



# 15-YEAR AGREEMENT WITH WHATCOM COUNTY FOR IMPACT PAYMENT AND SERVICES

Economic Development, Technology & City Light Committee

Wednesday, August 9, 2023

## Purpose of Ordinance

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Approve 15-year agreement with Whatcom County to compensate for lost revenue and costs to maintain public peace, health, safety, and welfare attributable to Seattle City Light's operation of the Skagit Hydroelectric Project as required by RCW 35.21.420 and 425.

## Background

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- RCW 35.21.420 requires the City to pay impact payments if:
  - City has population greater than five hundred thousand people;
  - Owns and operates a public utility;
  - Owns facilities for the generation of electricity located in a county other than in which the city is located
- RCW 35.21.425 requires an agreement and continued payments after expiration of agreement.
- Skagit Hydropower Project is located in Whatcom County.
- SCL also makes payments to Pend Oreille County for Boundary Hydropower Project.

## Services Provided by Whatcom County

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- One sheriff deputy with vehicle and coverage during vacation;
- General and emergency law enforcement services;
- Emergency/terrorism/natural disaster response;
- Training exercises to prepare for response;
- Access to rescue helicopter; and
- Radio communication support.

## Financial Terms of the Agreement

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- 2024 payment in the amount of \$1,419,497
- Increased annually by U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA 12-month percent change in the Consumer Price Index
- However, annual increase is no less than 2% and no more than 5%.

# THANK YOU

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Seattle City Light