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Cedar River Watershed ordinance CB119958

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CR

Charles Raines <crraines@comcast.net>
 Tue 12/1/2020 11:03 AM
 To: Pedersen, Alex
 Cc: Thaler, Toby



CAUTION: External Email

Alex Pedersen,
 Chair, Transportation & Utilities Committee
 Seattle City Council

Re: Cedar River Watershed Thinning Program

Chairman Pedersen,

The Sierra Club supports the ordinance requested by Seattle Public Utilities to extend the time available for completion of two forest thinning projects in the Cedar River Watershed (CB 119958).

We supported the prior authorizing ordinance, and understand that due to the Covid pandemic, the utility needs additional time to implement these two projects. It is critical that any funds garnered by the sale of the timber be used solely for the implementation of the HCP.

The Sierra Club was active in the development of the Habitat Conservation Plan for the watershed, which was approved in 2000. This landmark plan was designed to protect the old-growth forests and restore other forest lands in order to aid in the recovery of endangered species such as the marbled murrelet, spotted owl and chinook salmon, while maintaining high quality water. The Cedar River Watershed has tremendous ecological values – it is a key habitat link between the Alpine Lakes Wilderness and Mt. Rainier National Park, as well as the Tiger Mtn. NRCA and related conservation areas. Notably, the western portion of the watershed is re-establishing low-elevation, late-successional forest, one of few such areas close to Puget Sound.

We have worked closely with SPU to implement the provisions of the HCP. The staff at the watershed have done fine work in that regard and have completed many projects that have moved the watershed towards those HCP goals. Of particular value has been the removal of high impact roads. While the forest thinning program is complex and has impacts of its own, the final projects have benefited from solid scientific evaluation and thorough public review. We appreciate the watershed staff’s responsiveness to our input.

We urge the Seattle City Council to approve this ordinance.

Thank you.

Charlie Raines
 Sierra Club, Washington Chapter
 Member of the HCP Oversight Committee
 Seattle, WA

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