open session in

authentication of its passage this 17th of February, 2026.

President _____ of the City Council

Approved / returned unsigned / vetoed this _____ day of _____, 2026.

Katie B. Wilson, Mayor

Filed by me this _____ day of _____, 2026.

Scheereen Dedman, City Clerk

(Seal)

SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Department: | Dept. Contact: | CBO Contact: |
| Office of City Finance | Kaitlin Klaustermeier | Lorine Cheung |

1. BILL SUMMARY

Legislation Title:

AN ORDINANCE appropriating money to pay certain claims for the week of February 2, 2026, through February 6, 2026, and ordering the payment thereof; and ratifying and confirming certain prior acts. Claims include all financial payment obligations for bills and payroll paid out of PeopleSoft for the covered.

Summary and Background of the Legislation:

RCW 42.24.180 requires that payment of certain claims be authorized by the City Council. This bill, prepared each week by the City Treasury, authorizes the payments of funds that were previously appropriated by the City Council, so the passage of this bill does not have a direct result on the City's budget.

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

This bill authorizes the payments of funds that were previously appropriated by the City Council, so the passage of this bill does not have a direct result on the City's budget.

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.

Please describe any financial costs or other impacts of *not* implementing the legislation. The legislation authorizes the payment of valid claims. If the City does not pay its legal obligations it could face greater legal and financial liability.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

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

This type of legislation authorizes payment of bill and payroll expenses for all City departments.

- 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.

- 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.**

N/A

- 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?**

N/A

- 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.**

N/A

- 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.



Legislation Text

File #: CF 314547, **Version:** 1

State of the City address delivered by Mayor Katie B. Wilson on February 17, 2026.



Legislation Text

File #: CB 121158, Version: 1

CITY OF SEATTLE

ORDINANCE _____

COUNCIL BILL _____

AN ORDINANCE relating to information sharing for enforcement of civil immigration laws; prohibiting City provision of nonpublicly available personal information for use in civil immigration enforcement; clarifying the City’s position on immigration enforcement being a federal matter; making technical corrections; adding a new Section 4.18.016 to the Seattle Municipal Code; amending Section 4.18.015 of the Seattle Municipal Code; and repealing Section 4.18.010 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

WHEREAS, The City of Seattle (“City”), per Ordinance 121063, does not inquire into the immigration status of any person; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes that enforcement of civil immigration law is a federal matter that should not involve the participation of City employees or resources, unless required by law; and

WHEREAS, in 2019 the Washington State Legislature passed the Keep Washington Working Act (E2SSB 5497, codified in chapters 10.93, 43.10, 43.17, and 43.330 of the Revised Code of Washington) which restricts data collection and information sharing regarding civil immigration enforcement, including as relates to state agencies and state and local law enforcement agencies; and

WHEREAS, the City now reaffirms the limited role that City officers and employees should play with respect to matters relating to immigration status; and

WHEREAS, the Seattle Municipal Code imposes no specific obligation for cooperation with civil immigration enforcement; and

WHEREAS, City officers and employees are directed to safeguard the information privacy of those who live and work in Seattle from use in civil immigration enforcement, to the extent permitted by law; NOW,

THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Section 4.18.010 of the Seattle Municipal Code, enacted by Ordinance 113192, is repealed:

~~**(4.18.010 Cooperation with enforcement of federal immigration laws.**~~

~~City officers and employees are directed to cooperate with, and not hinder, enforcement of federal immigration laws.)~~

Section 2. Section 4.18.015 of the Seattle Municipal Code, enacted by Ordinance 121063, is amended as follows:

4.18.015 Inquiries into immigration status((:))

A. ~~((Notwithstanding Seattle Municipal Code Section 4.18.010, unless otherwise required by law or by court order, no))~~ No Seattle City officer or employee shall, unless otherwise required by law or by court order, inquire into the immigration status of any person, or engage in activities designed to ascertain the immigration status of any person.

B. Seattle Police officers are exempt from the limitations imposed by subsection 4.18.015.A~~((, above,))~~ with respect to a person whom the officer has reasonable suspicion to believe: (1) has previously been deported from the United States; (2) is again present in the United States; and (3) is committing or has committed a felony criminal-law violation.

Section 3. A new Section 4.18.016 is added to the Seattle Municipal Code as follows:

4.18.016 Prohibited information sharing

No City officer or employee shall provide any nonpublicly available personal information about any person to any non-City employee or non-City officer for use in the enforcement of civil immigration laws, unless:

A. That person has provided permission with informed consent to a City officer or employee; or

B. Such disclosure is required by law or court order.

“Nonpublicly available personal information” is defined as including one or more of the following, when the information is linked with or is reasonably linkable, including via analytic technology, to the person’s first

name or first initial and last name: Location, home address, work address, place of birth, telephone number, social security number, driver's license number or Washington identification card number, electronic mail address, social media handle or other identifying social media information, and any other means of contacting the person, or other personally identifiable information.

Section 4. This ordinance shall take effect as provided by Seattle Municipal Code Sections 1.04.020 and 1.04.070.

Passed by the City Council the _____ day of _____, 2026, and signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this _____ day of _____, 2026.

President _____ of the City Council

Approved / returned unsigned / vetoed this ___ day of _____, 2026.

Katie B. Wilson, Mayor

Filed by me this _____ day of _____, 2026.

Scheereen Dedman, City Clerk

(Seal)

SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE

| Department: | Dept. Contact: | CBO Contact: |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Legislative | Tamaso Johnson | N/A |

1. BILL SUMMARY

Legislation Title: AN ORDINANCE relating to information sharing for enforcement of civil immigration laws; prohibiting City provision of nonpublicly available personal information for use in civil immigration enforcement; clarifying the City’s position on immigration enforcement being a federal matter; making technical corrections; adding a new Section 4.18.016 to the Seattle Municipal Code; amending Section 4.18.015 of the Seattle Municipal Code; and repealing Section 4.18.010 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

Summary and Background of the Legislation: This legislation clarifies the public policy of the City of Seattle regarding the role of City officers and employees in civil immigration enforcement. This bill: 1) repeals a Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) section from 1986 that directs officers and employees to “cooperate with [...] enforcement of federal immigration laws;” 2) removes reference to that repealed section; and, 3) prohibits City officers or employees from sharing any nonpublicly available personal information of any person for use in civil immigration enforcement, unless that individual has consented to the sharing or disclosure is legally required.

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.

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.

N/A

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

This legislation is designed to align the Seattle Municipal Code with other statements of City policy by clarifying the role of City employees in civil immigration enforcement activities. Failure to implement this legislation could lead to further confusion about the role and responsibilities of City.

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

This legislation would affect all City departments by imposing restrictions on the disclosure of nonpublicly available personal information by any City officer or City employee.

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.

This legislation is designed to protect the nonpublicly available personal information of anyone interacting with City officers or employees from use in civil immigration enforcement. Vulnerable and/or historically disadvantaged communities are more likely to be at risk of harm if the information protections in this bill are not implemented.

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?**
TBD.

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.**

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.**

N/A

- 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?**

N/A

- 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.



Legislation Text

File #: CB 121155, Version: 1

CITY OF SEATTLE

ORDINANCE _____

COUNCIL BILL _____

AN ORDINANCE relating to the Bitter Lake Reservoir Replacement Project; transferring partial jurisdiction of a portion of Seattle Public Utilities' Bitter Lake Reservoir property to the Seattle Department of Transportation, situated in a portion of the Northeast quarter of the Northwest quarter of Section 19, Township 26 North, Range 4 East, Willamette Meridian, and Lots 1, 2, and 3, Block 3, Allendale; designating the property for street and sidewalk purposes; and laying it off as right-of-way.

WHEREAS, Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) in 1955 acquired through condemnation the approximately 13.3-acre Bitter Lake Reservoir (BLR) property for utility purposes and the property was accepted by Ordinance 83429; and

WHEREAS, in 1958 SPU built an open reservoir on the property; and

WHEREAS, in response to new drinking water regulations in the 1990s prohibiting open drinking water reservoirs, SPU installed a floating cover on the BLR in 2003; and

WHEREAS, the floating cover on BLR is approaching the end of its useful life; and

WHEREAS, in 2022 SPU decided to build a new, partially buried reinforced concrete reservoir and open a significant portion of the property to public use; and

WHEREAS, the resulting project is known as the Bitter Lake Reservoir Replacement Project (Project); and

WHEREAS, as part of the Seattle Department of Transportation's (SDOT's) street improvement requirements for the Project, SPU is required to increase the width of the sidewalk along Linden Avenue North between North 143rd Street and North 138th Street to meet the standard width of 6 feet, laying the groundwork for long term pedestrian infrastructure improvements; and

WHEREAS, to meet SDOT's requirements, SPU must transfer to SDOT a 610 square foot portion of BLR

property immediately adjacent to the public right-of-way (Transfer Area), for street and sidewalk purposes; and

WHEREAS, SPU determined the Transfer Area is not needed for current or future utility purposes; and

WHEREAS, SPU and SDOT identified mutual and offsetting benefits arising from this jurisdictional transfer, and no monetary compensation is required between departments; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The City Council authorizes the transfer of jurisdiction from Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) to the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) of a portion of SPU's fee-owned property along Linden Avenue North between North 143rd Street and North 138th Street, as legally described in Attachment 1 and depicted in Attachment 2 (Transfer Area) to this ordinance and designates it for transportation purposes (a portion of tax parcel number 192604-9009). In case of a conflict between the description of the boundaries in Attachment 1 and the map in Attachment 2, the description shall control.

Section 2. The Transfer Area is laid off, opened, widened, extended, and established as right-of-way.

Section 3. SPU and SDOT shall coordinate to ensure the sidewalk improvements and jurisdictional boundaries are implemented in a manner consistent with long-term infrastructure and community benefit goals for the Bitter Lake Reservoir site.

Section 4. The General Manager/CEO of SPU and the Director of SDOT, or their designees, are authorized to execute such further documents and agreements as may be necessary to carry out the intent of this ordinance.

Section 5. This ordinance shall take effect as provided by Seattle Municipal Code Sections 1.04.020 and 1.04.070.

Passed by the City Council the _____ day of _____, 2026, and signed by
me in open session in authentication of its passage this _____ day of _____, 2026.

President _____ of the City Council

Approved / returned unsigned / vetoed this ____ day of _____, 2026.

Katie B. Wilson, Mayor

Filed by me this _____ day of _____, 2026.

Scheereen Dedman, City Clerk

(Seal)

Attachments:

Attachment 1 - Legal Description

Attachment 2 - Transfer Area

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION FOR
PARTIAL TRANSFER OF JURISDICTION
FROM TAX PARCEL NO. 1926049009**

The East 1.00 foot of the North 610.00 feet of the below described PARENT PARCEL, lying within the Northeast quarter of the Northwest quarter of Section 19, Township 26 North, Range 4 East, W.M., King County, Washington.

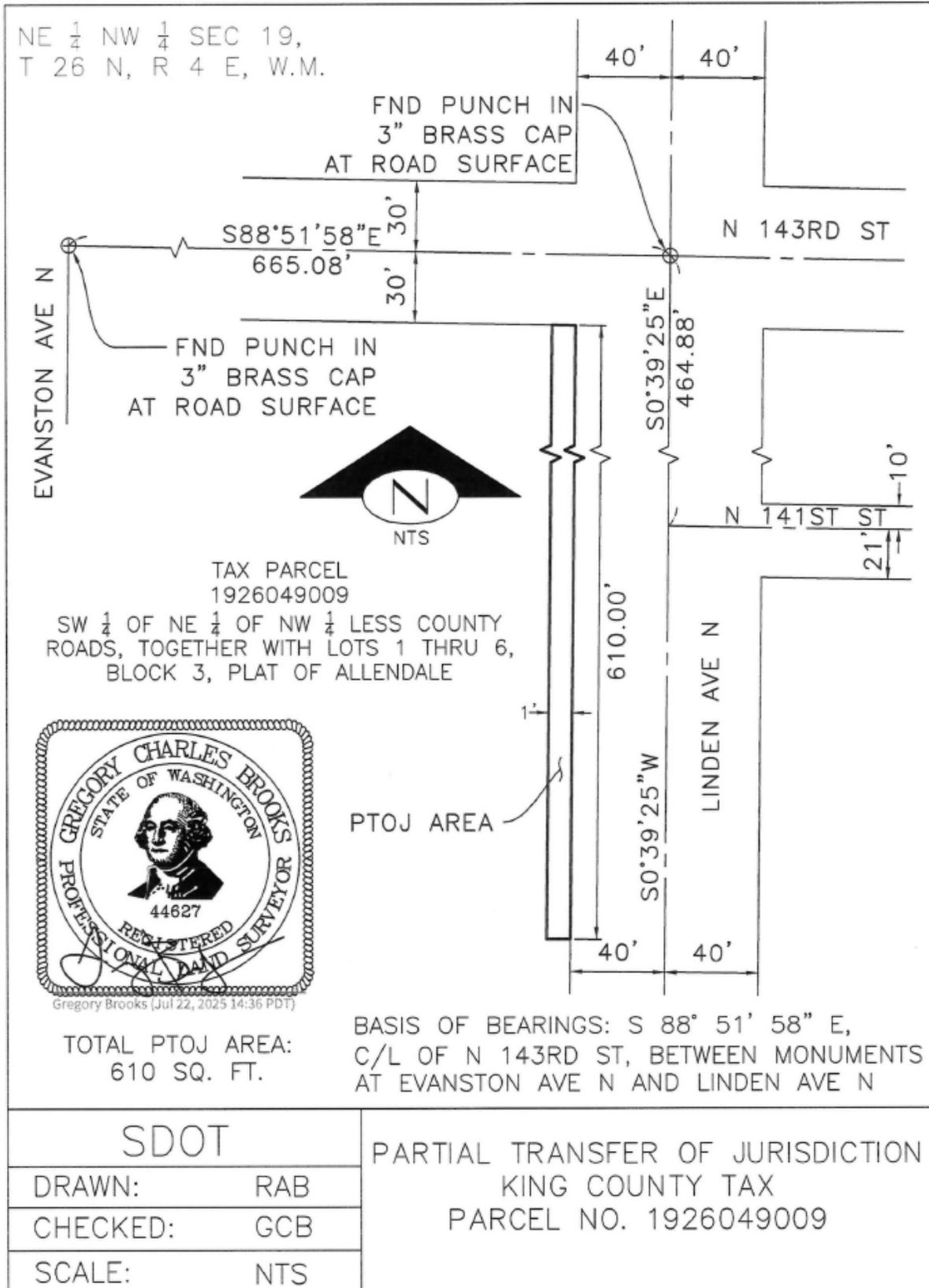
Containing 610 SQ FT, more or less

PARENT PARCEL

THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SEACTION 19, TOWNSHIP 26 NORTH, RANGE 4 EAST, W.M., KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON, LESS COUNTY ROADS, TOGETHER WITH LOTS ONE THRU SIX OF BLOCK THREE, PLAT OF ALLENDALE AS RECORDED IN VOLUME 12 OF PLATS, PAGE 95, RECORDS OF KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON.



Gregory Brooks (01/08/2026 09:08:31 PST)



SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE

| | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Department: | Dept. Contact: | CBO Contact: |
| Seattle Public Utilities | Jacques Rodriguez | Akshay Iyengar |

1. BILL SUMMARY

Legislation Title: AN ORDINANCE relating to the Bitter Lake Reservoir Replacement Project; transferring partial jurisdiction of a portion of Seattle Public Utilities’ Bitter Lake Reservoir property to the Seattle Department of Transportation situated in a portion of the Northeast quarter of the Northwest quarter of Section 19, Township 26 North, Range 4 East, Willamette Meridian, and Lots 1, 2, and 3, Block 3, Allendale, designating the property for street and sidewalk purposes, and laying it off as right-of-way.

Summary and Background of the Legislation:

In 1955, Seattle Public Utilities acquired the approximately 13.3-acre Bitter Lake Reservoir (BLR) property. The property was acquired through condemnation for utility purposes. An open reservoir was constructed on the site in 1958. In the 1990s, Federal and State drinking water regulations changed, prohibiting open reservoirs. In response, SPU installed a floating cover on the reservoir in 2003. As the floating cover neared the end of its service life, the utility initiated an options analysis to explore alternative solutions and, in 2022, committed to constructing a new, partially buried reinforced concrete reservoir. This project also presented an opportunity to open part of the site for public use.

As part of the Bitter Lake Reservoir Replacement project, SPU is required to bring the sidewalk on Linden Avenue North (between North 143rd and North 138th Streets) to current standards by widening it to six feet. A 610-square-foot portion of SPU property, adjacent to the existing right-of-way, is necessary to complete these sidewalk and related street improvements. SPU determined this area is not essential for current or future utility operations, therefore it needs to effectuate a transfer of partial jurisdiction to SDOT for the sidewalk right-of-way.

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.

There are no financial impacts.

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.

None.

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

SDOT will be affected by this legislation. SPU will be granting SDOT a sliver of land that will be used for street sidewalk right of way.

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?

Yes, this legislation affects SPU's Bitter Lake Reservoir property. See Exhibit A attached.

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.

This legislation does not impact vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities.

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

See Exhibit B attached.

- iii. What is the Language Access Plan for any communications to the public?**
The project’s community engagement plan will be in alignment with OIRA’s language access best practices.

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.**

This legislation will not increase or decrease carbon emissions.

- 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.**

No.

- 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?**

Not applicable.

- 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.

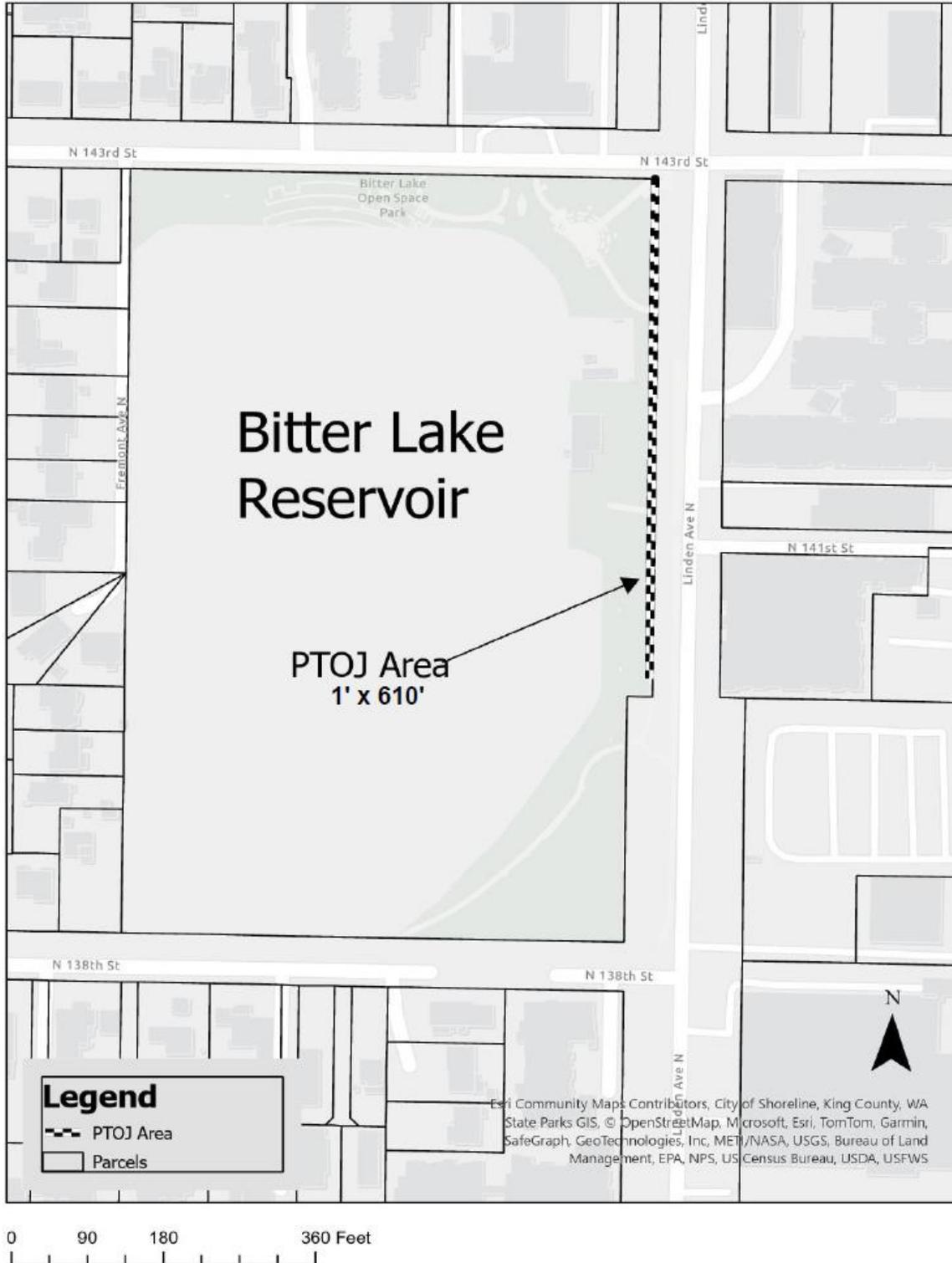
5. ATTACHMENTS

Summary Attachments:

Summary Exhibit A – Site Map

Summary Exhibit B – Racial Equity Toolkit

Bitter Lake Reservoir Site



SPU Racial Equity Toolkit Inclusive Engagement Plan

*To be completed by the staff team involved in developing the community engagement plan related to your service, program, or project, plan, or policy. If warranted, seek assistance from an EJSE Racial Equity Subject Matter Expert. **This tool should be used following application of the [Racial Equity Stakeholder Analysis](#).***

SPU Service, Program, or Project Title: Bitter Lake Reservoir Covering Improvements

Project Manager: Andrew Karch

Today's Date: 6/10/21, updated for 30% Design 3/15/23 (updates in blue text)

Team Member Names:

Andrew Karch, Natalie Hunter, Sam Keller, Eugene Mantchev, Kathy Laughlin, Rick Lippold, Ingrid Goodwin, Shaunie Vail, Bob Hubbert, Lisa Lange

Will this effort have citywide impacts or neighborhood-specific impacts?

Citywide

Neighborhood-Specific

Name the specific neighborhoods impacted:

Southeast: _____

Southwest: _____

Central Area: _____

Downtown: _____

Northeast: _____

Northwest: Bitter Lake Neighborhood

Outside City Limits: _____

In order to ensure thoughtful and thorough responses to the questions below:

- Briefly discuss the difference between equity and equality.
- Discuss ways SPU may unintentionally create or exacerbate racial and/or socio-economic disparities through our policies, services, projects, or programs.

With your team, answer the following questions:

1. Who specifically are your:
 - **SPU Community Affairs and SPU Environmental Justice and Service Equity Subject Matter Experts?**
 - Community Affairs – Ingrid Goodwin
 - EJSE - Natalie Hunter and Sam Keller
 - **Additional SPU or other City Department staff team members that are familiar with the geographic area or affected communities?**
 - Josh Werner, Anthony Chappelle, and North Shop staff – work in the neighborhood.
 - Office of Arts & Culture may also have information.
 - Parks and Recreation
 - Department of Neighborhoods

2. In review of your completed Equity Stakeholder Analysis, what particular demographic or stakeholder group(s) will require tailored outreach or engagement?
 - All stakeholders will need tailored outreach/engagement
 - Some will need more or a deeper dive.
 - Ones that do not speak English fluently will need translation services.

3. Is the community aware of your current effort, and is there support or opposition to it (including any proposed changes to what currently exists)? Why is there support or opposition?
 - Community leaders are aware of the current effort.
 - Bill Wells receives communications from the public regarding when the new reservoir is going to be built.
 - From what we know the community supports burying the reservoir.
 - Initial stakeholder interviews have been conducted. Generally, stakeholders are positive about the project. Important concerns we have heard include safety (for residents along Fremont Ave, desire to keep fence along west side of property), accessibility, and desire to keep the p-patch as it is a valuable asset to the community.
 - Project has been presented to the Seattle Design Commission; it was approved without conditions.
 - Project team is currently planning the first open house style outreach event.

4. How will you ensure your efforts are culturally relevant and linguistically appropriate, especially if engaging low income and/or non-English speaking persons or communities?
 - We will use translation and interpretation services as needed.
 - We will complete the early community outreach mentioned in response for question 3.
 - Community Liaisons may be utilized to ensure we are reaching these stakeholders.
 - Need to use all our different communication tools to ensure we are reaching all stakeholders, including full breadth of community.
 - By engaging contacts that are already involved in this community (i.e., Community Center, North Shop, Josh Werner, Anthony Chappelle).

- By working and coordinating with Parks and Recreation, specifically Bitter Lake Community Center as a key resource for reaching and connecting with the community.
 - 1% for Art for project will provide opportunity for outreach to community stakeholders. Planning artist is being hired to involve community in the 1% for Art.
5. Describe tools and activities to determine appropriate engagement methods (e.g. survey, public meeting, door knocking, Community Liaisons, using trusted advocates, community-based organizations etc.).
- Potential use of Community Liaisons
 - Neighborhood outreach (i.e., meeting, mailers, door to door, etc.)
 - Social Media (i.e., website, listserv, next door, blogs, etc.)
 - Communicate with local businesses and residences to include in their internal newsletters, blogs, local free papers, bulletin boards, etc.
 - Engaging contacts that are already involved in this community (i.e., Community Center, North Shop, Josh Werner, Anthony Chappelle)
 - Engaging Other CIP projects in the area (SPU, other City Departments and private development)
 - Public outreach events – open houses and multiple smaller tabletop events.
6. If you plan on conducting any type of survey or focus group how will you account for the equitable participation and input of low income and limited-English speaking persons?
- Currently, a survey is not planned.
 - However, this could change depending on the direction received from community officials.
 - There could be potential for a follow up survey to determine if needs were met.
 - There is also potential for a survey on the Parks project (if so, would be led by Parks).
 - Survey could be designed to target entire community demographic and translated for non-English speaking people. Community Liaisons could also be engaged to help in this effort.
7. Are there opportunities to leverage the engagement efforts of other current or recent SPU services or projects, especially if impacting the same geographic area or community? Do similar opportunities exist with other city departments or regional agencies?
- Potential for North Transfer Station, project was completed several years ago, but it was in North Seattle and engagement efforts used on that project may apply to this project.
 - Multiple Sound Transit and City of Shoreline projects are occurring in the greater project vicinity. However, these projects have their own communications teams.
 - DOTMAPs can be used to understand other projects in the project vicinity.
 - There are opportunities to leverage engagement efforts for the Park's project that will occur on the reservoir site and the 1% for Art piece of the project. Coordination is currently happening between SPU, SPR, and ARTS. Collaboration occurred between SPU and SPR on initial stakeholder interview questions and information is being shared. SPR and ARTS are included in open house public outreach event. Planning artist will be beneficial to both SPU and SPR.

8. What resources and change to scope, schedule, and budget will you need to make to properly support your initial and long-term engagement efforts?
- Potential use of community liaison (budget included). Outreach and community engagement have been included in project schedule and budget. Public Outreach sub-consultant was hired to assist team and provide strategic input. They have developed a Public Involvement Plan.
 - Design duration for project options are approx. 2-1/2 years. Robust communication efforts are not anticipated to impact the project schedule.
 - Long term communication efforts will not be needed. Communications will only be required during the project life. Parks will likely have on-going communications after the Park is developed.
9. How will you determine that your engagement strategy was successful? What are the measurable outcome goals associated with your engagement strategy? (e.g. increase in participation of racially diverse communities)
- How to determine successful
 - Potential for surveys to community, before and after project. Parks may be issuing surveys.
 - Responses back from attendees at meetings, through social media, next door, door to door, potential community liaison work.
 - Measurable outcome goals
 - Participation from all demographic groups of the community not just the most vocal. Could measure if the community members reached and engaged match the demographic make-up of the community.
 - Evaluating if questions asked by community are in alignment with messaging that is being sent out. If not, evaluate which groups need better tailored messaging.
10. What are your plans to keep the community informed regarding key decisions and progress of your effort?
- There are plans for early engagement with the community on the project. Initial stakeholder interviews have been conducted that aided the development of the Public Involvement Plan.
 - Communication will occur frequently letting the community know what decisions are being made.
 - Community will also be made aware of the progress on the project through community meetings, public notices, website, social media (Nextdoor) etc.

SPU Racial Equity Toolkit Service, Program, or Project Development

To be completed by the staff team assigned to develop this service, program, or project. Seek assistance from an EJSE Racial Equity Subject Matter Expert. **This tool should be used following application of the [Equity Stakeholder Analysis](#).**

SPU Service, Program, or Project Title: Bitter Lake Reservoir Improvements

Project Manager: Andrew Karch

Today's Date: 6/10/21, updated for 30% Design 3/15/23 (updates in blue text)

Team Member Names:

Andrew Karch, Natalie Hunter, Sam Keller, Eugene Mantchev, Kathy Laughlin, Rick Lippold, Ingrid Goodwin, Shaunie Vail, Bob Hubbert, Lisa Lange

1. Is there a defined or approximate end-date?

- Yes List End-Date: 2029
 No

2. Will this go through the Stage Gates-Asset Management process?

- Yes
 No
 Already in Stage Gates Process - List Gate #: post SG2, in process of SG3/Baseline

3. What is the estimated total dollar amount? \$88M

4. Do you plan on hiring Consultants?

- Yes
 No

If yes, list dollar amount and general consulting tasks:

\$3.7M – engineering, design, and services during construction

1. Write or attach a brief description of your service, program, or project, including intended goals.

The existing floating cover at SPU's Bitter Lake Reservoir is reaching the end of its service life. The project will replace the existing reservoir with a new 21MG partial buried pre-stressed

concrete reservoir. The new reservoir will provide additional open space that will be developed into a park by SPR.

The project will be designed and constructed. Intended goals of the project include meeting regulatory requirements, seismic requirements, water supply and system requirements, maintaining current level of service, and providing additional open space for the community.

In order to ensure thoughtful and thorough responses to the questions below:

- Discuss the difference between equity and equality.
- Discuss ways SPU may unintentionally create or exacerbate racial and/or socio-economic disparities through our policies, services, programs, or projects.

With your service or project team, answer the following:

Project Specific Equity Questions

1. Other new reservoirs that have been constructed are much larger than Bitter Lake Reservoir. Is this an equitable situation? In the event of a natural disaster does this impact how much water will be available to the local community as compared to other areas of the City?
 - Several of the other reservoirs when covered were reduced in size (i.e, W. Seattle, Beacon). Roosevelt and Volunteer Reservoirs were taken off-line.
 - For the day-to-day operations of the service area the Bitter Lake Reservoir is oversized, which results in disinfection by-products. Increasing the reservoir size exacerbate the problem. The Lake Forest Park Reservoir also provides water storage for this portion of the service area.
 - There is not a desire by leadership to reduce the size of the reservoir due to the storage it can provide during an emergency or disaster.
 - The City's reservoirs are located at historical selected sites, which may not provide equal emergency storage throughout the City. Purchasing land to relocate reservoirs would be extremely expensive.
2. Regarding the options that were considered, how would they perform in a natural disaster compared with other recently constructed reservoirs in other parts of the city?
 - All the options analyzed for the Bitter Lake Reservoir were developed to the same level of seismic resiliency. For the floating cover and aluminum cover options the parapet wall would be rebuilt due to the seismic evaluation.
 - The floating cover and aluminum cover options do have additional seismic risks due to the earthen dam.
3. Regarding options, are we being equitable regarding water quality security?
 - Water quality security has been considered with the different options. The locations and/or need of fencing impacting the availability of open space is directly related to water quality security.
 - The floating cover requires the largest set-back for the fence reducing the amount of open space. The cover itself is the least secure. Birds of prey have been known to tear covers with their talons and bird wires are recommended to keep birds off the cover.

- The aluminum cover has a reduced setback for the fence increasing the amount of open space, but it is still limiting.
 - The partially buried reservoir will not likely need to be fenced due to the thickness of the concrete wall. Areas near access locations and ladder will need to be secured with potential fencing. This option opens a large portion of the site for open space.
 - The fully buried reservoir will not require fencing except at access locations. This option provides the largest amount of open space, but a significant portion may be unusable due to steep slopes.
4. Reliability. How does the BLR area compare with other areas of the City? This could be redundancy, backup power, aging pipes, aging pump stations, etc.
- The north part of the system is the newest, the reservoir location is not in liquifiable soils and there is very little liquifiable soil if the northern service area. Reliability in this area is better than in the southern service area.

Standard Equity Questions

1. How might your team's position, socio-economic composition, perspective, or implicit bias influence the direction or intent of this effort?
- The team's positions do not have the same influence as the Mayor's Office, Council Members, or SPU leadership. However, our recommendations and presentation of information still has some weight.
 - Team is trying to balance community benefit with costs and recommended option 3 due to this. However, the differences on the increases in rates due to the different options will not have a strong negative impact on us. There are people in the community that will likely be negatively impacted by the higher rates associated with option 3 and not directly receive any community benefit. For example, people in south Seattle may not ever use the new park in the Bitter Lake neighborhood, but they may feel its impact in affordability. Likewise, there may be people in the Bitter Lake neighborhood that might not benefit by in open space in their neighborhood. Not everyone uses City parks and people that do not use City parks may not see this option as the best choice.
 - The team is viewing the situation as highly political with the Mayor's Office, City Council members, and SPU leadership having the greatest influence on the direction and choice for the project option. However, we do not know how the actual residents feel about the situation. We may be biased by past precedence. In the past Mayor Greg Nichols decided to bury all reservoir and create parks. At that time, the decision was that Bitter Lake and Lake Forest Park reservoirs were too far along in the design of the floating covers to switch course. Now it seems there is an expectation that a Park is what the residents of Bitter Lake deserve. There is potential that residents have greater needs for something else and money could be spent in other ways to better serve this community, but we will not know if we do not involve the community in the decision. On the other hand, other communities in the past have benefited from new parks, the biases of people in other communities could prevent the residents of Bitter Lake from receiving similar benefits if the decision is left up to the community at large.
2. Are there additional out of pocket customer costs? If so, what are the policies or other factors used to determine the need *and* share of customer cost? How was customer affordability used as a factor to determine whether or not to charge out of pocket costs?

- There are not direct out of pocket costs for customers on the project, but water rates are impacted differently by which option is chosen.
 - Also, opening up open space for the development of a Park impacts the costs of property taxes for the development and maintenance of the park further impacting affordability.
 - In other areas of the City (i.e., downtown) the City has used “local improvement district” funding which places an extra levee on property taxes in the area to fund the improvement. This currently has not been proposed for the park, but would be unequitable if it was proposed if this situation.
 - There could be impacts to local businesses and their customers if parking for construction workers takes up available parking in the area. Customers could go elsewhere if parking is not available, resulting in reduce revenue for businesses and potential higher costs to customers.
 - Noise from construction could also impact revenues of local businesses and apartment owners. Customer may choose to go elsewhere due to the noise.
3. Are there any identifiable racial and/or socio-economic disparities (one group benefiting or negatively affected more than another group) or potential unintended consequences in the effects of this effort? If so, what plans and steps will you take to reduce or mitigate disparities or unintended negative consequences?
- This is a very diverse neighborhood. The census data has the tract with 47% people of color and 25% of people that speak languages other than English. The “Racial and Social Equity Index” for the census tract the project is in is at the highest level for Disadvantage and Priority.
 - The Henderson project residents that had strong financial means and were outspoken negotiated with SPU to have SPU pay for their windows to be replaced to reduce noise during construction. This project also had a council member living in the vicinity of the project. On the Maple Leaf project negotiations with residents resulted in the SPU paying for residents to have their windows cleaned. Will these type of construction mitigations happen in a less affluent and more diverse neighborhood that might not be as outspoken?
 - There are many residents and older houses adjacent to the project sites.
 - Mitigations could be offered to residents, though residents in such a diverse neighborhood may have different needs.
 - This issue **was** brought up to leadership in the equity memo to management.
 - This project will likely create new open space that will result in a new park that can lead to gentrification of the neighborhood, which could displace low-income residents in the community. **There is a different group at SPU looking at impacts of gentrification due to SPU projects. They have hired a consultant to look into policies and other mitigation measures. After the initial toolkit was completed in 2021, responses to questions on the toolkits had to be reported to the Major Office along with other toolkits that were completed that year. There was an ask to remove the discussion on gentrification from the initial response to the questions.**
 - There is bike path on Linden Ave N. Construction might not directly impact the bike path, but due to the construction and additional construction traffic bikers may choose to use other routes. Mitigation measures for the bike path may need to be considered.
 - Sometimes there may be biases to renters and they can be overlooked. Renters may be impacted by negative construction impacts and may not be able to move elsewhere. If some apartments are not able to be rented out due to construction, it could result in the increase of rents for other tenants.
 - With the senior living apartments across the street from the project site, seniors’ needs should be considered and may be different than others.

- With the diverse neighborhood there will be many different cultures that will be impacted by the project. Every aspect of the project and project communication will need to be viewed through the equity lens as there may be different needs for the different groups of people.
 - The project is unlikely to result in watermain shutdowns or service disruptions. The inlet and outlet feeders do not have customers tapped off of them.
 - There is a potential for temporary impacts to bus stops and sidewalks. Bus stops may need to be temporarily relocated and some sidewalks temporarily closed. This could inconvenience residents and/or local customers and require them to travel further. This could have higher impacts on those that are disabled. Impacts and potential mitigation should be considered for any impacts.
4. What are the specific evaluation measures or outcomes that might inform whether racial or other related inequity was occurring? What data will you need to collect? How will you build these measures into your overall evaluation plan?
- Customer feedback we receive.
 - Feedback from people at public outreach events or on social media.
 - Post project survey and surveys during project could help.
 - [Data will be shared between SPU, SPR, and ARTS. Data from these other departments may be valuable to SPU.](#)
 - May be potential to tap information council members receive from their constituents. Concerns may be heard through Mayor's Office.
5. In regards to this project, list the employee advancement and/or WMBE utilization opportunities.
- WMBE utilization opportunities available through consultant design contract for engineering services. [The consultant contract has WMBE aspirational goals at 20% and includes 6 WBME sub-consultants on their team.](#)
 - WMBE utilization opportunities available through construction contract. WMBE goals will need to be met or exceeded.
 - Project exceeds \$5M and will have CWA in place which provides other benefits and opportunities to workers in the community.
 - For employee advancement, the project will require more senior level construction management abilities, which may allow for opportunities for promotions.

**SPU Racial Equity Toolkit
Stakeholder Analysis**

Use this tool with your team to identify all who is involved or may be impacted by what you are proposing to do.

SPU Policy, Plan, Service, Program, or Project Title: Bitter Lake Reservoir Improvements

Project Manager: Andrew Karch

Today's Date: 6/10/21, updated for 30% Design 3/15/23 (updates in blue text)

Team Member Names:

Andrew Karch, Natalie Hunter, Sam Keller, Eugene Mantchev, Kathy Laughlin, Rick Lippold, Ingrid Goodwin, Shaunie Vail, Bob Hubbert, Lisa Lange

Will this effort have citywide impacts or neighborhood-specific impacts?

- Citywide
- Neighborhood-Specific

Name the specific neighborhoods impacted:

- Southeast: _____
- Southwest: _____
- Central Area: _____
- Downtown: _____
- Northeast: _____
- Northwest: Bitter Lake Neighborhood
- Outside City Limits: _____

It is important to manage expectations of stakeholders. This tool you will help you gain clarity on what you want participants to contribute, what they will gain, and the extent to which their input can influence decision-making.

Using the following terms, check off all appropriate boxes for each stakeholder group.

- **Inform:** Educate stakeholders about the rationale of your effort; how it fits with SPU goals and policies; issues being considered, or areas where input is needed.
- **Collaborate:** Gathering and sharing of information, asking for advice, volunteer or paid partnership to work with SPU in developing and implementing your effort.
- **Shared Decision-Making:** Decision-making power, or stakeholder has a formal role in making final decisions to be acted upon.

Provide brief additional comments for each stakeholder group noting:

- How the stakeholders might benefit or be harmed
- What changes they may want, or what they may want unchanged
- What general expectations the stakeholders may have with SPU

A. Racial or Ethnic Communities

Inform **Collaborate** **Shared Decision-Making**

Use Citywide or specific neighborhood [demographic information](#) as well as the SPU RSJ Resources List. If possible, consult with other staff, affinity groups, or community members to determine if there are 'hidden' racial/ethnic groups within your impact area. Please note additional comments here:

The project is within one Community Reporting Areas and one Census Tract. The "Racial and Social Equity Index" for the census tract the project is in is at the highest level for Disadvantage and Priority. Demographic data for this census tract is listed below:

Broadview/Bitter Lake – Census Tract 4.01

- **Language Needs**
 - English Only: 74.6%
 - Languages other than English: 25.4%
 - Speak English less than "very well": 12.4%
 - Spanish: 2.0%
 - Speak English less than "very well": 0.40%
 - Other Indo-European languages: 4.1%
 - Speak English less than "very well": 1.5%
 - Asian and Pacific Islander languages: 13.1%
 - Speak English less than "very well": 5.8%
 - Other Languages: 6.2%
 - Speak English less than "very well": 4.7%

In early stakeholder interviews Cynthia Etelamaki, Bitter Lake Community Center Coordinator, recommended translating materials in English, Spanish, Amharic, Simplified Chinese, Japanese, and Russian. In Addition, Julie Bryan, Community Garden Coordinator, mentioned languages spoken around the area include English, Russian, Ukrainian, Simplified Chinese, East African (Somali, Tiguan, Amharic).

- **Economic Considerations**
 - 22.2% of Population below the Poverty Level
- **Racial or Ethnic Groups**
 - 53.5% White
 - 46.5% People of Color
 - 13.7% Black or African American
 - 0.4% American Indian and Alaskan Native
 - 17.5% Asian
 - 0.0% Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander
 - 0.0% Some Other Races
 - 7.1% Two or More Races
 - 7.9% Hispanic or Latino, any race

Racial or Ethnic Communities will be informed [about the project](#). . SPU's decision [for the selected option](#)

was based upon costs, community benefits, and politics. Some of the more expensive options provide the better community benefits (i.e., open space for a park) which results in a trade-off of higher water rates for community benefits. Higher water rates impact affordability. The demographic data shows almost a quarter of the people in this census tract are below the poverty level.

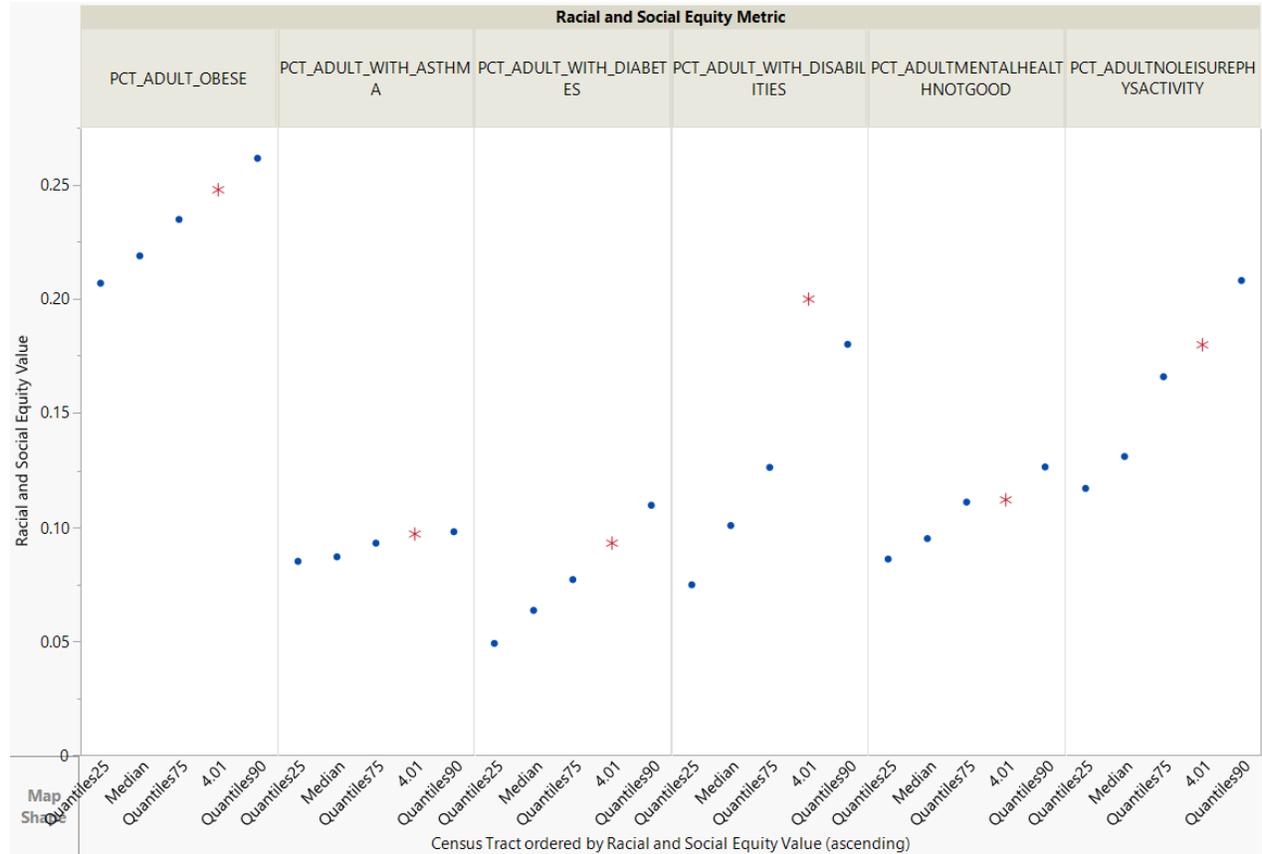
Other neighborhoods have benefited from parks over covered reservoirs. SPR has mentioned that the Bitter Lake neighborhood is in need of more open space. Option 3 (partial buried circular prestressed reservoir) would provide the best open space arrangement and has been selected for the project. Option 4 (fully buried reservoir) opens up more space, but much of it is not usable due to steep slopes. There are also ADA concerns with reaching the large area on top of the reservoir.

This area has a high percentage of people of color. High percentages of people of color have been associated with south Seattle. We need to be careful to not make people of color on the north end invisible.

The project provides an opportunity to collaborate with racial and ethnic communities on the development of the open space and art on the project. There was some discussion of art on the reservoir wall or around the reservoir. However, concerns with graffiti and other security concerns have led to the plan to install a fence around the reservoir. A planning artist is being hired to help define which elements of the project sound incorporate art. Collaborating with the community on the art is a good way to include the community in the project. Engagement with the community on the Art will start after the planning artist is hired. SPU is coordinating with SPR for the development of the park on the site. SPR will be more involved with the community on the park development, but SPU will also likely have some involvement since it is SPU's property and access to the facility must be maintained.

Expanded Public Health Benefits

- The table below shows that the census tract of Bitter Lake (4.01) lies between the 75% and 90% quantile for the following City of Seattle Racial and Social Equity Index metrics:
 - Adults with Obesity
 - Adults with Asthma
 - Adults with Diabetes
 - Adults with Not Good Mental Health
 - Adults with No Leisure Physical Activity



- Comparative to the other City census tracts, Bitter Lake’s census tract has a more vulnerable population in regards to public health impacts, specifically in regards to asthma, mental health, lack of leisure physical activity, obesity and diabetes.
- In the 2020 Seattle & King County Heat Watch Report, Bitter Lake Reservoir is a neighborhood identified as being vulnerable to Urban Heat Island (UHI) Effect, which can exacerbate existing health conditions, including asthma and diabetes.
- Adding green space to a neighborhood vulnerable to Urban Heat Island Effect, with a population that is, on average, less healthy than the city median, would have considerable public health benefits.
- Access to nature has considerable mental health benefits, including reduced stress, improved sleep and overall psychological wellbeing. Green space also encourages social cohesion, which is also beneficial for public health. Trees canopy and other vegetation can improve air quality and mitigate UHI impacts. Creating a suitable safe space for outdoor activity promotes physical activity may influence greater physical activity for those whom might not have had access to green space before. Findings suggest that green spaces can be valuable resources to help reduce obesity and associated public health problems.

B. Community Based & Non Profit Organizations, and Neighborhood Groups

Inform Collaborate Shared Decision-Making

Community based organizations and neighborhood groups can include advocacy groups, social service agencies, neighborhood-based clubs, and political organizations. Some of these organizations provide

advocacy or services Citywide, while others serve a single population or those located only within their neighborhood. Are there community-based organizations, social service agencies, or neighborhood groups that would possibly be interested in collaborating with you? Please note additional comments here:

- DON Community Liaisons is a potential resource.
 - Potential for inform and/or collaborate
 - Vera Njuguna, supervisor DON Community Liaisons, vera.njuguna@seattle.gov
 - Tom Van Bronkhorst, DON outreach for the area, tom.vanbronkhorst3@seattle.gov
 - Osbaldo Hernandez Sahagun, DON outreach for the area, osbaldo.hernandezsahagun@seattle.gov
- The Bitter Lake Community Center is 8 blocks south of the project site.
 - Contact: Cynthia Etelamaki, Cythis.Etelamaki@seattle.gov
 - Inform – community members use the center
- There is a P-patch (operated by DON) on the north end of the reservoir site.
 - Contact: Kenya Fredie – OOC P-Patch Program Supervisor, Kenya.Fredie@seattle.gov
 - Inform – communications during project
 - Collaborate – with any potential construction impacts/improvements to p-patch.
 - Could be impacted if access to the site for the reservoir construction is off of N 143rd St or for construction staging if other areas are not available.
 - Potential to better integrate into site. Note any improvement to the p-patch would likely be associated with the Park project.
 - Also potential for input on art.
- Anthony Chappelle, SPU crew chief that lives in the area. Anthony.Chappelle@seattle.gov. May be good resource on the community.
 - Collaborate – during planning and design.

During initial stakeholder interviews some additional community groups with potential interest in the project were identified:

- [Aurora Merchant's Association](#)
- [Aurora Commons](#),
- [Faith-based communities](#)
 - [Saint Dunstan's Church](#)
 - [Westminster Community Church](#)
 - [Western Washington Catholic Charismatic Renewal](#)
 - [Luther Memorial Lutheran Church](#)
- [Downtown Emergency Service Center \(DESC\)](#)
 - The organization aids and provides housing, shelter, health services and crisis response. DESC operates the Mary Pilgrim Inn at 4115 Aurora Ave N, Seattle, WA 98133.
- [The Northwest Greenways Group](#)
 - The organization advocates for pedestrian and bicycle safety in North Seattle. The Northwest Greenways Group is particularly interested in creating bicycle access and street calming measures.
- [Haller Lake Community Club](#)
 - The group represents the Haller Lake neighborhood interests. Osbaldo Hernandez, Community Engagement Coordinator, has contact information for the group.
- [Broadview/ Bitter Lake Community Council](#)

- : The group represents the Broadview neighborhood and Bitter Lake neighborhood interests. Osbaldo Hernandez, Community Engagement Coordinator, has contact information for the group.
- [Girls on the Run Puget Sound](#)

C. For-Profit Businesses and Commercial Customers

Inform **Collaborate** **Shared Decision-Making**

Would your planned work impact their revenue or customer access? In addition to businesses located within your impact area, are there businesses that would possibly be interested in collaborating with you? How will you find out what their interests/concerns are? Please note additional comments here:

The following apartments and businesses are adjacent to the project site:

- Apartments – Tressa (14200 Linden Ave N) – has fenced in playground area across the street from the reservoir site. Tressa is affordable housing.
- Apartments with ground floor business (YMCA Child Development Center, CI Tech, LLC., Element 8 Creative) – along N 143 St. between Linden Ave N and Aurora Ave N.
- Interurban Senior Living Apartment (Shag Interurban) 14002 Linden Ave N
- Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram of Seattle (access off N 138th St and Aurora Ave N)
- MEC – Mass Electric Construction and Pioneer’s Builders Supply (920 and 924 N 137th S, access off Linden Ave N, N138thSt and alley). Just southeast of project site
- Amesbury Count Apartments (13739 Linden Ave N, access off N 138th St) Just south of project site.
- Budget Tank Removal Services (645 N 138th St) Just south of project site.
- L & B Nurseries (912 N 143 St) Just northeast of project, access off N143rd St). Property is owned by Bellwether housing and leased by L&B Nurseries. May be potential staging yard location.
- Cedar Pointe Apartment Homes (750 N 143rd St). Just north of project site.
- Tri-Court Apartments (720 N 143rd St). Just north of project site.
 - [Tri Court Residential Council/ Seattle Housing Authority](#)
- Windchime Apartments (712 N 143rd St). Just north of project site.
- [Linden Park Condominium](#)
- [Cooper Apartments](#)
- [Northline Apartments](#)
- [Hyundai of Seattle](#)
- There are also other businesses and apartments that are not adjacent to the project site.

Work on the project should be mainly contained to the project site. Any required street improvements could impact N138th St, Linden Ave N, N 143rd St and/or Fremont Ave N. Haul routes from I-5 will likely include N 145th St, Linden Ave N, N 130th St, and Aurora Ave N. Due to hauling of materials there may be additional traffic on these roads and could be temp. delays as trucks and equipment enter the project site. There should not be impacts to business revenue due to traffic or haul routes. Any required street improvements could detour customer access. There may be impacts from construction noise. Construction noise and parking has a potential to impact business revenue. Linden Ave N is a designated bike route with separated bike lanes. Bike community will need to be informed on construction.

- People living in apartments
 - Inform – in project communication
 - Seniors may be on fixed incomes additional increases in water rates due to more expensive options may more directly impact seniors on fixed incomes. However, there are discount programs available that they are likely aware of : <https://www.seattle.gov/utilities/your-services/discounts-and-incentives/utility-discount-program>. Outreach could be potential opportunity to provide information on discounts.
 - Others, who can afford rate increase, may not agree with more expensive options.
 - Collaborate – likely opportunity on open space development (SPR likely to lead). Will this open space provide benefit to people of all ages? If Parks project is delayed there may be less opportunity to collaborate, though coordination will still occur between Parks and SPU; Parks would still collaborate with community. In art, seniors may have rich knowledge in neighborhood, life experiences, and stories that can help contribute to the development of the art.
- Business
 - Inform - in project communications

D. Local Elected Officials

Inform Collaborate Shared Decision-Making

Is there a role for the Mayor or City Council or their staff? Will this body of work be presented to the Mayor's Office or Seattle Public Utilities Council Committee? Please note additional comments here:

This project is very political, because other neighborhoods received parks over reservoirs in the past when reservoirs were covered.

The Mayor and City Council approves SPU's budget and are shared decision makers. They directed us to put money in the budget to explore options and directed options analysis.

E. Other SPU Divisions, Work Units, or Employee Teams

Inform Collaborate Shared Decision-Making

Are there other SPU employees that have an interest, are impacted by, or could support your efforts? What is their role, and how will you engage them? Are they providing funding, staff, or making key decisions? Are they represented on your Team? Can this project align with the work in another Division or work unit? Please note additional comments here:

Impacted SPU Divisions/Sections:

- *Water LOB*
 - Provide staff, provide funding, part of project team, shared decision making, key decision maker
- *Water Operations and Systems Maintenance*

- Provide staff, part of project team, collaborate
- *PDEB*
 - Provide staff, part of project team, shared decision making, key decision maker
- *EJSE*
 - Consult with on project, part of project team, collaborate
- *Communications*
 - Provide staff, part of project team, collaborate
- *North Shop at Haller Lake*
 - Near reservoir site, provide community information, collaborate
- *GM's Office*
 - Project and funding approval, shared decision making
- *People, Culture, and Community*
 - Consult with on project as needed, collaborate

F. Other City Departments

Inform **Collaborate** **Shared Decision-Making**

Are there other departments involved, what is their role, and how will you engage them? Are they providing funding, staff, or making key decisions? Will this effort align or impact another department's policies, plans, services, programs, or projects? Please note additional comments here:

Other City Departments:

- *Office of Arts and Culture*
 - Involved with 1% of art for the project, collaborate.
- *DON*
 - Utilizing the Community Liaison project may be beneficial to this project. Can help with really specific outreach in a neighborhood, geographic and racial. Inform and/or Collaborate.
- *City of Seattle Indigenous Advisory Council*
 - If the project has any connections to indigenous land, the group could provide input on how the project design relates to indigenous roots and culture.
- *Mayor's Office*

- Included in section D. Project is very political, shared decision making
- *SDOT*
 - A SIP (Street Improvements Permit) is required by SDCI and a condition of the MUP (Master Use Permit). Collaborate with SDOT on permit and coordination with other projects in the area. Use of DOTMAPs and project coordination groups.
- *SDCI*
 - MUP, building, demolition and other permits will be required. Collaborate for permits.
- *SCL*
 - A new/updated electrical service is not currently part of the project. SCL will be informed through permitting process of project for department sign-off. Collaboration may occur in regard to any required street improvements and site lighting. [Moving any power poles will require coordination with SCL.](#)
- *SPR (Parks)*
 - SPU will work with Parks and coordinate regarding a Park's project to develop the open space on the reservoir site into a park. There will also be coordination regarding the grading on the SPU project to work with the park design. Collaborate.
 - [It is up to City Council and Parks how they proceed forward, likely:](#)
 1. Their project will be in step with SPU's, once SPU finishes construction Parks will start their construction, or
 2. The Parks project will lag behind SPU's project, SPU will need to temp. restore the site and there will be a time period before construction starts on the Parks project after the SPU project finishes.
 3. SPU and Parks have not had a true joint project; being combined design and construction. This approach is not likely to happen.
 - There will be more opportunities to address equity with the follow-on park project design than with the reservoir design. Opportunities for SPU to coordinate with Parks on equity, outreach may need to be a combined effort or at least closely coordinated.
 - SPU needs to be assured that no proposals will impact access for maintenance and operations and being there for any brainstorming or workshops would be a good idea to prevent people from getting excited

about something that we would have to come back and say no to.

- Fencing on the site should be limited to critical areas, to give the site/park a more pleasant **feel**. **There** is potential for a temporary fence to be constructed around the site depending on when after SPU finishes their project that Parks starts, the topography of the temp. grade, and risks.
- **SPS (Seattle Public Schools)**
 - Impacts to bus routes and school will need to be considered for impacts during construction. If street improvements are required, detours and temp. bus stop relocations are possible
 - Inform - during design and construction.
 - **Broadview Thomson K-8**
 - **Ingraham High School/PTA**

G. Tribes, Federal, State, King County, or Other Public Agencies

Inform **Collaborate** **Shared Decision-Making**

Are there tribes or other public agencies involved, what is their role, and how will you engage them? Are they providing funding, staff, or making key decisions? Will this effort align or impact another agency's policies, plans, programs or projects? Please note additional comments here:

- **Tribes**
 - Cultural resource report **has been completed for the project**. **Cultural Resousecs SME** will be consulted regarding any tribal matters. Potential for inform and/or collaborate.
- **WA Depart of Health (DOH)**
 - Project approval required from DOH. Collaborate.
- **WA Depart. Of Ecology (DOE)**
 - The current reservoir is considered an earthen dam regulated by DOE. **The proposed project will remove the dam**. **Coordination will** occur with DOE on this project, as needed. Collaborate.
 - A construction stormwater general permit will be required for this project. Inform.
- **King County Metro**
 - **Required street improvements have the potential to impact metro bus routes and stops**. Inform and/or collaborate.

H. Other

Inform Collaborate Shared Decision-Making

Are there other stakeholder groups not listed? Who are they? Please note additional comments here:

None identified.

Review your completed stakeholder list and answer the following questions:

1. What (if any) are the key decisions to be made by stakeholders? If stakeholders are NOT making any decisions, skip to question #2.
 - The key decision **was made** by stakeholders **on** which reservoir option will be selected. This project is very political due to the opportunity to open significant park space for the community.
 - A key decision that can involve the community is the 1% for art. There is a great opportunity for community involvement on this part of the project.
 - Staging and parking for construction will need to be determined. As most of the work will occur on the project site. Staging and parking can have an impact on the community.

2. If stakeholder groups are only identified as collaborators (e.g. being asked to provide input or advice, and not make any decisions), how will their input be used, and what weight will their input have relative to other information provided by staff?
 - Input from community collaborators will most likely be in regard to the Park or Art. Their input will help shape what these items become and will help guide City staff on what the community wants for their Park and Art.
 - SPU cannot make commitments for Parks.
 - Let community know:
 - Parks is leading the park project.
 - SPU is working to closely coordinate with Parks and will provide needed information to community.
 - Office of Arts and Culture will be brought into the project
 - **Planning artist will be the lead on the community engagement for the 1% for art.**
 - Communication will need to occur with the community frequently to let them know what decisions are being made. Also, to let them know the progress on the project through community meetings, public notices, website, etc.

3. Does one stakeholder group carry more influence than another in your planned effort? If so, please explain why.

- The Major’s Office, City Council (Council Member Juarez), and the GM’s Office carry more influence than other stakeholders. This project is very political due to the opportunity to open new park space for the [community](#). [Parks](#) has a large influence as well on the design of the Park and when it will happen.
4. How will you ensure under-represented stakeholders have more equitable participation and influence?
- Due to the political nature of the project, it may be hard for under-represented stakeholders to have more equitable participation and influence on the reservoir selection option.
 - However, it is more likely they could have influence over what the park and art look like.
 - The park will be designed and constructed by Parks, but SPU will be coordinating with them. SPU will have more control over the 1% for Art portion.
 - Potential use of Community Liaison by SPU or Parks can give voice to people that do not typically provide input to public works projects.
 - Allocating enough project budget and time for community outreach will help.
 - Cynthia Etelamaki with the Bitter Lake Community center is a good contact within the community.
5. How will you provide opportunities for influential and underrepresented stakeholders to understand and consider service equity issues in their roles as collaborators or shared-decision makers?
- By bringing everyone to the table.
 - Make sure we properly identify these folks.
 - Influential
 - There are already opportunities for the influential
 - Council check-ins
 - Mayor briefings
 - GM meetings
 - Underrepresented
 - Potential use of Community Liaison could help with underrepresented stakeholders.
 - Using communications tools we have:
 - Neighborhood outreach (i.e., meeting, mailers, door to door, etc.)
 - Social Media (i.e., website, listserv, next door, blogs, etc.)
 - SPU resources in the neighborhood (i.e., Josh Werner, Anthony Chappelle, North Shop)
 - Other CIP projects in the area
 - Communicate with local businesses and residences to include in their internal newsletters, blogs, local free papers, bulletin boards, etc.
6. Is there an opportunity to report back to some or all of your stakeholders? Why? How?

- Yes, there is opportunity to report back to stakeholders with community meetings, public notices, web site, social media, etc.
- It is important to report back to the stakeholders to update them on the project, our coordination with Parks, and the Art piece of the project.

Memorandum



Date: 6/10/21

To: Fred Aigbe, Steve Hamai, Bill Wells, Andy Behnke, Elaine Yeung, Jerry Waldron, Winsome Robinson Williams

From: Andrew Karch, Natalie Hunter, Sam Keller, Eugene Mantchev, Kathy Laughlin, Rick Lippold, Ingrid Goodwin, Shaunie Vail, Bob Hubbert, Lisa Lange

Re: Bitter Lake Reservoir Covering Project – Options Analysis Equity Toolkit Planning

As a result of applying SPU’s Racial Equity Toolkit to the Bitter Lake Reservoir Covering Project, we have identified next-step follow-up tasks, upstream recommendations and lessons learned.

What can this project team do differently to improve equity in this effort? List the tasks, describe their benefit, and determine which staff will be responsible and what resources you will need.

| Task Description | Intended Benefits of Described Task | Staffing/Resource Needs |
|---|---|--|
| 1. Update equity toolkits during PMP development. | Once the reservoir option is selected and the project moves into design toolkits can be further defined. | Effort lead by PM and supported by equity planning team. |
| 2. Contacting SPU staff that work and live in the Bitter Lake neighborhood. | Utilizing existing SPU resources can be beneficial in better understanding the needs of the neighborhood. | Effort led by PM, Communications lead and EJSE liaison. |
| 3. Determine whether Community Liaisons will be utilized on the project. | Community Liaisons can help with targeted outreach and are embedded in communities. | Effort led by PM and Communications lead, and EJSE liaison. |
| 4. Determine which past and current projects data can be obtained from or shared with to improve communication efforts. | Gaining knowledge from past projects and ability to leverage engagement efforts of current projects. | Effort led by PM and Communications lead. |
| 5. Develop Communications and Outreach Plan | Early communications with community on decision as discussed in planning session. Development of the communications plan is needed prior to outreach. | Effort led by Communication lead with support from PM and other members of the project team. |

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| 6. Coordinating with other City Departments (i.e., Parks, Arts and Cultural) outreach data and efforts. | Gaining knowledge from other departments and leveraging their engagement efforts. | Effort led by PM, Communications lead and EJSE liaison |
|---|---|--|

Racial Equity Toolkits commonly reveal existing policies, structures, and processes that unintentionally create barriers to embedding racial equity. It is critical that we elevate these upstream for consideration. Describe issues that should be considered by appropriate ‘upstream’ management or governing bodies:

| Recommendation & Brief Description | How and when will this recommendation be presented to the appropriate upstream management or governing body? |
|---|---|
| 1. Past projects have provided construction mitigation measures to more affluent communities that have a stronger voice. Bitter Lake is a very diverse community and has the highest “Racial and Social Equity Index” level for Disadvantage and Priority. On the Henderson project due to construction noise SPU paid for windows to be replaced on nearby residences. On the Maple Leaf reservoir project due to construction SPU paid for windows to be cleaned at nearby residences. A plan should be developed on how construction mitigation measures will be determined for a diverse neighborhood that may not have the City connections and/or power to voice what mitigation they need. | This recommendation will be presented at the Division Director level to Frank Coulter and Kathleen Baca within a month. |
| 2. This project will likely create new open space that will result in a new park that could inadvertently aid gentrification of the neighborhood, which could displace low-income residents in the community. The evaluation of mitigation measures regarding gentrification in the neighborhood may be beneficial. | This recommendation will be presented to EJSE leadership within a month. |

List any key lessons the team learned that should be applied to future related efforts:

| Lessons Learned |
|---|
| 1. Diverse, lower-income neighborhoods may have different needs for construction mitigation measures than more affluent less diverse neighborhoods. |
| 2. Potential for gentrification should be considered in equity analysis. |
| 3. We do not always have the answers but should still bring the issues forward. |



Legislation Text

File #: CB 121160, **Version:** 1

CITY OF SEATTLE

ORDINANCE _____

COUNCIL BILL _____

AN ORDINANCE authorizing the General Manager and CEO of Seattle Public Utilities to enter into an interlocal agreement to participate in the regional Water Supply Forum to coordinate and collaborate on current and future regional drinking water supply issues in King, Snohomish, and Pierce counties; and ratifying and confirming certain prior acts.

WHEREAS, regional drinking water suppliers, purveyors, and association leaders in the Puget Sound region have been meeting as the Water Supply Forum (“Forum”) since 1999, as an informal association, to coordinate and collaborate on current and future water supply and water resource items and projects of mutual interest and benefit; and

WHEREAS, this collaboration benefits residents of King, Snohomish, and Pierce counties; and

WHEREAS, the Forum members previously entered funding agreements to cooperatively fund activities, including consultant assistance, consistent with their mutual interests in accordance with identified budgets; and

WHEREAS, the Forum members entered into a Memorandum of Agreements covering the period 2021 through 2025, and expiring December 31, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Forum members determined the interlocal agreement process established under chapter 39.34 RCW is the most appropriate vehicle for its funding agreements; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The General Manager and CEO of Seattle Public Utilities is authorized to execute, for and on behalf of The City of Seattle, an agreement with the City of Everett, the City of Tacoma, and the Cascade Water

Alliance, substantially in the form attached as Attachment 1 to this ordinance.

Section 2. Any act consistent with the authority of this ordinance taken after its passage and prior to its effective date is ratified and confirmed.

Section 3. This ordinance shall take effect as provided by Seattle Municipal Code Sections 1.04.020 and 1.04.070.

Passed by the City Council the _____ day of _____, 2026, and signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this _____ day of _____, 2026.

President _____ of the City Council

Approved / returned unsigned / vetoed this ____ day of _____, 2026.

Katie B. Wilson, Mayor

Filed by me this _____ day of _____, 2026.

Scheereen Dedman, City Clerk

(Seal)

Attachments:

Attachment 1 - Water Supply Forum Interlocal Agreement 2026-2035

**WATER SUPPLY FORUM
INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT
2026-2035**

This INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT (“ILA”) is made and entered into by and among the City of Seattle, the City of Everett, the City of Tacoma, and Cascade Water Alliance each individually referred to as a “Regional Member” and collectively referred to in this ILA as the “Regional Members”.

RECITALS

WHEREAS, regional drinking water suppliers, purveyors, and association leaders in the Puget Sound region have been meeting as the Water Supply Forum (“Forum”) since 1999, as an informal association, to coordinate and collaborate on current and future water supply and water resource items and projects of mutual interest and benefit, and this collaboration benefits residents of King, Snohomish, and Pierce counties; and

WHEREAS, since 1999, the Forum has engaged in projects and actions to collectively further the members’ mutual interests on present and future drinking water issues such as, but not limited to, water supply planning, resiliency including seismic, water quality, water conservation, education and outreach; and

WHEREAS, the Forum members previously entered Funding Agreements to cooperatively fund activities, including consultant assistance, consistent with their mutual interests in accordance with identified budgets, and these Funding Agreements had exhibits with Rules of Conduct for Business, Action Items, and Budget Plans and Schedules of Funding Shares (Dues); and

WHEREAS, the Forum members entered into a Memorandum of Agreement covering the period 2021 through 2025, and expiring December 31, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Forum members desire to be able to continue to engage in projects and actions to collectively further their mutual interests and to fund work plan activities consistent with their mutual interests and update the operating procedures; and

WHEREAS, the Forum members have determined that the Interlocal Agreement process established under RCW 39.34 Interlocal Cooperation Act is the most appropriate vehicle for its funding agreements; and

WHEREAS, the Forum wants to be an effective size while being inclusive of representatives from utilities and organizations;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Parties agree as follows:

I. **Membership and Responsibilities.** The Forum will have the following membership categories with related responsibilities. All Forum members may appoint their own representatives and one alternate.

A. Large regional water suppliers, purveyors, or associations (“Regional Members”). There will be four Regional Members: City of Seattle (“Seattle”), City of

Everett (“Everett”), City of Tacoma (“Tacoma”), and Cascade Water Alliance (“Cascade”). Dues for these members are allocated as described in Section II.B.(iv). One representative of each of these members votes, can serve as Forum Chair and Vice-Chair, sits on the Steering Committee, and can serve on or chair topic-focused committees. An alternate, if selected, may vote in the absence of the representative.

B. Individual water utilities, other associations, and counties (“Fee Members”). Individual utilities or associations with 10,000 or more connections or counties may become a Fee Member with a \$1,000 annual fee. The representatives of this group of members may vote and may participate on or chair topic-focused committees. An alternate, if selected, may vote in the absence of the representative.

C. Meeting Guests (“Guests”). Other organizations, agencies and individuals that are not within member categories in Section I.A and I.B may attend Forum meetings. Guests do not pay dues or vote. Forum member staff may also attend the meetings as guests. If specifically invited to do so and are customers, members, or other groups/associations affiliated with the Regional Members, such Guests may also participate on or chair topic-focused committees.

II. Funding and Administration

A. Funding Administration. One of the Regional Members shall serve as the Forum’s Administrator, including invoicing and collecting dues, administering Forum funds and initiating and managing any consultant or vendor contracts in accordance with its usual procedures, paying vendor invoices, paying taxes, tracking expenses and related fiscal management, as well as providing an Annual Report documenting the same, all at the direction of the Steering Committee.

B. Budget.

i. The Forum funds may only be used for items approved in the annual work plan and budget, or any subsequent modifications or amendments approved by the Forum.

ii. The Forum shall compensate the Forum Administrator as determined by the Steering Committee.

iii. The Forum will maintain a minimum balance as determined by the Steering Committee on an annual basis.

iv. The Forum will collect dues if necessary and as determined by the Steering Committee in its annual work plan and budget. After collecting the dues from the Fee Members, the remaining balance will be allocated to Regional Members as follows: 25% to Everett, 25% to Tacoma, 35% to Seattle, and 15% to Cascade. This percentage is roughly based on service area and number of service connections.

v. The Forum may refund to the Regional Members any unspent funds not anticipated to be allocated to budget items in the foreseeable future, or, if this ILA is terminated in accordance with Section IV.D. Refunds must be approved by the Forum and will be distributed to the Regional Members in

proportion to the dues allocation described in Section II.B.iv. Fee Members are not entitled to any such refund. Any Regional Member that leaves or exits this ILA before any Forum decision to approve a refund, irrevocably waives its right to any refund regardless of its prior contribution.

C. Contracting Process. If the Forum wishes to contract for services, the Forum Administrator shall be the contracting agent and shall follow all its applicable contracting and procurement laws and rules and serve as the contract signatory.

III. Operations

A. Forum. The governing structure shall be a Forum and Steering Committee. The Forum shall consist of a Representative from each of the Members, each of whom shall have one vote and will operate according to its Water Supply Forum Bylaws, which shall be agreed upon and amended as needed by the Forum.

B. Committees.

i. *Steering Committee*. The Steering Committee develops the annual work plan and budget to be approved by the Forum, determines the annual dues, and responds to other requests identified by the Chair. The Steering Committee is comprised of the representatives of the Regional Members.

ii. *Topic-focused committees*. The Forum may form topic-focused committees as needed to implement the annual work plan and budget. Any Forum Member may serve on or chair a topic-focused committee. Chairs will be appointed by the Forum Chair. Staff of Forum members may also serve on committees as needed.

IV. Other provisions

A. Ownership of work product(s). All work products generated through the authorization of the annual work plan and budget, including consultant contracts, are intended to be property shared by and between the Forum Members. Based on this intent, the Forum, and Forum Member, hereby irrevocably grants to each of the other Forum Members a non-exclusive, royalty free, unlimited license to use any work product generated by or for the benefit of the Forum.

B. Obligations Not Joint and Several. Each Regional Member's liability for any obligation incurred pursuant to this ILA shall be limited to the proportional funding share identified in the adopted annual work plan and budget. The Regional Members shall not be jointly or severally liable for any such liabilities or obligations. Any contract funded by the Forum shall contain a provision to this effect.

C. Counterparts. This ILA may be executed in counterparts.

D. Term. The term of this ILA shall be through December 31, 2035, unless terminated sooner by mutual agreement of the Regional Members. Any Forum Member may unilaterally terminate its participation in this ILA upon thirty (30) days written notice. Any Forum Member exercising its unilateral termination rights shall forfeit and waive its

right to any monies paid to the Forum under this ILA. However, in the event of mutual termination of the entire ILA, any unexpended funds will be returned to the contributing Regional Members in proportion to their contributions.

E. Amendments. The ILA can be periodically amended as needed for the Forum to operate efficiently and effectively. Amendments that focus on the operational portions and involve no additional cost burden on its members do not need legislative approval by the ILA's signatories. Any such amendments can be in the form of a signed letter agreement. A formal amendment of this ILA, executed by the Regional Members, is required for revisions or additions that increase the cost burden on Forum Members and must be approved by the Regional Member's respective legislative bodies.

F. Dispute Resolution. The Regional Members agree that in the unlikely event of a dispute arising out of or pertaining to this ILA, the Regional Members shall meet and discuss in good faith in an effort to resolve the dispute. In the event that good faith discussions do not produce an agreed resolution to the dispute, any Regional Member wishing to pursue the dispute further may request non-binding mediation, which shall be attended by all Regional Members. The Regional Members shall mutually select an independent mediator. The costs of mediation shall be shared equally by each party to the mediation, or as determined by the mediator. Each Regional Member shall bear its own costs for participating in the mediation proceeding. If, as a result of the mediation, a voluntary settlement is reached, the Regional Members agree that such settlement shall be reduced to writing. In the event no settlement is reached, the Regional Members may pursue available remedies under applicable law. In the event of litigation or other action brought to enforce the terms of this ILA, each party agrees to bear its own attorney's fees and costs.

G. Entire agreement/Severability. The ILA contains the entire agreement between the Regional Members. All previous and contemporaneous agreements, representations, or promises and conditions related to the subject matter of this ILA are hereby superseded. If any term, condition, or provision of this ILA is declared void or unenforceable or limited in its application or effect, such event shall not affect any other provisions hereof and all other provisions shall remain fully enforceable.

H. Sole venue. The Regional Members agree and stipulate that in the event any litigation should occur concerning or arising out of this ILA, the sole venue of any legal action shall be the Superior Court of the State of Washington in which the Administrator is located.

I. Conflict of interest. No officer, employee or agent of any Regional Member who exercises any function or responsibilities in connection with the planning and carrying out of the program to which this ILA pertains, nor any member of the immediate family of any such officer, employee or agent as defined by Tacoma ordinance, shall have any personal financial interest, direct or indirect, in this ILA, either in fact or in appearance.

J. Acceptance and Effective Date. This ILA is effective upon the latest date of execution by the City of Tacoma, the City of Seattle, the City of Everett, and Cascade Water Alliance. Forum Members may accept this ILA and become bound by its terms

under Section I.C by signing a Forum Member Signature Page after the effective date of this ILA.

THE CITY OF SEATTLE
SEATTLE PUBLIC UTILITIES

Andrew Lee, GM/CEO

Date

CASCADE WATER ALLIANCE

Melina Thung, Interim CEO

Date

CITY OF TACOMA
TACOMA PUBLIC UTILITIES

Jackie Flowers, Director

Date

Approved as to Form:

Deputy City Attorney

Finance Director

CITY OF EVERETT

Cassie Franklin, Mayor

Date

Approved as to Form:

City Clerk

City Attorney

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 and CEO of Seattle Public Utilities to enter into an interlocal agreement to participate in the regional Water Supply Forum to coordinate and collaborate on current and future regional drinking water supply issues in King, Snohomish, and Pierce counties; and ratifying and confirming certain prior acts.

Summary and Background of the Legislation:

Regional drinking water suppliers and association leaders in the Puget Sound region have been meeting as the Water Supply Forum (“Forum”) since 1999, as an informal association to coordinate and collaborate on water supply and water resource items and projects of mutual interest and benefit. Regional water-related concerns include water supply planning, system resiliency, water quality, water operations, and water conservation.

The Forum members previously entered funding agreements to cooperatively fund activities, including consultant assistance, consistent with their mutual interests in accordance with identified budgets. These funding agreements had exhibits with Rules of Conduct for Business, Action Items, and Budget Plans and Schedules of Funding Shares (Dues). The Forum’s most recent Memorandum of Agreement covered the years 2021-2025. During the process to update that agreement, the Forum members determined an interlocal agreement is the most appropriate vehicle for its funding agreements.

The new ILA outlines roles and responsibilities, funding and administration, operations, and other provisions. Key provisions include:

- Four regional members are City of Seattle, City of Tacoma, City of Everett, and Cascade Water Alliance. These members pay most of the dues and form the Forum’s Steering Committee. Individual water utilities, other associations, and counties are fee-based members.
- One of the regional members serves as the Forum’s administrator, including invoicing and collecting dues, administering Forum funds and initiating and managing any consultant or vendor contracts in accordance with its usual procedures, paying vendor invoices, paying taxes, tracking expenses and related fiscal management, as well as providing an annual report documenting the same, all at the direction of the Steering Committee. The City of Tacoma has long served in this capacity and has agreed to continue.
- The Forum will collect dues if necessary and as determined by the Steering Committee in its annual work plan and budget. After collecting the dues from the fee members, the remaining balance will be allocated to regional members as follows: 25% to Everett, 25% to Tacoma, 35% to Seattle, and 15% to Cascade. This percentage is roughly based on

service area and number of service connections. The Forum has not collected dues in over five years due to a healthy balance.

- The Forum plans to adopt bylaws in 2026 to cover some of the operating details and practices that were in the now expired Memorandum of Understanding.

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

The Forum would determine the dues need based on the workplan and budget. Dues have not been collected in over five years and will not be collected in 2026. In a year that dues are collected, Seattle would pay about 35% of the dues from the Water Fund. In the mid-2010s, Seattle paid about \$50,000 per year. That number is used below. Actual dues could be lower than \$50,000 per year and will be absorbed in existing budget authority.

| | | | | | |
|--|-------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Expenditure Change (\$); General Fund | 2026 | 2027 est. | 2028 est. | 2029 est. | 2030 est. |
| | | | | | |
| Expenditure Change (\$); Other Funds | 2026 | 2027 est. | 2028 est. | 2029 est. | 2030 est. |
| | | \$50,000 | \$50,000 | \$50,000 | \$50,000 |

| | | | | | |
|--|-------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Revenue Change (\$); General Fund | 2026 | 2027 est. | 2028 est. | 2029 est. | 2030 est. |
| | | | | | |
| Revenue Change (\$); Other Funds | 2026 | 2027 est. | 2028 est. | 2029 est. | 2030 est. |
| | | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Number of Positions | 2026 | 2027 est. | 2028 est. | 2029 est. | 2030 est. |
| | | | | | |
| Total FTE Change | 2026 | 2027 est. | 2028 est. | 2029 est. | 2030 est. |
| | | | | | |

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 annually.

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

Seattle is a key player in the region's drinking water supply. There are political risks to withdrawing from the long-established, collaborative efforts to work together. Other members with different political agencies could be in more of a leadership role.

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

N/A

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.**

Regional drinking water collaboration benefits all customers. It does not have a direct or specific RSJ nexus. One of the current topics of collaboration is emergency management. Seattle brings leadership on this issue to other utilities.

- 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. SPU provides leadership to the Forum related to the website and any project specific communications.

- 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. 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. The Forum’s work generally contributes to climate preparedness and resiliency.**
- 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? N/A. The ILA does not create a new initiative or 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.



Legislation Text

File #: CB 121161, **Version:** 1

CITY OF SEATTLE

ORDINANCE _____

COUNCIL BILL _____

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.

WHEREAS, the Cedar River Watershed Secondary Use Policies, adopted by Ordinance 114632, include a moratorium on herbicide use to prohibit the routine broadcast application of herbicides for control of roadside vegetation in lieu of brushing, and noxious weeds were not a consideration in watershed land practices when these Policies were adopted in 1989; and

WHEREAS, in 2010 uncontrolled knotweed covered 18 acres in the Cedar River Municipal Watershed, displacing native plants, eroding stream banks, threatening water quality, and spreading rapidly without effective means of control; and

WHEREAS, on August 6, 2010, a limited exception to the Secondary Use Policies was authorized by Ordinance 123365 to allow the application of the herbicide imazapyr to control or eradicate knotweed species in the Cedar River Municipal Watershed through December 31, 2012, providing Seattle Public Utilities an efficient and cost-effective control strategy for the first time; and

WHEREAS, imazapyr inhibits an enzyme found only in plants, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency rates imazapyr as being relatively non-toxic to birds, mammals, fish, and invertebrates, and a Washington State University toxicologist found the risk to water quality to be nil; and

WHEREAS, four follow-up limited exceptions to the Secondary Use Policies were authorized by Ordinances 124191, 124852, 125813, and 126850 to continue to allow application of the herbicide imazapyr

through December 31, 2015, 2018, 2021, and 2025, respectively; and control efforts have successfully reduced knotweed coverage, resulting in the reduction of herbicide use per acreage in the Cedar River Municipal Watershed; and

WHEREAS, routine maintenance treatments on known patches and annual surveys for new patches in sensitive areas continues to be the most effective way to minimize herbicide use and costs, and it is widely accepted that the ecological risk of small amounts of imazapyr is significantly less than the ecological risk of uncontrolled knotweed; and

WHEREAS, Seattle Public Utilities is legally required to control knotweed on the Cedar River and its tributaries and a long-term management strategy maintains Seattle Public Utilities' compliance with noxious weed regulatory law and is consistent with King County Noxious Weed Program's best management practices for knotweed control; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Cedar River Watershed Secondary Use Policy 6-13, last amended by Ordinance 126850, is amended as follows:

Seattle Public Utilities will continue the herbicide moratorium, controlling undesirable vegetation with hand or mechanical methods, except that the following exemption for the use of imazapyr shall apply through December 31, ~~((2025))~~ 2031. Seattle Public Utilities is authorized to apply imazapyr to control or eradicate knotweed species within the Cedar River Municipal Watershed according to the methods and procedures established in this section and all applicable state and federal drinking water source protection standards. Seattle Public Utilities will adhere to targeted foliar application methods that use a one percent imazapyr solution applied directly to knotweed leaves with backpacks or handheld sprayers. Herbicide will be applied by licensed pesticide applicators. Seattle Public Utilities will monitor knotweed treatment areas annually and will monitor water quality before and after herbicide application. Seattle Public Utilities will provide the ((~~Transportation and Seattle Public Utilities Committee~~)) Governance and Utilities Committee or successor

committee an annual report on the knotweed treatment program in the Cedar River Municipal Watershed, summarizing the effectiveness of the knotweed treatment program, evaluating the long-term financial and environmental implications for knotweed control beyond ((2025)) 2031, evaluating water quality monitoring results, summarizing the latest available science on the environmental and human health effects of imazapyr, and describing any plans for the future use of imazapyr within the Watershed, including maps of proposed treatment areas, estimated quantities of imazapyr to be applied, application methods and schedules, and plans for water quality monitoring. Seattle Public Utilities may authorize use of imazapyr to newly-discovered areas of knotweed infestation, but use on newly-discovered areas located within the hydrographic boundary may not exceed five acres in size.

Section 2. The General Manager and CEO of Seattle Public Utilities shall ensure areas formerly occupied by knotweed are restored to native vegetation.

Section 3. The General Manager and CEO of Seattle Public Utilities shall continue the ongoing program for monitoring, detecting, and controlling noxious weeds in the Cedar River Municipal Watershed with a goal of preventing colonies of knotweed from re-establishing.

Section 4. Any act consistent with the authority of this ordinance taken after its passage and prior to its effective date is ratified and confirmed.

Section 5. This ordinance shall take effect as provided by Seattle Municipal Code Sections 1.04.020 and 1.04.070.

Passed by the City Council the _____ day of _____, 2026, and signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this _____ day of _____, 2026.

President _____ of the City Council

Approved / returned unsigned / vetoed this ____ day of _____, 2026.

Katie B. Wilson, Mayor

Filed by me this _____ day of _____, 2026.

Scheereen Dedman, City Clerk

(Seal)

SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE

| Department: | Dept. Contact: | CBO Contact: |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Seattle Public Utilities | Zoe Loutos | Akshay Iyengar |

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 control is required for 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 noxious weeds. The City Council took similar action in 2010, 2013, 2015, 2019, and 2023, each authorizing application of the herbicide imazapyr for three years.

This legislation would allow limited application of the herbicide imazapyr to continue treating knotweed within the municipal watershed for six additional years, through 2031. During the last ordinance period the utility transitioned all knotweed sites to a biennial control schedule with half the total sites being treated each year. The utility anticipates that similar amounts of herbicide will be applied in six years as was previously applied in three years and is requesting a longer ordinance period to reflect this change in management.

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.

The long-term implications of this legislation would result in cost savings. Cost savings will be used to survey for knotweed in high-risk areas and control other priority regulated noxious weeds.

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.

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

No effective control alternative exists without this authority. SPU tried covering knotweed patches with geotextile fabric, which was ineffective on these large patches. Covering knotweed with geotextile fabric is also much more costly than the use of the herbicide proposed by this legislation. SPU spent an estimated \$44,000 an acre covering knotweed with geotextile fabric; this compares to the \$585 an acre to treat knotweed with herbicide in 2025. 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. Under a related but different program, over \$1,000,000 has been spent controlling knotweed with herbicide (allowed outside of the municipal watershed boundary) in these downstream areas, projects that would be put at risk if control of the knotweed in the municipal watershed is not continued.

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

This legislation will not impact other City departments.

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?

Yes, this legislation affects the 92,000-acre Cedar River Municipal Watershed.

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.**

This legislation would improve ecosystem health in the Cedar River, benefitting tribal and non-tribal fishers and protecting water quality in the unfiltered drinking water supply for 1.6 million people, including vulnerable and historically disadvantaged communities.

- 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?**

N/A

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.**

Controlling knotweed will allow SPU to plant treated areas with native plant species, including woody species that sequester significantly more carbon than knotweed.

- 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.**

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.

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?

No.

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:

Summary Attachment 1 – Map of 2025 Knotweed distribution in the Cedar River Municipal Watershed

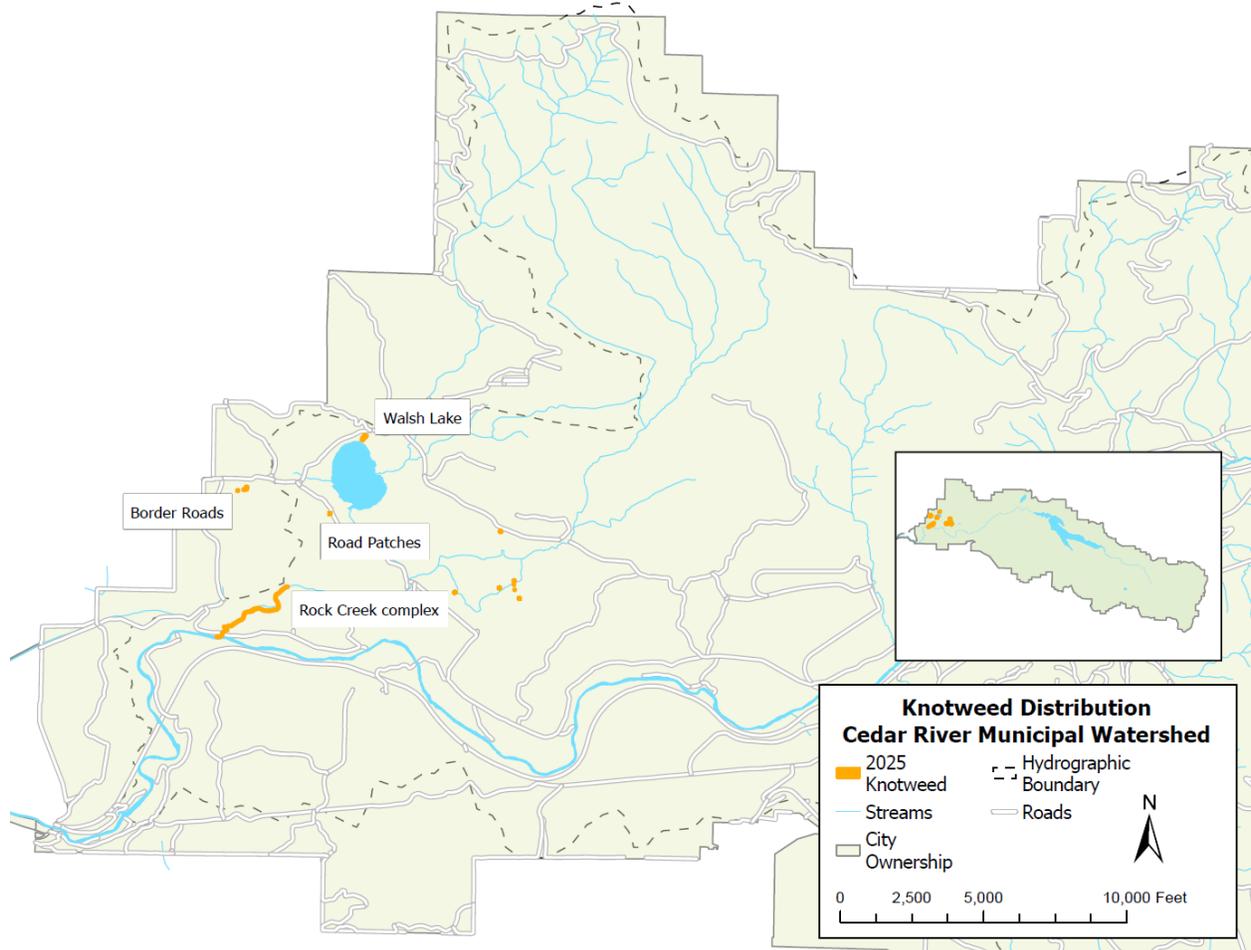


Exhibit A – 2025 knotweed distribution in the Cedar River Municipal Watershed. City land ownership extends from the crest of the Cascades to Landsburg Dam, located in the Maple Valley area