

## **BILL SUMMARY & FISCAL NOTE**

<b>Department:</b>	<b>Contact Person/Phone:</b>	<b>Executive Contact/Phone:</b>
Seattle Public Utilities	Rick Johnson /233-7861	Nancy Ahern /733-9191

### **1. BILL SUMMARY**

**Legislation Title:** AN ORDINANCE relating to Seattle Public Utilities; authorizing the Director of Seattle Public Utilities to acquire by negotiation land and all other necessary property rights in the Taylor Creek area at 10005 Rainier Avenue South, Seattle, Washington for sediment management and fish enhancement, and to execute, accept and record deeds and convenient documents and agreements deemed by the Director to be necessary to this transaction on behalf of the City; placing the conveyed real properties under the jurisdiction of Seattle Public Utilities; and ratifying and confirming prior acts.

**Summary and background of the Legislation:** The City's 1995 Comprehensive Drainage Plan Update calls for stream enhancement, storm water control, wetland and fish enhancement and drainage improvements on Taylor Creek in southeast Seattle. This proposed legislation would authorize Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) to acquire a property adjacent to Taylor Creek, as part of a project to open the creek to fish passage and manage sediment.

Purchasing this property would give SPU significantly greater flexibility in designing fish passage solutions and managing sediment. Rather than being forced to work with the creek in its existing alignment, the creek can be re-routed through the center of the parcel. The new creek route will allow SPU to adjust the grade, remove the upstream fish passage barrier, widen the riparian buffer and make smoother connections to the culvert under Rainier Avenue South.

### **2. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

**This legislation has direct financial implications.**

Note: Property will be purchased for \$575,000. These funds are included in the existing budget, so no further appropriation action is necessary.

### **3. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

a) **Does the legislation have indirect or long-term financial impacts to the City of Seattle that are not reflected in the above?**

Yes. SPU would have obligations to maintain the constructed project features (re-aligned creek channel, rock and log weirs and vegetated riparian buffer) on property owned by the City to ensure compliance with permit regulations. These permit regulations require the structures be fish passable in perpetuity and that 80% of installed plants be alive at the end of the 3-year plant establishment period. Funds will be budgeted for maintenance and monitoring of the site for the 3-year plant establishment period.

Long-term commitments with financial obligations:

- SPU would be responsible for periodic inspections during the first three years to ensure the constructed features on SPU properties remain fish passable. The project is designed to function naturally, with as little active management as could be expected in an urban environment.
  - Year 1-3 following construction monitoring and maintenance costs are to be included in the project budget.
  - Beyond the 3 year plant establishment period, periodic inspections will be covered through field operations and maintenance budget.
- The project is being completed in partnership with the Seattle Parks and Recreation Department. Parks and SPU are in the early stages of discussing how long-term management of the project shall be completed. Either Parks or SPU will take long-term ownership and responsibility for this parcel.
- The party with long-term ownership will be responsible for ensuring the structures placed in stream remain fish-passable.
- It has not yet been determined whether SPU or SDOT will have jurisdictional responsibility for monitoring and maintenance of the bridge structure to ensure it is structurally sound and does not become a barrier to fish passage.

**b) Is there financial cost or other impacts of not implementing the legislation?**

Without this legislation, SPU's ability to manage the enhanced fish habitat and sediment control within this vicinity of Taylor Creek would be reduced. Not acquiring the property will reduce SPU's design flexibility, possibly requiring SPU to reroute the Taylor Creek through the adjacent Lakeridge Park play field. This could increase project cost by an estimated \$1 – \$1.5 million.

**c) Does this legislation affect any departments besides the originating department?**

Yes. As discussed in Section 2.a, the project is being completed in partnership with the Seattle Parks and Recreation Department. Parks and SPU are in the early stages discussing how long term management of the project shall be completed. Either Parks or SPU will take long term ownership and responsibility for this parcel.

**d) Is a public hearing required for this legislation?**

No

**e) Is publication of notice with *The Daily Journal of Commerce* and/or *The Seattle Times* required for this legislation?**

No

**f) Does this legislation affect a piece of property?**

Yes. See Exhibit A.

**g) Please describe any perceived implication for the principles of the Race and Social Justice Initiative. Does this legislation impact vulnerable or historically**

**disadvantaged communities?**

Yes. Residents of 10005 Rainier Avenue S. will need to permanently vacate their rental units when the project approaches the building tear down phase. This will result in the loss of four rental units, where renters currently pay approximately \$800 per month (for a two bedroom unit). A relocation assistance fund of \$25K per tenant is planned to be created for current residents to help offset their moving costs and probable increase in rent (rental units in 98178).

- h) If this legislation includes a new initiative or a major programmatic expansion: What are the long-term and measurable goals of the program? Please describe how this legislation would help achieve the program's desired goals.**

NA

- i) Other Issues:**

NA

**List attachments below:**

Exhibit A – Map of Taylor Creek Property

Exhibit A

