

MEMORANDUM

To: Councilmember Herbold; Chair, Civil Rights, Utilities, Economic Development, and Arts Committee
Councilmember Sawant; Vice-chair
Councilmember O'Brien; Member

From: Peter Lindsay, Council Central Staff

Date: September 13, 2016

Subject: CB 118773 – Forterra Property Transfer

Synopsis

CB 118773 authorizes the Director of Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) to accept on behalf of the City of Seattle the transfer of about 155 acres of forest land in the North Fork Tolt River Watershed from Forterra (formerly Cascade Land Conservancy) and to acquire approximately 100 acres of privately-held forest land located adjacent to the Forterra property and the South Fork Tolt River Municipal Watershed. In addition to the property, the conservation value of the Forterra property is protected from logging by a conservation easement granted by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources.

The City owns the South Fork Tolt River Municipal Watershed—providing about one-third of Seattle's drinking water supply. Forterra approached the City with the offer of a property transfer because the SPU is a more appropriate long-term owner to manage the lands for conservation purposes and to protect the City's water supply. In addition to the Forterra property, SPU plans to acquire a 100 acre parcel from Campbell-Global for the purpose of securing the drinking water supply and improving conservation efforts in the watershed. For instance, SPU anticipates closing over a mile of forest road which will reduce sediment delivery to streams and protect aquatic habitats. SPU is required to purchase the 100 acres of privately held property at fair market value estimated to be up to \$175,000. The expenditure for the private property would be included in future budget legislation.

Central staff have reviewed the legislation and have identified no issues of concern.