

# Underground (Direct Buried) Cable Replacement – Queen Anne

June 10, 2026



# Agenda

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- **Welcome & Opening Remarks**

- Welcome from Councilmember Bob Kettle and City Light leadership

- **Outage History**

- How do we collect data?
- What does the data tell us?

- **Project Overview**

- Underground Cable Replacement
- SPU Water Main Replacement
- Goals: Reliability, safety, sustainability

- **Emergency Work**

- Impacts & Threshold

- **Q&A**

## Underground (Direct Buried) Cable Replacement Queen Anne

June 10, 2026



Seattle City Light


# Outage History - Collection

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- How do we collect data?
  - Outage Management System
    - Notification through
      - SCADA Integration from substation
      - Customer calls
- Outage map

## Seattle City Light

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### View and Report Outages

When the occasional outage occurs, we're here to help you be prepared, stay informed, and stay safe while our crews are working around the clock to restore power.



**Report an Outage:** Call [\(206\) 684-3000](tel:2066843000). You will need your City Light account number or the phone number associated with your account.

**Report a Downed Power Line:** Stay at least 30 feet away and **Call 911**.

**Report a Streetlight Issue:** Complete the form on our [Streetlight Maintenance](#) page.

# Outage History - Data

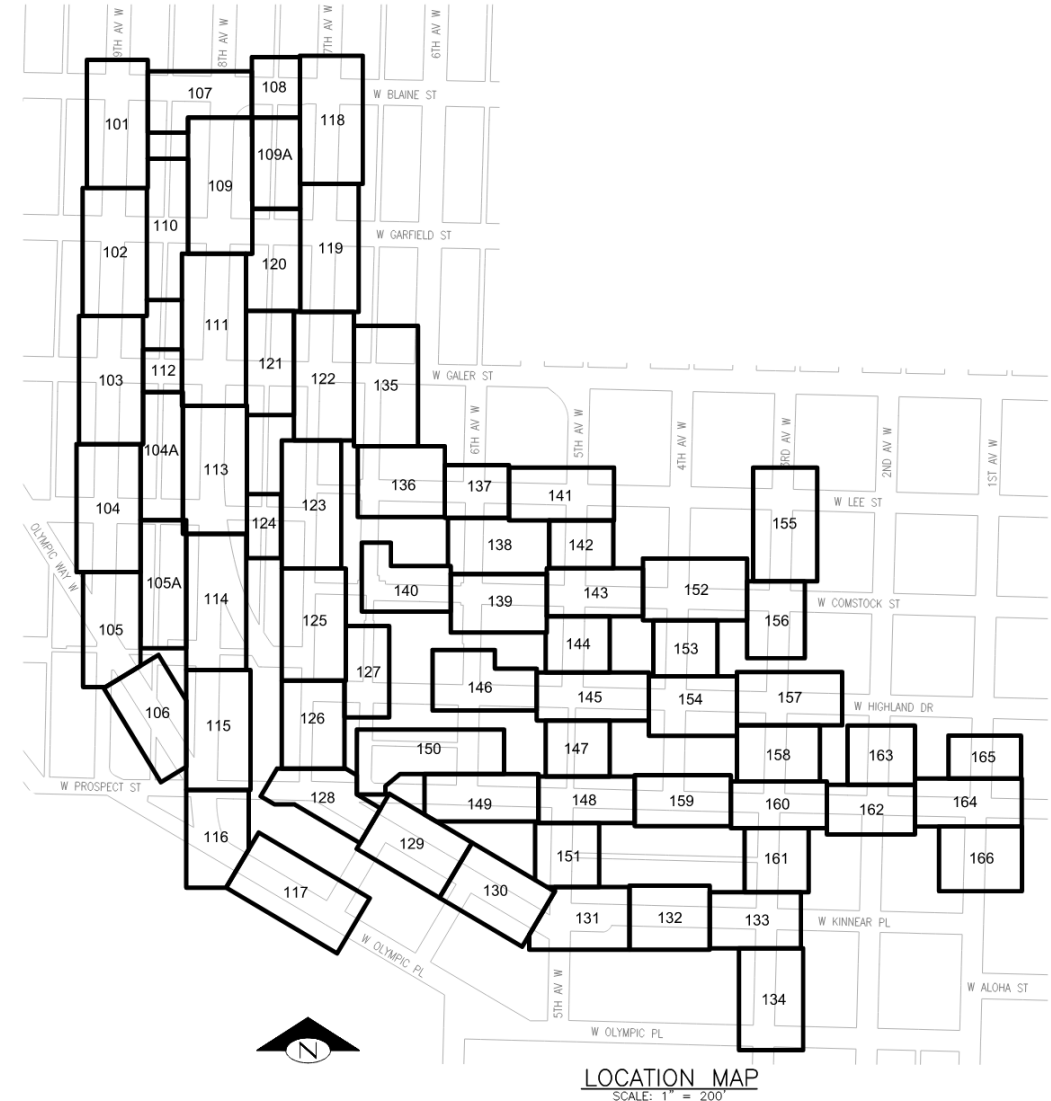
- What does the data tell us?
  - Our underground cable system has seen an uptick in outages.
  - Not everyone experiences the same outage.
  - An event from the Overhead System will impact the Underground System.

Year	Unplanned Outages		Planned
	Underground	Overhead	
2026	5	3	0
2025	8	4	5
2024	6	3	4
2023	5	7	3
2022	3	4	1

Cause	Count	Duration hrs
<b>Underground</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>252.5</b>
Overhead	20	114.5
Planned Outage	12	33.9
Equipment Failure	3	32
Other	5	32.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>465.7</b>

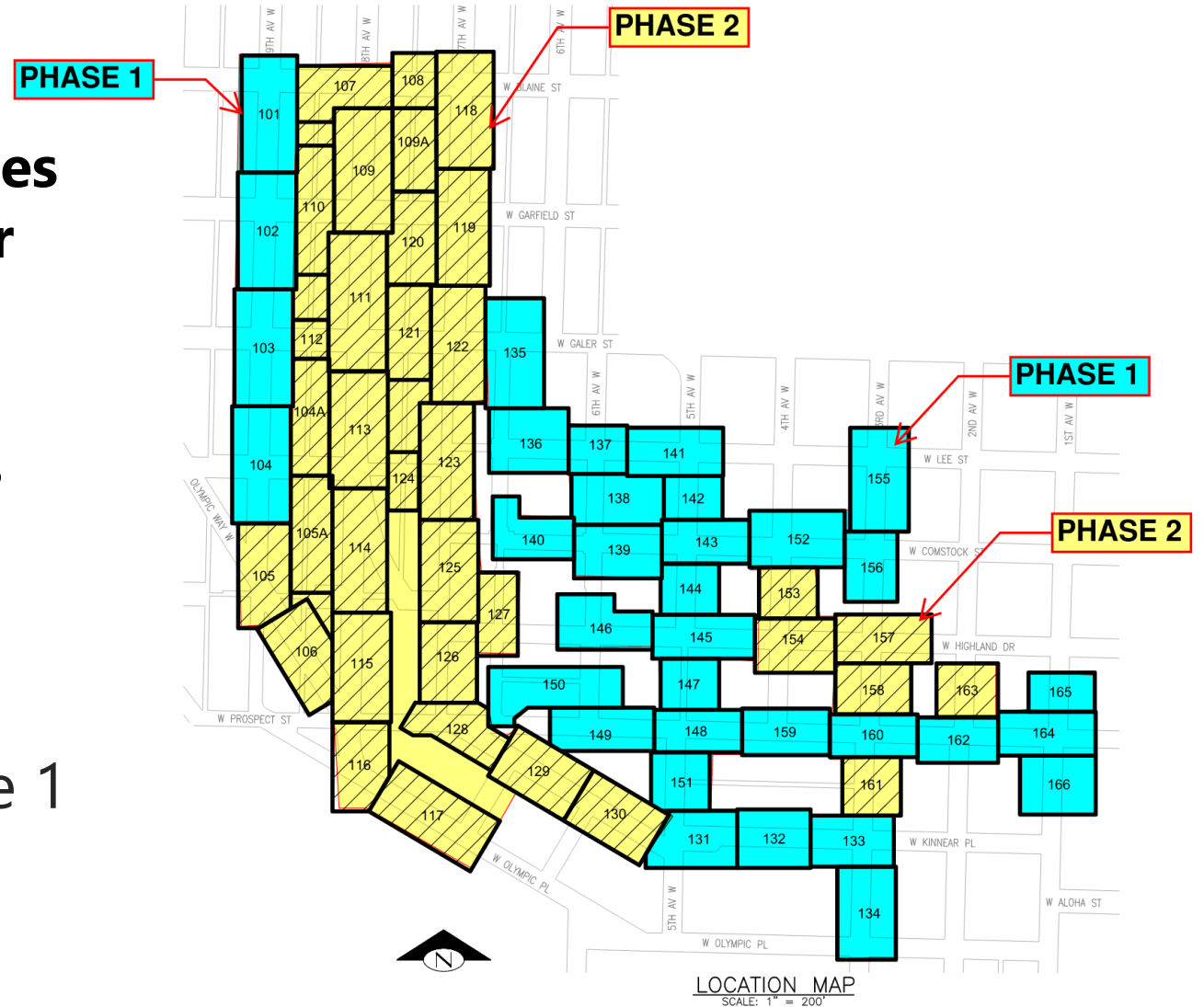
# Project Overview

- **Queen Anne direct buried cable:** located on the SW side of the hill serving **nearly 1,500 customers**
- Project area is roughly **85 acres** and **43 blocks**.
- **Project scope:**
  - **4.5 miles** primary duct bank.
  - **3.8 miles** of secondary and streetlight duct banks
  - **700 feet** of SPU **watermain**
  - **Watermain and water valve** replacements at **six intersections**



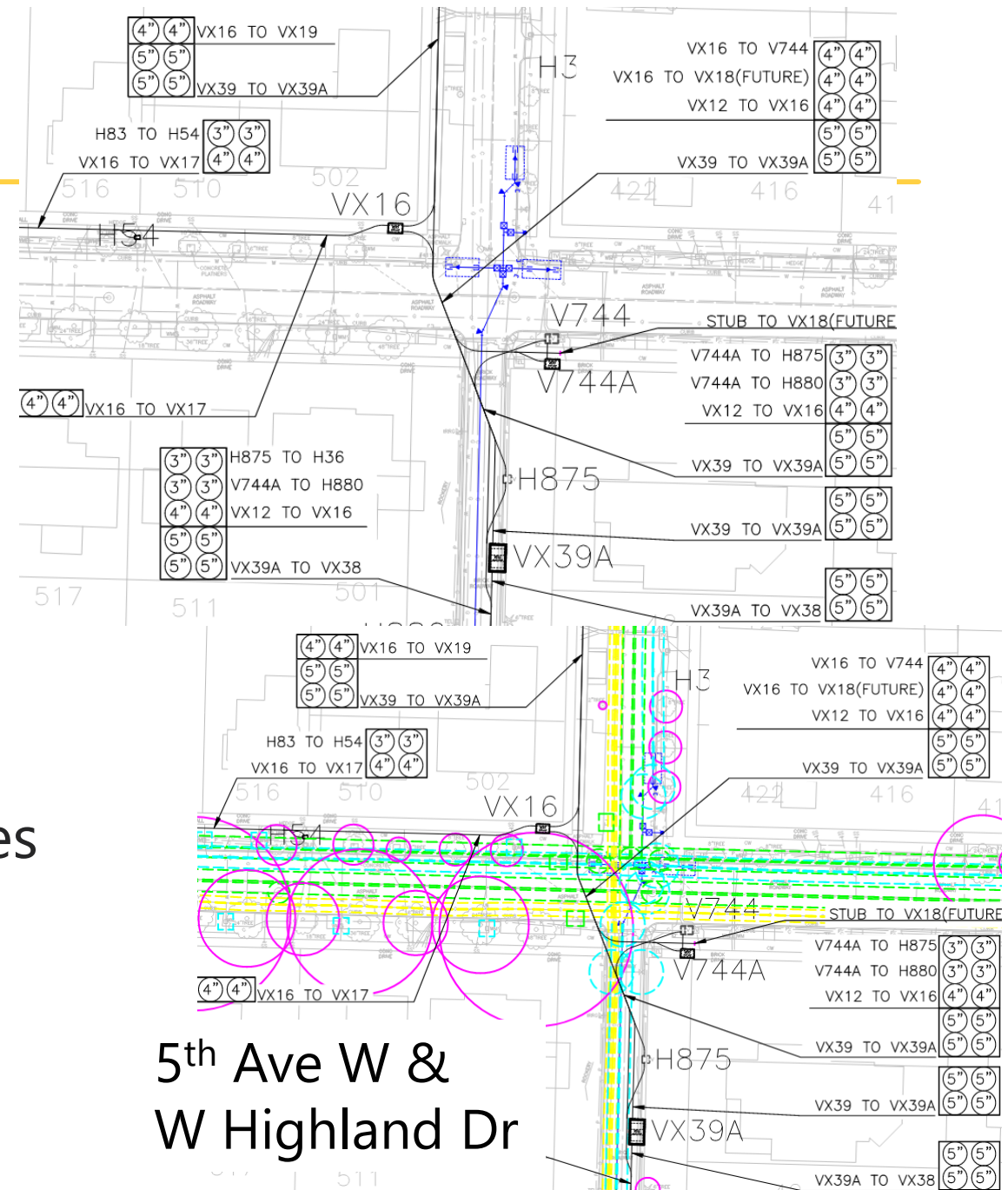
# Project Overview

- The project is phased:
  - **Phase 1** includes roughly **2.5 miles of primary duct bank** and **water system improvements**.
  - **Phase 2** includes the **remaining direct bury cable** - nearly **2 miles of primary duct bank**; water system improvements under evaluation.
- Reliability improvements in Phase 1 will be seen/felt by the Phase 2 area.



# Project Overview

- Project challenges:
  - Narrow Rights of Way (ROW)
  - Existing aging utilities
  - Tree critical root zones
  - Private structures built into the ROW [aka "ROW encroachments"]
- For **reliability, safety, sustainability** – the design must meet all required codes and design guidelines where feasible and practical.



# Design Status

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- We are **finalizing the 90% plans set**, which includes nearly 200 plan sheets.
- We have **identified some utility conflicts and proximity deviations** (placement utilities closer than preferred).
- We have **identified conflicts with private encroachments** into the ROW, (notification to those property owners is forthcoming).
- We continue to **coordinate with SPU on design and sequencing** of the work.

# Process to reach start of construction

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## Design Development

- Resolve all design issues.
- Finalize Plans, Specifications, and Bid Documents.

## Permitting

- Resolve all street use permit comments
- SDOT issues permit to work in ROW

## Hire Contractor

- Advertise Plans, Specifications, and Bid Documents.
- Contractor provides all required documents.

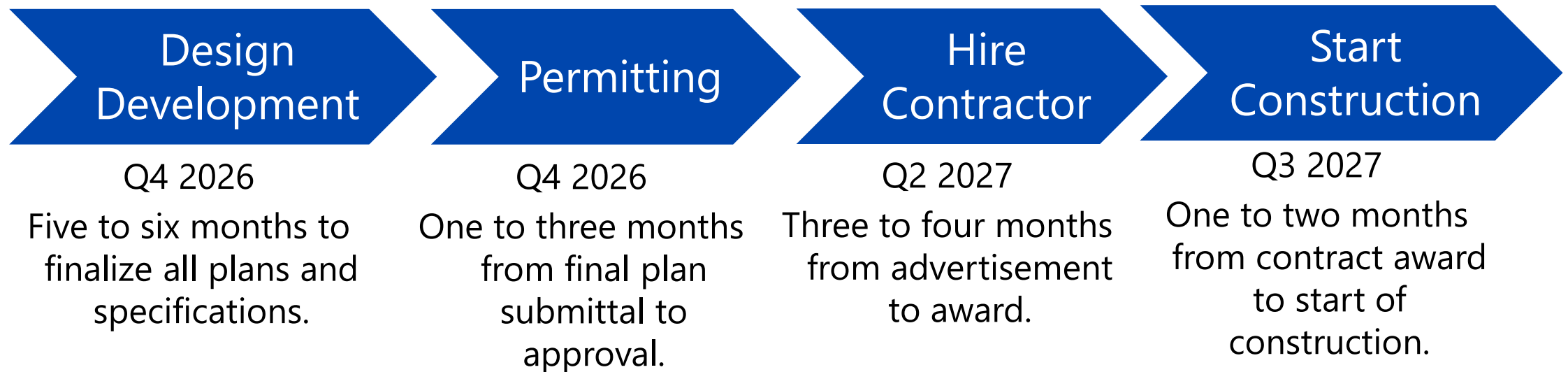
## Start Construction

- Notify Neighborhood
- Set up traffic controls
- Start work

# What we are doing to speed up the process

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- We are coordinating within the City departments to **prioritize and expedite the permit review and bid advertisement.**
- We are working closely with the consultant engineering team to **add resources and expedite preparation** of plans and specifications.







# What does “Emergency” mean?

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- What are the impacts of emergency replacement?
- What is the emergency threshold criteria?



# What are the impacts of emergency replacement?

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- Redesign of the system, **adding time to get to construction.**
- Per RCW, in-kind replacement only, **losing added improvements and load expansion** capacity.
- **Does not include the SPU watermain replacement**, resulting in deferred work and future disruptions.
- Unplanned sequencing resulting in greater impacts and potentially **delaying final cable installation** and energizing the new system.
- **Longer duration construction** and unplanned utility placements that jeopardize future utility work.
- Loss of cost control and the competitive bid process; significant **increase in cost to City Light rate payers.**

# What is the emergency threshold criteria?

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- When reviewing our criteria for emergency replacement, we consider several factors including:
  - Outage **impact on life safety** such as traffic signals, community centers, water and sewage facilities, streetlights, and certain electrical equipment.
  - Outage **impact on critical customers** like emergency services, hospitals, and those with life support equipment needs.
  - **Outage frequency and duration.**
  - Construction considerations like **resource availability** and restoration feasibility.
- This data is tracked in our outage management system. If our emergency thresholds are met, we will mobilize.

# How to stay informed and engaged

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Scan the QR code to:

- Visit the project web page.
- Sign up for email updates.
- View the meeting recording and answers from our Q&A.
- Stay tuned for project updates.

Please email any additional questions to  
[SCL\\_CommOutreach@seattle.gov](mailto:SCL_CommOutreach@seattle.gov).



Project Web Page

# Q&A



# THANK YOU

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**Seattle City Light**