

SALE DATE: MAY 21, 2024  
SALE TIME: 7:45 A.M., PACIFIC TIME

**PRELIMINARY OFFICIAL STATEMENT DATED MAY 10, 2024**

**New Issue  
Book-Entry Only**

**Moody's Rating: Aaa  
S&P Rating: AA+**  
(See "Other Bond Information—Ratings on the Bonds.")

*In the opinion of Stradling Yocca Carlson & Rauth LLP, Seattle, Washington ("Bond Counsel"), under existing statutes, regulations, rulings, and judicial decisions, and assuming the accuracy of certain representations and compliance with certain covenants and requirements described herein, interest (and original issue discount, if any) on the Bonds is excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes and is not an item of tax preference for purposes of calculating the federal alternative minimum tax imposed on individuals and corporations. See "Legal and Tax Information—Tax Matters" herein with respect to tax consequences relating to the Bonds.*

**\$67,990,000<sup>(1)</sup>**

**THE CITY OF SEATTLE, WASHINGTON  
WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT REVENUE BONDS, 2024**

**DATED: DATE OF INITIAL DELIVERY**

**DUE: OCTOBER 1, AS SHOWN ON PAGE i**

The City of Seattle, Washington (the "City"), will issue its Water System Improvement Revenue Bonds, 2024 (the "Bonds"), as fully registered bonds under a book-entry only system, registered in the name of the Securities Depository.

The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York ("DTC"), will act as initial Securities Depository for the Bonds. Individual purchases of the Bonds will be made in Book-Entry Form, in the denomination of \$5,000 or any integral multiple thereof within a single maturity. Purchasers will not receive certificates representing their interest in the Bonds. Interest on the Bonds is payable semiannually on each April 1 and October 1, beginning October 1, 2024. The principal of and interest on the Bonds are payable by the fiscal agent of the State of Washington (the "Bond Registrar") (currently U.S. Bank Trust Company, National Association), to DTC, which is obligated in turn to remit such payments to its participants for subsequent disbursement to Beneficial Owners of the Bonds, as described in "Description of the Bonds—Registration and Book-Entry Form" and in Appendix E.

The Bonds are being issued to pay for part of the costs of various projects of the City's Water System, to provide for a deposit to the Reserve Subaccount, and to pay the administrative costs of issuing the Bonds. See "Use of Proceeds."

The Bonds are subject to redemption prior to maturity as described herein. See "Description of the Bonds—Redemption of Bonds."

The Bonds are special limited obligations of the City payable from and secured solely by the Net Revenue of the Water System and by money in the Parity Bond Account and the subaccounts therein (including the Reserve Subaccount). Net Revenue is pledged to make the payments into the Parity Bond Account and the Reserve Subaccount required by the Bond Documents, which pledge constitutes a lien and charge upon the Net Revenue prior and superior to all other liens and charges whatsoever. The Bonds are on a parity with the Outstanding Parity Bonds and all Future Parity Bonds, without preference or priority of right or lien. Upon the redemption or defeasance of certain of the Outstanding Parity Bonds, the Bond Documents provide that the Bonds will cease to be secured by the Reserve Subaccount. See "Security for the Bonds."

**The Bonds do not constitute general obligations of the City, the State of Washington (the "State"), or any political subdivision of the State, or a lien or charge upon any general fund or upon any money or other property of the City, the State, or any political subdivision of the State not specifically pledged thereto by the legislation authorizing the issuance of the Bonds. Neither the full faith and credit nor the taxing power of the City, nor any revenues of the City derived from sources other than the Water System, are pledged to the payment of the Bonds.**

The Bonds are offered for delivery by the Purchaser, when, as, and if issued, subject to the approving legal opinion of Stradling Yocca Carlson & Rauth LLP, Seattle, Washington, Bond Counsel. The form of Bond Counsel's opinion is attached hereto as Appendix B. Bond Counsel will also act as Disclosure Counsel to the City. It is expected that the Bonds will be available for delivery at DTC's facilities in New York, New York, or delivered to the Bond Registrar on behalf of DTC for closing by Fast Automated Securities Transfer, on or about June 6, 2024.

*This cover page contains certain information for quick reference only. It is not a summary of this issue. Investors must read the entire Official Statement to obtain information essential to the making of an informed investment decision.*

**Dated:** \_\_\_\_\_

(1) Preliminary, subject to change.

This is a Preliminary Official Statement, subject to correction and change. The City has authorized the distribution of the Preliminary Official Statement to prospective purchasers and others. Upon the sale of the Bonds, the City will complete and deliver an Official Statement substantially in this form.

*The information in this Official Statement has been compiled from official and other sources considered reliable and, while not guaranteed as to accuracy, is believed by the City to be correct as of its date. The City makes no representation regarding the accuracy or completeness of the information in Appendix E—Book-Entry Transfer System, which has been obtained from DTC’s website, or other information provided by parties other than the City. The information and expressions of opinion herein are subject to change without notice, and neither the delivery of this Official Statement nor any sale made by use of this Official Statement shall, under any circumstances, create any implication that there has been no change in the affairs of the City since the date hereof.*

*No dealer, broker, salesperson, or other person has been authorized by the City to give any information or to make any representations with respect to the Bonds other than those contained in this Official Statement and, if given or made, such information or representations must not be relied upon as having been authorized by the City. This Official Statement does not constitute an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy, nor shall there be any sale of the Bonds by any person in any jurisdiction in which it is unlawful for such person to make such offer, solicitation, or sale.*

*The Bonds have not been registered under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and the Bond Documents have not been qualified under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, in reliance upon exemptions contained in such acts. The Bonds have not been recommended by any federal or state securities commission or regulatory authority. Furthermore, the Securities and Exchange Commission has not confirmed the accuracy or determined the adequacy of this Official Statement. Any representation to the contrary may be a criminal offense.*

*The presentation of certain information, including tables of revenues and expenses, is intended to show recent historic information and is not intended to indicate future or continuing trends in the financial position or other affairs of the City. No representation is made that past experience, as it might be shown by such financial and other information, will necessarily continue or be repeated in the future.*

*The information set forth in the Water Fund’s 2023 Audited Financial Statements, which are included as Appendix C, speaks only as of the date of those statements and is subject to revision or restatement in accordance with applicable accounting principles and procedures. The City specifically disclaims any obligation to update this information except to the extent described under “Continuing Disclosure Agreement.”*

*Certain statements contained in this Official Statement do not reflect historical facts, but rather are forecasts and “forward-looking statements.” No assurance can be given that the future results shown herein will be achieved, and actual results may differ materially from the forecasts shown. In this respect, the words “estimate,” “forecast,” “project,” “anticipate,” “expect,” “intend,” “believe,” and other similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. The forward-looking statements in this Official Statement are subject to risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed in or implied by such statements. All estimates, projections, forecasts, assumptions, and other forward-looking statements are expressly qualified in their entirety by the cautionary statements set forth in this Official Statement. These forward-looking statements speak only as of the date they were prepared. The City specifically disclaims any obligation to update any forward-looking statements to reflect occurrences or unanticipated events or circumstances after the date of this Official Statement, except as otherwise expressly provided in “Continuing Disclosure Agreement.”*

*CUSIP® is a registered trademark of the American Bankers Association. CUSIP Global Services (“CGS”) is managed on behalf of the American Bankers Association by FactSet Research Systems Inc. Copyright(c) 2024 CUSIP Global Services. All rights reserved. CUSIP numbers have been assigned by an independent company not affiliated with the City and are provided solely for convenience and reference. The CUSIP number for a specific maturity is subject to change after the issuance of the Bonds. The City takes no responsibility for the accuracy of the CUSIP numbers.*

*The order and placement of materials in this Official Statement, including the appendices, are not to be deemed to be a determination of relevance, materiality, or importance, and this Official Statement, including the appendices, must be considered in its entirety. The offering of the Bonds is made only by means of this entire Official Statement.*

*The website of the City or any City department or agency is not part of this Official Statement, and investors should not rely on information presented on the City’s website, or any other website referenced herein, in determining whether to purchase the Bonds. Information appearing on any such website is not incorporated by reference in this Official Statement.*

*This Preliminary Official Statement, as of its date, is in a form “deemed final” by the City for purposes of Securities and Exchange Commission Rule 15c2-12(b)(1) but is subject to revision, amendment, and completion in a final Official Statement which will be available within seven business days of the sale date.*

## MATURITY SCHEDULE

### THE CITY OF SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

**\$67,990,000<sup>(1)</sup>**

### WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT REVENUE BONDS, 2024

Due October 1	Amounts <sup>(1)</sup>	Interest Rates	Yields	Prices	CUSIP Numbers
2025	\$ 1,025,000				
2026	1,075,000				
2027	1,130,000				
2028	1,185,000				
2029	-				
2030	2,515,000				
2031	1,370,000				
2032	1,440,000				
2033	1,515,000				
2034	1,590,000				
2035	1,670,000 <sup>(2)</sup>				
2036	1,750,000 <sup>(2)</sup>				
2037	1,840,000 <sup>(2)</sup>				
2038	1,930,000 <sup>(2)</sup>				
2039	2,025,000 <sup>(2)</sup>				
2040	2,130,000 <sup>(2)</sup>				
2041	2,235,000 <sup>(2)</sup>				
2042	2,345,000 <sup>(2)</sup>				
2043	2,465,000 <sup>(2)</sup>				
2044	2,585,000 <sup>(2)</sup>				
2045	2,715,000 <sup>(2)</sup>				
2046	2,855,000 <sup>(2)</sup>				
2047	2,995,000 <sup>(2)</sup>				
2048	3,145,000 <sup>(2)</sup>				
2049	3,300,000 <sup>(2)</sup>				
2050	3,465,000 <sup>(2)</sup>				
2051	3,640,000 <sup>(2)</sup>				
2052	3,825,000 <sup>(2)</sup>				
2053	4,015,000 <sup>(2)</sup>				
2054	4,215,000 <sup>(2)</sup>				

(1) Preliminary, subject to change.

(2) These amounts will constitute principal maturities of the Bonds unless Term Bonds are specified by the successful bidder, in which case the amounts so specified will constitute mandatory sinking fund redemptions of the Term Bonds.

**THE CITY OF SEATTLE**

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL**

Bruce A. Harrell, Mayor Term Expiration: 2025

<b>Council Member</b>	<b>Term Expiration</b>
Joy Hollingsworth	2027
Robert Kettle	2027
Cathy Moore	2027
Tammy Morales	2027
Sara Nelson	2025
Maritza Rivera	2027
Rob Saka	2027
Dan Strauss	2027
Tanya Woo <sup>(1)</sup>	2024

**CITY ADMINISTRATION**

Jamie L. Carnell Interim Director of Finance  
Ann Davison City Attorney

**SEATTLE PUBLIC UTILITIES**

Andrew Lee	General Manager/Chief Executive Officer
Paula Laschober	Chief Financial Officer/Deputy Director of Financial and Risk Services
Idris Beauregard	Deputy Director of People, Culture, and Community
Keri Burchard-Juarez	Deputy Director for Project Delivery and Engineering
Ellen Stewart	Deputy Director for Drainage and Wastewater Line of Business
Jeff Fowler	Deputy Director for Solid Waste Line of Business
Alex Chen	Deputy Director for Water Line of Business and Utility Operations and Maintenance Branch

**BOND COUNSEL AND DISCLOSURE COUNSEL**

Stradling Yocca Carlson & Rauth LLP  
Seattle, Washington

**MUNICIPAL ADVISOR**

Piper Sandler & Co.  
Seattle, Washington

**BOND REGISTRAR**

Washington State Fiscal Agent  
(currently U.S. Bank Trust Company, National Association)

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(1) Council Member Woo was appointed to replace a council member who resigned in January 2024. The appointment is for a partial term until the November 2024 general election, which will determine who fills out the remainder of the term through 2025. Council Member Woo is running to retain this seat in the November election.

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## OFFICIAL NOTICE OF BOND SALE

\$67,990,000<sup>(1)</sup>

### THE CITY OF SEATTLE, WASHINGTON WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT REVENUE BONDS, 2024

Electronic bids for the purchase of The City of Seattle Water System Improvement Revenue Bonds, 2024 (the “Bonds”), will be received by the Director of Finance of The City of Seattle, Washington (the “City”), via S&P Global’s Parity Electronic Bid Submission System (“Parity”), in the manner described below, on

**MAY 21, 2024, NO LATER THAN 7:45 A.M., PACIFIC TIME,**

or such other day or time and under such other terms and conditions as may be established by the Director of Finance and provided to Parity as described under “Modification, Cancellation, Postponement.”

***Bids must be submitted electronically via Parity in accordance with this Official Notice of Bond Sale. For further information about Parity, potential bidders may contact Parity at (212) 849-5021. Hard copy or faxed bids will not be accepted.***

No bid will be accepted after the cut-off time for receiving bids specified above. Each bidder (and not the City) is responsible for the timely electronic delivery of its bid. The official time will be determined by the City and not by any bidder or Parity. All proper bids received with respect to the Bonds will be considered and acted on by the City’s Director of Finance, pursuant to a delegation of authority by the City Council. The winning bid for the Bonds will be awarded by the Director of Finance before 1:30 p.m., Pacific Time, on May 21, 2024, upon execution and delivery to the winning bidder of a certificate of bid award for the Bonds (a “Certificate of Bid Award”), in substantially the form attached to this Official Notice of Bond Sale as Exhibit 1.

Bidders are referred to the Preliminary Official Statement for additional information regarding the City, Seattle Public Utilities, the Bonds, the security for the Bonds, and other matters.

#### **Modification, Cancellation, Postponement**

The City may modify the terms of this Official Notice of Bond Sale prior to the sale date to change the principal amounts or the redemption or other provisions or increase or decrease the total principal amount or the amounts of individual maturities of Bonds. Notice of any such modification will be provided to Parity on or before May 20, 2024, and it is the bidder’s responsibility to check for any such modification prior to submitting its bid.

The City may cancel or postpone the date and time for receiving bids for the Bonds at any time prior to the cut-off time for receiving bids. Notice of such cancellation or postponement will be provided to Parity as soon as practicable following such cancellation or postponement.

As an accommodation to bidders, telephone, or electronic notice of any modification, cancellation, or postponement will be given to any prospective bidder requesting such notice from the City’s Municipal Advisor at the address and phone number provided under “Contact Information” below. Failure of any bidder to receive such notice will not affect the legality of the sale.

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(1) Preliminary, subject to change.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Finance Division	Kristi Beattie, City Debt Director, City of Seattle (206) 233-0026 <i>kristi.beattie@seattle.gov</i>
Municipal Advisor	Rob Shelley, Piper Sandler & Co. (206) 628-2879 <i>robert.shelley@psc.com</i>
Bond Counsel	Alice Ostdiek, Stradling Yocca Carlson & Rauth LLP (206) 829-3002 <i>aostdiek@stradlinglaw.com</i>

## DESCRIPTION OF THE BONDS

### **Bond Details**

The Bonds will be dated the date of their initial delivery. The Bonds will mature on October 1 in the years and amounts set forth on page i of this Official Statement. Interest on the Bonds will be payable semiannually on each April 1 and October 1, beginning October 1, 2024.

### **Registration and Book-Entry Form**

The Bonds will be issued only in registered form as to both principal and interest by the fiscal agent of the State (the “Bond Registrar”), currently U.S. Bank Trust Company, National Association, in Seattle, Washington (or such other fiscal agent or agents as the State may from time to time designate). The Bonds initially will be issued in Book-Entry Form and registered in the name of the Securities Depository, which is defined in the Bond Documents as the Depository Trust Company, New York, New York (“DTC”), or any successor thereto.

### **Election of Maturities**

The successful bidder for the Bonds shall designate whether some or all of the principal amounts of the Bonds maturing on and after October 1, 2035, shall be retired as shown in the table below as serial bonds maturing in such year or as amortization installments of Term Bonds maturing in the years specified by the bidder. Term Bonds, if any, must consist of the total principal payments of two or more consecutive years and mature in the latest of those years.



Serial Maturities		Serial Maturities	
Years	or Amortization	Years	or Amortization
(October1)	Installments <sup>(1)</sup>	(October1)	Installments <sup>(1)</sup>
2025	\$ 1,025,000	2040	\$ 2,130,000 <sup>(2)</sup>
2026	1,075,000	2041	2,235,000 <sup>(2)</sup>
2027	1,130,000	2042	2,345,000 <sup>(2)</sup>
2028	1,185,000	2043	2,465,000 <sup>(2)</sup>
2029	-	2044	2,585,000 <sup>(2)</sup>
2030	2,515,000	2045	2,715,000 <sup>(2)</sup>
2031	1,370,000	2046	2,855,000 <sup>(2)</sup>
2032	1,440,000	2047	2,995,000 <sup>(2)</sup>
2033	1,515,000	2048	3,145,000 <sup>(2)</sup>
2034	1,590,000	2049	3,300,000 <sup>(2)</sup>
2035	1,670,000 <sup>(2)</sup>	2050	3,465,000 <sup>(2)</sup>
2036	1,750,000 <sup>(2)</sup>	2051	3,640,000 <sup>(2)</sup>
2037	1,840,000 <sup>(2)</sup>	2052	3,825,000 <sup>(2)</sup>
2038	1,930,000 <sup>(2)</sup>	2053	4,015,000 <sup>(2)</sup>
2039	2,025,000 <sup>(2)</sup>	2054	4,215,000 <sup>(2)</sup>

- (1) Preliminary, subject to change. See “Bidding Information and Award—Adjustment of Principal Amounts and Bid Price After Receipt of Bids” below for a description of the City’s right to adjust the principal amounts after the bids are received.
- (2) These amounts will constitute principal maturities of the Bonds unless Term Bonds are specified by the successful bidder, in which case the amounts so specified will constitute mandatory sinking fund redemptions of Term Bonds.

## Redemption

*Optional Redemption.* The Bonds maturing on and before October 1, 2034, are not subject to redemption prior to maturity. The City reserves the right and option to redeem the Bonds maturing on and after October 1, 2035, prior to their stated maturity dates at any time on and after October 1, 2034, as a whole or in part, at a price equal to the principal amount to be redeemed plus accrued interest to the date fixed for redemption. See “Description of the Bonds—Redemption of Bonds—Optional Redemption” in the Preliminary Official Statement.

*Mandatory Redemption.* As indicated on the schedule above, Bonds that are designated by the successful bidder as Term Bonds will be subject to mandatory sinking fund redemption. See “Description of the Bonds—Redemption of Bonds—Mandatory Redemption” in the Preliminary Official Statement.

*Selection of Bonds for Redemption.* If fewer than all of the Bonds are to be redeemed prior to maturity, the selection of such Bonds for redemption shall be made as described under “Description of the Bonds—Redemption of Bonds—Selection of Bonds for Redemption” in the Preliminary Official Statement.

## Purpose

The Bonds are being issued to pay for part of the costs of various projects of the City’s Water System, to provide for a deposit to the Reserve Subaccount, and to pay the costs of issuing the Bonds.

## Security

The Bonds are special limited obligations of the City payable from and secured solely by the Net Revenue of the Water System and by money in the Water Revenue Parity Bond Account (the “Parity Bond Account”) and the subaccounts therein (including the Reserve Subaccount). Net Revenue is pledged to make the payments into the Parity Bond Account and the Reserve Subaccount required by the Bond Documents, which pledge constitutes a lien and charge upon such Net Revenue prior and superior to all other liens and charges whatsoever. The Bonds are on a parity with the Outstanding Parity Bonds and all Future Parity Bonds, without preference or priority of right or lien. Upon the redemption or defeasance of certain of the Outstanding Parity Bonds, the Bond Documents provide that the Bonds will cease to be secured by the Reserve Subaccount. See “Security for the Bonds” in the Preliminary Official Statement.

*The Bonds do not constitute general obligations of the City, the State of Washington (the "State"), or any political subdivision of the State, or a lien or charge upon any general fund or upon any money or other property of the City, the State, or any political subdivision of the State not specifically pledged thereto by the legislation authorizing the issuance of the Bonds. Neither the full faith and credit nor the taxing power of the City, nor any revenues of the City derived from sources other than the Water System, are pledged to the payment of the Bonds.*

## **BIDDING INFORMATION AND AWARD**

Bidders are invited to submit bids for the purchase of the Bonds fixing the interest rate or rates that the Bonds will bear. Interest rates included as part of a bid shall be in multiples of 1/8 or 1/20 of 1%, or any combination thereof. No more than one rate of interest may be fixed for any one maturity of the Bonds. There is no minimum coupon for Bonds maturing before October 1, 2035, and a minimum coupon of 5% is required for Bonds maturing on and after October 1, 2035. The maximum coupon permitted for all maturities of the Bonds is 5.25%.

No bid will be considered for the Bonds that is less than an amount equal to 106.5% of the stated principal amount of the Bonds nor more than an amount equal to 117.0% of the stated principal amount of the Bonds.

Bids for the Bonds must be unconditional. No bid for less than the entire offering of the Bonds will be accepted. Bids may not be withdrawn or revised after the cut-off time for receiving bids. The City strongly encourages the inclusion of women and minority business enterprise firms in bidding syndicates.

### **Bidding Process**

Bids for the Bonds must be submitted via Parity. By submitting an electronic bid for the Bonds, each bidder agrees to the following terms and conditions:

- (i) If any provision in this Official Notice of Bond Sale conflicts with information or terms provided or required by Parity, this Official Notice of Bond Sale (including any modifications provided by the City to Parity) shall control.
- (ii) Each bidder is solely responsible for making necessary arrangements to access Parity for purposes of submitting a timely bid in compliance with the requirements of this Official Notice of Bond Sale (including any modifications provided by the City to Parity).
- (iii) The City has no duty or obligation to provide or assure access to Parity, and the City shall not be responsible for the proper operation of Parity, or have any liability for any delays or interruptions or any damages caused by use or attempted use of Parity.
- (iv) Parity is acting as an independent contractor, and is not acting for or on behalf of the City.
- (v) The City is not responsible for ensuring or verifying bidder compliance with Parity's procedures.
- (vi) If the bidder's bid is accepted by the City, this Official Notice of Bond Sale (including any modifications provided by the City to Parity) and the information that is submitted electronically through Parity, as confirmed by the Certificate of Bid Award, shall form a contract, and the bidder shall be bound by the terms of such contract.
- (vii) Information provided by Parity to bidders shall form no part of any bid or of any contract between the successful bidder and the City unless that information is included in this Official Notice of Bond Sale, as may be modified and/or amended by the City.

### **Good Faith Deposit**

The winning bid must be backed by a good faith deposit in the amount of \$680,000. The good faith deposit must be paid by federal funds wire transfer within 90 minutes after verbal notice from the City to the apparent successful bidder for the Bonds. Wiring instructions will be provided to the apparent successful bidder at the time of the notice from the City.

The good faith deposit for the Bonds shall be retained by the City as security for the performance of the apparent successful bidder and shall be applied to the purchase price of the Bonds upon the delivery of the Bonds to the apparent successful bidder. Pending delivery of the Bonds, the good faith deposit may be invested for the sole benefit of the City. If the Bonds are ready for delivery and the apparent successful bidder fails or neglects to complete the purchase

of the Bonds within 30 days following the acceptance of its bid, the good faith deposit shall be retained by the City as reasonable liquidated damages and not as a penalty.

### **Award**

The Bonds will be sold to the bidder making a bid for the Bonds that conforms to the terms of the offering and is, based on the City's determination of the lowest true interest cost, the best bid. The true interest cost will be the rate that, when used to discount to the date of the Bonds all future payments of principal and interest (using semiannual compounding and a 30/360 day basis), produces an amount equal to the bid amount for the Bonds, without regard to the interest accrued to the date of the Bonds. The true interest cost calculations for the Bonds will be performed by the City's Municipal Advisor, and the City will base its determination of the best bid for the Bonds solely on such calculations. If there are two or more equal bids for the Bonds and those bids are the best bids received, the Director of Finance will determine by random selection which bid will be accepted.

The apparent successful bidder for the Bonds will be notified verbally on behalf of the City and must provide a good faith deposit as described above. The bid for the Bonds shall be considered awarded upon the receipt by the City of the good faith deposit and the execution and delivery of the Certificate of Bid Award by the Director of Finance, acting on behalf of the City. The form of the Certificate of Bid Award is attached to this Official Notice of Bond Sale as Exhibit 1.

The City reserves the right to reject any or all bids submitted and to waive any formality or irregularity in any bid or the bidding process. If all bids for the Bonds are rejected, then the Bonds may be sold in the manner provided by law. Any bid presented after the cut-off time for receiving bids will not be accepted.

### **Adjustment of Principal Amounts and Bid Price After Receipt of Bids**

The City reserves the right to increase or decrease the preliminary aggregate principal amount of the Bonds shown on Parity by an amount not to exceed 10% of the aggregate principal amount of the Bonds after the cut-off time for receiving bids. The City also reserves the right to increase or decrease the preliminary principal amount of any maturity of the Bonds shown on Parity by an amount not to exceed 15% of the preliminary principal amount of that maturity.

If the preliminary principal amount of the Bonds is adjusted by the City, the price bid by the successful bidder for the Bonds will be adjusted by the City on a proportionate basis to reflect an increase or decrease in the principal amount and maturity schedule. In the event that the City elects to increase or decrease the principal amount of the Bonds after receiving bids, the underwriter's discount, expressed in dollars per thousand, will be held constant. The City will not be responsible in the event and to the extent that any adjustment affects (i) the net compensation to be realized by the successful bidder, or (ii) the true interest cost of the winning bid or its ranking relative to other bids.

### **Issue Price Information**

*Establishment of Issue Price.* By submitting a bid for the Bonds, the winning bidder agrees to assist the City in establishing the issue price of the Bonds and to execute and deliver to the City at closing an "issue price" or similar certificate ("Issue Price Certificate") setting forth the reasonably expected initial offering price to the public or the sales price or prices of the Bonds, together with the supporting pricing wires or equivalent communications. **By submitting a bid, the winning bidder agrees to observe the "hold-the-offering-price" rule (defined below) if the Competitive Sale Safe Harbor (defined below) does not apply on the sale date. Bids will not be accepted if they are subject to cancellation in the event that the Competitive Sale Safe Harbor does not apply.**

The City has attached to this Official Notice of Bond Sale as Exhibits 2 and 3 two alternatives for the form of Issue Price Certificate. Exhibit 2 reflects the form that would be used if the safe harbor described in Treasury Regulations Section 1.148-1(f)(3)(i) (the "Competitive Sale Safe Harbor") is applicable on the sale date; Exhibit 3 reflects the form that would be used if the Competitive Sale Safe Harbor is inapplicable, in which case the City will require that the winning bidder observe the "hold-the-offering-price" rule. The winning bidder agrees to execute the appropriate Issue Price Certificate, substantially in the form attached hereto with only such modifications as may be acceptable to the City, and Bond Counsel.

All communications with the City pursuant to this Official Notice of Bond Sale relating to establishing the issue price of the Bonds may be directed to the City's Municipal Advisor (identified under "Contact Information"). Any notice, report, pricing wire, or equivalent communication that is to be provided to the City to establish the issue price is to be provided to the City's Municipal Advisor and its Bond Counsel (identified under "Contact Information").

*Competitive Sale Safe Harbor.* The City intends for the provisions of Treasury Regulations Section 1.148-1(f)(3)(i) (defining “competitive sale” for purposes of establishing the issue price of the Bonds) to apply to the initial sale of the Bonds (the “competitive sale requirements”), because:

- (i) the City will disseminate this Official Notice of Bond Sale to potential underwriters in a manner reasonably designed to reach potential underwriters;
- (ii) all bidders will have an equal opportunity to bid;
- (iii) the City expects to receive bids from at least three underwriters of municipal bonds who have established industry reputations for underwriting new issuances of municipal bonds; and
- (iv) the City anticipates awarding the sale of the Bonds to the bidder who submits a firm offer to purchase the Bonds at the highest price (or lowest interest cost), as set forth in this Official Notice of Bond Sale.

Each bid submitted pursuant to this Official Notice of Bond Sale will be considered a firm offer for the purchase of the Bonds, as specified in the bid. The Competitive Sale Safe Harbor will be considered inapplicable if the City and its Bond Counsel determine that the requirements of Treasury Regulations Section 1.148-1(f)(3)(i), including the requirement to receive at least three bids, have not been met.

*Hold-the-Offering-Price Rule Applies if Competitive Sale Safe Harbor Not Met.* If the competitive sale requirements are not satisfied, the City will so advise the winning bidder. The City, in its sole discretion, on a maturity-by-maturity basis, may determine to treat:

- (i) the first price at which 10% of a maturity of the Bonds (the “10% test”) is sold to the public as the issue price of that maturity; and/or
- (ii) the initial offering price to the public as of the sale date of any maturity of the Bonds as the issue price of that maturity (the “hold-the-offering-price rule”).

The winning bidder must advise the City, as soon as practicable following the verbal award, if any maturity of the Bonds satisfies the 10% test as of the date and time of the award of the Bonds. The City will promptly advise the winning bidder, if practicable, at or before the time of award of the Bonds, which maturities of the Bonds will be subject to the 10% test or subject to the hold-the-offering-price rule. If, prior to the time of the award, the winning bidder has not advised the City that any maturity satisfies the 10% test, the bidder should assume that all maturities will be subject to the hold-the-offering-price rule. Bids will **not** be accepted if they are subject to cancellation upon determination by the City to apply the hold-the-offering-price rule to any maturity of the Bonds. **Bidders should prepare their bids on the assumption that some or all of the maturities of the Bonds will be subject to the hold-the-offering-price rule in order to establish the issue price of the Bonds.**

By submitting a bid, the winning bidder agrees that, in the event that the City determines to apply the hold-the-offering-price rule, it will:

- (i) confirm that the underwriters have offered or will offer the Bonds to the public on or before the date of award at the offering price or prices (the “initial offering price”), or at the corresponding yield or yields, set forth in the bid submitted by the winning bidder;
- (ii) agree, on behalf of the underwriters participating in the purchase of the Bonds, that the underwriters will neither offer nor sell unsold Bonds of any maturity to which the hold-the-offering-price rule applies to any person at a price that is higher than the initial offering price to the public during the period starting on the sale date and ending on the earlier of (a) the close of the fifth business day after the sale date (the “End of the Holding Period”), or (b) the date on which the underwriters have sold at least 10% of that maturity of the Bonds to the public at a price that is no higher than the initial offering price to the public; and
- (iii) promptly advise the City when the underwriters have sold 10% of each maturity of the Bonds that is subject to the hold-the-offering-price rule to the public at a price that is no higher than the initial offering price to the public, if that occurs prior to the End of the Holding Period.

*Reliance on Agreements with Participating Underwriters, Dealers, and Broker-Dealers.* In making the representations set forth above, the winning bidder agrees to obtain and, if obtained, may rely on:

- (i) the agreement of each underwriter to comply with the hold-the-offering-price rule, as set forth in an agreement among underwriters and the related pricing wires;

- (ii) if a selling group has been created in connection with the initial sale of the Bonds to the public, the agreement of each dealer who is a member of the selling group to comply with the hold-the-offering-price rule, as set forth in a selling group agreement and the related pricing wires; and
- (iii) if an underwriter is a party to a retail distribution agreement that was employed in connection with the initial sale of the Bonds to the public, the agreement of each broker-dealer that is a party to such agreement to comply with the hold-the-offering-price rule, as set forth in the retail distribution agreement and the related pricing wires.

If appropriate agreements have been obtained, the City acknowledges that each underwriter will be solely liable for its failure to comply with its agreement regarding the hold-the-offering-price rule and that no underwriter will be liable for the failure of any other underwriter, or of any dealer who is a member of a selling group, or of any broker-dealer that is a party to a retail distribution agreement, to comply with its corresponding agreement regarding the hold-the-offering-price rule as applicable to the Bonds.

In addition, by submitting a bid, each bidder confirms that any agreement among underwriters, any selling group agreement, and each retail distribution agreement (to which the bidder is a party) relating to the initial sale of the Bonds to the public, together with the related pricing wires, contains or will contain language obligating each underwriter, each dealer who is a member of the selling group, and each broker-dealer that is a party to such retail distribution agreement, as applicable, to (i) report the prices at which it sells to the public the unsold Bonds of each maturity allotted to it until either it is notified by the winning bidder that the 10% test has been satisfied as to the Bonds of that maturity or the End of the Holding Period, whichever occurs first, and (ii) comply with the hold-the-offering-price rule, if applicable, in each case if and for so long as directed by the winning bidder and as set forth in the related pricing wires.

Further, each bidder confirms that any agreement among underwriters relating to the initial sale of the Bonds to the public, together with the related pricing wires, contains or will contain language obligating each underwriter that is a party to a retail distribution agreement to be employed in connection with the initial sale of the Bonds to the public to require each broker-dealer that is a party to such retail distribution agreement to:

- (i) report the prices at which it sells to the public the unsold Bonds of each maturity allotted to it until either it is notified by the winning bidder or such underwriter that the 10% test has been satisfied as to the Bonds of that maturity or the End of the Holding Period, whichever occurs first; and
- (ii) comply with the hold-the-offering-price rule, if applicable, in each case if and for so long as directed by the winning bidder or such underwriter and as set forth in the related pricing wires.

*Other Terms.* Sales of any Bonds to any person that is a related party to an underwriter will not constitute sales to the public for purposes of the representations of the bidder pursuant to this Official Notice of Bond Sale, including any representations to be made in an Issue Price Certificate. Further, for purposes of this Official Notice of Bond Sale and the Issue Price Certificate:

- (i) “public” means any person other than an underwriter or a related party;
- (ii) “underwriter” means (a) any person that agrees pursuant to a written contract with the City (or with the lead underwriter to form an underwriting syndicate) to participate in the initial sale of the Bonds to the public, and (b) any person that agrees pursuant to a written contract directly or indirectly with a person described in clause (a) to participate in the initial sale of the Bonds to the public (including a member of a selling group or a party to a retail distribution agreement participating in the initial sale of the Bonds to the public);
- (iii) a purchaser of any of the Bonds is a “related party” to an underwriter if the underwriter and the purchaser are subject, directly or indirectly, to (a) at least 50% common ownership of the voting power or the total value of their stock, if both entities are corporations (including direct ownership by one corporation of another), (b) more than 50% common ownership of their capital interests or profits interests, if both entities are partnerships (including direct ownership by one partnership of another), or (c) more than 50% common ownership of the value of the outstanding stock of the corporation or the capital interests or profit interests of the partnership, as applicable, if one entity is a corporation and the other entity is a partnership (including direct ownership of the applicable stock or interests by one entity of the other); and
- (iv) “sale date” means the date that the Bonds are awarded by the City to the winning bidder.

Questions regarding the form of expected Issue Price Certificate should be directed to the City's Municipal Advisor or its Bond Counsel. See "Contact Information."

### **Insurance**

No bid for the Bonds may be conditioned upon obtaining insurance or any other credit enhancement, or upon the City's acceptance of any of the terms of insurance or other credit enhancement. Any purchase of municipal bond insurance or commitment therefor shall be at the sole option and expense of the bidder, and any increased costs of issuance of the Bonds resulting by reason of such insurance, unless otherwise paid, shall be paid by such bidder, but shall not, in any event, be paid by the City. Any failure of the Bonds to be so insured or of any such policy of insurance to be issued shall not in any way relieve the successful bidder of its contractual obligations arising from the acceptance of its bid.

If the successful bidder purchases insurance for any of the Bonds, the City may require the successful bidder to furnish to the City and Bond Counsel a certificate in form and substance acceptable to Bond Counsel confirming that the present value (calculated using the same yield as the yield on the insured Bonds) of the insurance premium is less than the present value (calculated using the same yield as the yield on the insured Bonds) of the interest cost savings represented by the comparative differences between interest amounts that would have been payable on the various maturities of the insured Bonds at interest rates on the insured Bonds issued with and without the insurance on the insured Bonds.

### **Ratings**

The Bonds have been rated "Aaa" and "AA+" by Moody's Investors Service and S&P Global Ratings, respectively. The City will pay the fees for these ratings; any other ratings are the responsibility of the successful bidder.

## **DELIVERY**

The City will deliver the Bonds (consisting of one certificate for each maturity of the Bonds) to DTC in New York, New York, or to the Bond Registrar on behalf of DTC, for closing by Fast Automated Securities Transfer, prior to the date of closing. Closing shall occur within 30 days after the sale date. Settlement shall be in immediately available federal funds on the date of delivery.

If, prior to the delivery of the Bonds, the interest receivable by the owners of the Bonds becomes includable in gross income for federal income tax purposes, or becomes subject to federal income tax other than as described in the Preliminary Official Statement, the successful bidder for the Bonds, at its option, may be relieved of its obligation to purchase the Bonds and, in that case, the good faith deposit accompanying its bid will be returned without interest.

The City will furnish to the successful bidder for the Bonds one electronic transcript of proceedings; additional transcripts, if requested, will be furnished at the successful bidder's cost.

### **Legal Opinion**

The approving legal opinion of Stradling Yocca Carlson & Rauth LLP, Seattle, Washington, Bond Counsel, with respect to the Bonds, will be provided to the successful bidder for the Bonds at the time of the delivery of the Bonds. The form of Bond Counsel's opinion is attached to the Preliminary Official Statement as Appendix B. A certificate from the City regarding the absence of material litigation will be among the required the closing documents for the Bonds.

### **CUSIP Numbers**

It is anticipated that a CUSIP identification number will appear on each Bond, but neither the failure to insert such number nor any error with respect thereto shall constitute cause for a failure or refusal by the successful bidder for the Bonds to accept delivery of and pay for the Bonds in accordance with the terms of this Official Notice of Bond Sale.

*The City's Municipal Advisor is responsible for obtaining CUSIP numbers for the Bonds. The charge of the CUSIP Service Bureau shall be paid by such successful bidder.*

## OTHER INFORMATION

### Continuing Disclosure Agreement

In order to assist bidders in complying with paragraph (b)(5) of United States Securities and Exchange Commission Rule 15c2-12 (“Rule 15c2-12”), the City will undertake to provide certain annual financial information and notices of the occurrence of certain events. A description of this undertaking and the City’s compliance with its prior undertakings is set forth in the Preliminary Official Statement under “Continuing Disclosure Agreement” and also will be set forth in the final Official Statement.

### Preliminary Official Statement

The Preliminary Official Statement is in a form that the City has deemed final for the purpose of paragraph (b)(1) of Rule 15c2-12, but is subject to revision, amendment, and completion in a final Official Statement, which the City will deliver, at the City’s expense, to the successful bidder through its designated representative not later than seven business days after the City’s acceptance of the successful bidder’s bid, in sufficient quantities to permit the successful bidder to comply with Rule 15c2-12.

By submitting the successful bid for the Bonds, the successful bidder’s designated representative agrees:

- (i) to provide to the City’s Debt Manager, in writing, within 24 hours after the acceptance of the bid, pricing and other related information, including Initial Reoffering Prices of the Bonds, necessary for completion of the final Official Statement (see also “Bidding Information and Award—Issue Price Information”);
- (ii) to disseminate to all members of the underwriting syndicate, if any, copies of the final Official Statement, including any amendments or supplements prepared by the City;
- (iii) to take any and all actions necessary to comply with applicable rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission and Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board governing the offering, sale, and delivery of the Bonds to ultimate purchasers, including the delivery of a final Official Statement to each investor who purchases Bonds; and
- (iv) to file the final Official Statement or cause it to be filed with the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board within one business day following its receipt from the City.

The Preliminary Official Statement may be obtained from i-Deal Prospectus, a service of i-Deal LLC, at [www.i-dealprospectus.com](http://www.i-dealprospectus.com), telephone (212) 849-5024. In addition, the Preliminary Official Statement may be obtained upon request to the City’s Debt Manager or Municipal Advisor. See “Contact Information” in this Official Notice of Bond Sale.

### Official Statement

At closing, the City will furnish a certificate of an official or officials of the City stating that, to the best knowledge of such official(s), as of the date of the Official Statement and as of the date of delivery of the Bonds,

- (i) the information (including financial information) regarding the City and Seattle Public Utilities (including the Water System) contained in the Official Statement was and is true and correct in all material respects and did not and does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements therein, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; and
- (ii) the descriptions and statements, including financial data, of or pertaining to entities other than the City and Seattle Public Utilities and their activities contained in the Official Statement have been obtained from sources that the City believes to be reliable and the City has no reason to believe that they are untrue in any material respect (however, the City will make no representation regarding Bond Counsel’s form of opinion, the information provided by Bond Counsel under “Legal and Tax Information—Limitations on Remedies and Municipal Bankruptcies” and “—Tax Matters,” or the information provided by or obtained from DTC or any entity providing bond insurance, reserve insurance, or other credit facility, if any).

DATED at Seattle, Washington, this 10th day of May, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
/s/ Jamie L. Carnell

Jamie L. Carnell  
Interim Director of Finance



**OFFICIAL NOTICE OF BOND SALE—EXHIBIT 1  
FORM OF CERTIFICATE OF BID AWARD**

**THE CITY OF SEATTLE, WASHINGTON  
WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT REVENUE BONDS, 2024**

With respect to the above-captioned bonds (the “Bonds”), the Director of Finance of The City of Seattle, Washington (the “City”), as the Designated Representative authorized to act on behalf of the City pursuant to Ordinance 126716, passed by the City Council on November 29, 2022, as amended by Ordinance 126942, passed by the City Council on November 21, 2023 (as amended, the “Bond Ordinance”), certifies as follows:

1. In accordance with the Bond Ordinance, an Official Notice of Bond Sale dated May 10, 2024, has been prepared and distributed, and on May 21, 2024, bids for the purchase of the Bonds were received and reviewed in accordance with the Official Notice of Bond Sale.
2. The sale of the Bonds is hereby awarded to \_\_\_\_\_ (the “Purchaser”), the Purchaser’s bid being the best responsive bid determined by the method of calculation set forth in the Official Notice of Bond Sale as follows:

Aggregate Principal Amount:	\$
less Underwriter’s Discount:	()
[plus/less] original issue [premium/(discount)]:	_____
Aggregate Purchase Price:	\$ _____
True Interest Cost:	%
Aggregate Purchase Price (% of Aggregate Principal Amount):	%

A copy of the Purchaser’s bid setting forth interest rates and purchase price for the Bonds is attached hereto as Schedule A. A summary reflecting the resizing of the Purchaser’s bid in accordance with the Official Notice of Bond Sale is as follows:

**Maturity Dates, Principal Amounts, Interest Rates and Prices**

Due October 1	Amount	Interest Rate	Price	Due October 1	Amount	Interest Rate	Price
2025				2040			
2026				2041			
2027				2042			
2028				2043			
2029				2044			
2030				2045			
2031				2046			
2032				2047			
2033				2048			
2034				2049			
2035				2050			
2036				2051			
2037				2052			
2038				2053			
2039				2054			

- (1) Term Bonds.
- (2) Priced to call date of \_\_\_\_\_.

**Redemption Provisions**

*Optional Redemption.* The Bonds maturing on October 1 in the years 2025 through 2034, inclusive, are not subject to redemption prior to their stated maturity.

The Bonds maturing on or after October 1, 2035, are subject to optional redemption, as a whole or in part (and if in part, with maturities to be selected by the City), on any date on or after October 1, 2034, at a price equal to 100% of the principal amount to be redeemed plus accrued interest, if any, to the date fixed for redemption.

*Mandatory Redemption.* The Bonds maturing in the years 20\_\_ and 20\_\_ are Term Bonds and, if not optionally redeemed or purchased in accordance with the Bond Ordinance, will be called for redemption at a price equal to 100% of the principal amount to be redeemed, plus accrued interest, if any, to the date fixed for redemption, on October 1 in years and amounts as follows:

<u>Mandatory Redemption Years</u>	<u>Mandatory Redemption Amounts</u>	<u>Mandatory Redemption Years</u>	<u>Mandatory Redemption Amounts</u>
20__	\$	20__	\$
20__		20__	
20__		20__	
20__(1)		20__(1)	

(1) Term Bond maturity.

All bids received other than that of the Purchaser are hereby rejected.

THE CITY OF SEATTLE

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Jamie L. Carnell, Interim Director of Finance  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Acknowledged by:  
 [PURCHASER]

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title: \_\_\_\_\_

**OFFICIAL NOTICE OF BOND SALE—EXHIBIT 2  
FORM OF ISSUE PRICE CERTIFICATE  
COMPETITIVE SALE SAFE HARBOR**

\$67,990,000<sup>(1)</sup>

**THE CITY OF SEATTLE, WASHINGTON  
WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT REVENUE BONDS, 2024**

The undersigned, on behalf of [NAME OF UNDERWRITER] (“[SHORT NAME OF UNDERWRITER]”) hereby certifies as set forth below with respect to the sale of the above-captioned obligations (the “Bonds”).

**Reasonably Expected Initial Offering Price**

- (i) As of the Sale Date, the reasonably expected initial offering prices of the Bonds to the Public by [SHORT NAME OF UNDERWRITER] are the prices listed in Schedule A (the “Expected Offering Prices”). The Expected Offering Prices are the prices for the maturities of the Bonds used by [SHORT NAME OF UNDERWRITER] in formulating its bid to purchase the Bonds. Attached as Schedule B is a true and correct copy of the bid provided by [SHORT NAME OF UNDERWRITER] to purchase the Bonds.
- (ii) [SHORT NAME OF UNDERWRITER] was not given the opportunity to review other bids prior to submitting its bid.
- (iii) The bid submitted by [SHORT NAME OF UNDERWRITER] constituted a firm offer to purchase the Bonds.

**Defined Terms**

- (i) *Maturity* means Bonds having the same maturity date and credit and payment terms.
- (ii) *Public* means any person (including an individual, trust, estate, partnership, association, company, or corporation) other than an Underwriter or a related party to an Underwriter. The term “related party” for purposes of this certificate generally means any two or more persons who have greater than 50% common ownership, directly or indirectly.
- (iii) *Sale Date* means the first day on which there is a binding contract in writing for the sale of a Maturity of the Bonds, as evidenced by the award of the bid submitted pursuant to the Official Notice of Bond Sale. The Sale Date of the Bonds is May 21, 2024.
- (iv) *Underwriter* means (a) [SHORT NAME OF UNDERWRITER], as the winning bidder to purchase the Bonds (and any person that agrees pursuant to a written contract with [SHORT NAME OF UNDERWRITER] as the lead underwriter to form an underwriting syndicate) to participate in the initial sale of the Bonds to the Public, and (b) any person that agrees pursuant to a written contract directly or indirectly with a person described in clause (a) of this paragraph to participate in the initial sale of the Bonds to the Public (including a member of a selling group or a party to a retail distribution agreement participating in the initial sale of the Bonds to the Public).

The representations set forth in this certificate are limited to factual matters only. Nothing in this certificate represents [SHORT NAME OF UNDERWRITER]’s interpretation of any laws, including specifically Sections 103 and 148 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and the Treasury Regulations thereunder. The undersigned understands that the foregoing information will be relied upon by the City with respect to certain of the representations set forth in the Tax Certificate and with respect to compliance with the federal income tax rules affecting the Bonds, and by Stradling Yocca Carlson & Rauth LLP, in connection with rendering its opinion that the interest on the Bonds is excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes, the preparation of the Internal Revenue Service Form 8038-G, and other federal income tax advice that it may provide to the City from time to time relating to the Bonds.

Dated: [ISSUE DATE]

[UNDERWRITER]

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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(1) Preliminary, subject to change.

**OFFICIAL NOTICE OF BOND SALE—EXHIBIT 3  
FORM OF ISSUE PRICE CERTIFICATE  
HOLD-THE-OFFERING-PRICE RULE**

\$67,990,000<sup>(1)</sup>

**THE CITY OF SEATTLE, WASHINGTON  
WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT REVENUE BONDS, 2024**

The undersigned, on behalf of [NAME OF UNDERWRITER/REPRESENTATIVE] (“[SHORT NAME OF UNDERWRITER]”) (the “Representative”), on behalf of itself and [NAMES OF OTHER UNDERWRITERS] (together, the “Underwriting Group”), hereby certifies as set forth below with respect to the sale and issuance of the above-captioned obligations (the “Bonds”).

**Sale of the General Rule Maturities**

As of the date of this certificate, for each Maturity of the General Rule Maturities, the first price at which at least 10% of such Maturity was sold to the Public is the respective price listed in Schedule A.

**Initial Offering Price of the Hold-the-Offering-Price Maturities**

- (i) [SHORT NAME OF UNDERWRITER][The Underwriting Group] offered the Hold-the-Offering-Price Maturities to the Public for purchase at the respective initial offering prices listed in Schedule A (the “Initial Offering Prices”) on or before the Sale Date. A copy of the pricing wire or equivalent communication for the Bonds is attached to this certificate as Schedule B.
- (ii) As set forth in the Official Notice of Bond Sale and bid award, [SHORT NAME OF UNDERWRITER][the members of the Underwriting Group] [has][have] agreed in writing that (i) for each Maturity of the Hold-the-Offering-Price Maturities, it would neither offer nor sell any of the Bonds of such Maturity to any person at a price that is higher than the Initial Offering Price for such Maturity during the Holding Period for such Maturity (the “hold-the-offering-price rule”), and (ii) any selling group agreement shall contain the agreement of each dealer who is a member of the selling group, and any retail distribution agreement shall contain the agreement of each broker-dealer who is a party to the retail distribution agreement, to comply with the hold-the-offering-price rule. Pursuant to such agreement, no Underwriter (as defined below) has offered or sold any Maturity of the Hold-the-Offering-Price Maturities at a price that is higher than the respective Initial Offering Price for that Maturity of the Bonds during the Holding Period.

**Defined Terms**

- (i) *General Rule Maturities* means those Maturities of the Bonds listed in Schedule A hereto as the “General Rule Maturities.”
- (ii) *Hold-the-Offering-Price Maturities* means those Maturities of the Bonds listed in Schedule A hereto as the “Hold-the-Offering-Price Maturities.”
- (iii) *Holding Period* means, with respect to a Hold-the-Offering-Price Maturity, the period starting on the Sale Date and ending on the earlier of (i) the close of the fifth business day after the Sale Date, or (ii) the date on which [SHORT NAME OF UNDERWRITER][the Underwriters] [has][have] sold at least 10% of such Hold-the-Offering-Price Maturity to the Public at prices that are no higher than the Initial Offering Price for such Hold-the-Offering-Price Maturity.
- (iv) *Issuer* means The City of Seattle, Washington.
- (v) *Maturity* means Bonds with the same credit and payment terms. Bonds with different maturity dates, or Bonds with the same maturity date but different stated interest rates, are treated as separate maturities.
- (vi) *Public* means any person (including an individual, trust, estate, partnership, association, company, or corporation) other than an Underwriter or a related party to an Underwriter. The term “related party” for

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(1) Preliminary, subject to change.

purposes of this certificate generally means any two or more persons who have greater than 50% common ownership, directly or indirectly.

- (vii) *Sale Date* means the first day on which there is a binding contract in writing for the sale of a Maturity of the Bonds. The Sale Date of the Bonds is May 21, 2024.
- (viii) *Underwriter* means (a) any person that agrees pursuant to a written contract with the Issuer (or with the lead underwriter to form an underwriting syndicate) to participate in the initial sale of the Bonds to the Public, and (b) any person that agrees pursuant to a written contract directly or indirectly with a person described in clause (a) of this paragraph to participate in the initial sale of the Bonds to the Public (including a member of a selling group or a party to a retail distribution agreement participating in the initial sale of the Bonds to the Public).

The representations set forth in this certificate are limited to factual matters only. Nothing in this certificate represents [NAME OF UNDERWRITING FIRM'S][the Representative's] interpretation of any laws, including specifically Sections 103 and 148 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and the Treasury Regulations thereunder. The undersigned understands that the foregoing information will be relied upon by the Issuer with respect to certain of the representations set forth in the Tax Certificate and with respect to compliance with the federal income tax rules affecting the Bonds, and by Stradling Yocca Carlson & Rauth LLP, in connection with rendering its opinion that the interest on the Bonds is excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes, the preparation of the Internal Revenue Service Form 8038-G, and other federal income tax advice that it may give to the Issuer from time to time relating to the Bonds.

Dated: [ISSUE DATE]

[NAME OF UNDERWRITER/REPRESENTATIVE]

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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## PRELIMINARY OFFICIAL STATEMENT

\$67,990,000<sup>(1)</sup>

### THE CITY OF SEATTLE, WASHINGTON WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT REVENUE BONDS, 2024

#### INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Official Statement, which includes the cover, inside cover, and appendices, is to set forth certain information concerning The City of Seattle, Washington (the “City”), a municipal corporation duly organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Washington (the “State”), in connection with the offering of \$67,990,000<sup>(1)</sup> aggregate principal amount of its Water System Improvement Revenue Bonds, 2024 (the “Bonds”). This Official Statement contains certain information related to such offering and sale concerning the City, the Bonds, Seattle Public Utilities (“SPU”), and the City’s water system (the “Water System”).

Appendix A to this Official Statement is a summary of the Bond Ordinance, as defined below under “Description of the Bonds—Authorization for the Bonds.” Appendix B is the form of legal opinion of Stradling Yocca Carlson & Rauth LLP, Seattle, Washington (“Bond Counsel”). Appendix C is the audited financial statements of the Water Fund as of and for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023 (the “2023 Audited Financial Statements”). Appendix D provides demographic and economic information for the City. Appendix E is a description provided on its website by The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York (“DTC”), of DTC procedures with respect to book-entry bonds. Capitalized terms that are not defined herein have the meanings set forth in the summary of the Bond Ordinance attached as Appendix A and in the Bond Documents (defined below).

All of the summaries of provisions of the Washington State Constitution (the “State Constitution”) and laws of the State, of ordinances and resolutions of the City, and of other documents contained in this Official Statement, copies of which may be obtained from the City upon request, are subject to the complete provisions thereof and do not purport to be complete statements of such laws or documents. A full review should be made of the entire Official Statement. The offering of the Bonds to prospective investors is made only by means of the entire Official Statement.

*Certain forecast information provided in this Official Statement was prepared by Seattle Public Utilities. Any forecast information speaks only as of the date it was prepared and the reader should exercise caution in relying on such information. Actual results could differ materially.*

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE BONDS

##### Authorization for the Bonds

The Bonds are to be issued by the City pursuant to the State Constitution, chapters 35.92 and 39.53 of the Revised Code of Washington (“RCW”), the Seattle City Charter, Ordinance 126716, passed by the City Council on November 29, 2022, as amended by Ordinance 126942, passed by the City Council on November 21, 2023 (as amended, the “Bond Ordinance”), delegating to the Director of the Office of City Finance within the City’s Department of Finance and Administrative Services (the “Director of Finance”) the authority to execute, on behalf of the City, a certificate of bid award, a pricing certificate (“Pricing Certificate”), and other documents (collectively, the “Bond Documents”) in accordance with the parameters set forth in the Bond Ordinance.

The Bond Ordinance authorized the issuance of water system bonds in a maximum aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$99 million. The authorization expires on December 31, 2026. The Bonds are the first issuance under this authorization and are in the amount of \$67.990 million<sup>(1)</sup>, leaving \$31,010,000<sup>(1)</sup> available under the Bond Ordinance. In addition, the City has \$29,270,000 authorized but unissued under Ordinance 126483, which in 2021 authorized the issuance of water system bonds in a maximum aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$88,000,000. The

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(1) Preliminary, subject to change.

authorization expires on December 31, 2024. The City currently has no plans to issue additional bonds under Ordinance 126483.

### **Principal Amounts, Dates, Interest Rates, and Maturities**

The Bonds will be dated the date of their initial issuance and delivery. The Bonds will mature on October 1 in the years and amounts set forth on page i of this Official Statement. Interest on the Bonds is payable semiannually on each April 1 and October 1, beginning October 1, 2024, at the rates set forth on page i of this Official Statement. Interest on the Bonds will be computed on the basis of a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months.

### **Registration and Book-Entry Form**

*Registrar and Paying Agent.* The Bonds will be issued only in registered form as to both principal and interest. The fiscal agent for the State, currently U.S. Bank Trust Company, National Association, in Seattle, Washington (or such other fiscal agent or agents as the State may from time to time designate) will act as registrar and paying agent for the Bonds (the “Bond Registrar”).

*Book-Entry Form.* The Bonds will be held fully immobilized in Book-Entry Form, registered in the name of the Securities Depository (defined in the Bond Documents as the Depository Trust Company, New York, New York (“DTC”), or any successor thereto) in accordance with the provisions of the Letter of Representations. Neither the City nor the Bond Registrar will have any responsibility or obligation to participants of the Securities Depository or the persons for whom they act as nominees with respect to the Bonds regarding the accuracy of any records maintained by the Securities Depository or its participants of any amount in respect of principal of or interest on the Bonds, or any notice which is permitted or required to be given to Registered Owners under the Bond Ordinance (except such notice as is required to be given by the Bond Registrar to the Securities Depository). Registered ownership of a Bond initially held in Book-Entry Form, or any portion thereof, may not be transferred except (i) to any successor Securities Depository, (ii) to any substitute Securities Depository appointed by the City or such substitute Securities Depository’s successor, or (iii) to any person if the Bond is no longer held in Book-Entry Form. For information about DTC and its book-entry system, see Appendix E—Book-Entry Transfer System. The City makes no representation as to the accuracy or completeness of the information in Appendix E obtained from DTC. Purchasers of the Bonds should confirm this information with DTC or its participants.

*Termination of Book-Entry System.* Upon the resignation of the Securities Depository from its functions as depository, or upon a determination by the Director of Finance to discontinue services of the Securities Depository, the Director of Finance may appoint a substitute Securities Depository. If the Securities Depository resigns from its functions as depository and no substitute Securities Depository can be obtained, or if the Director of Finance determines not to utilize a Securities Depository, then the Bonds no longer will be held in book-entry form and ownership may be transferred only as provided in the Bond Ordinance.

*Lost or Stolen Bonds.* In case any Bond is lost, stolen, or destroyed, the Bond Registrar may authenticate and deliver a new bond or bonds of like amount, date, tenor, and effect to the Registered Owner(s) thereof upon the Registered Owner(s)’ paying the expenses and charges of the City in connection therewith and upon filing with the Bond Registrar evidence satisfactory to the Bond Registrar that such bond or bonds were actually lost, stolen, or destroyed and of Registered Ownership thereof, and upon furnishing the City with indemnity satisfactory to both.

### **Payment of Bonds**

Principal of and interest on each Bond is payable in the manner set forth in the Letter of Representations. No Bonds will be subject to acceleration under any circumstances.

Interest on each Bond not held in Book-Entry Form is payable by electronic transfer on the interest payment date, or by check or draft of the Bond Registrar mailed on the interest payment date to the Registered Owner at the address appearing on the Bond Register on the Record Date. The City, however, is not required to make electronic transfers except pursuant to a request by a Registered Owner in writing received at least ten days prior to the Record Date and at the sole expense of the Registered Owner. Principal of each Bond not held in Book-Entry Form is payable upon presentation and surrender of the Bond by the Registered Owner to the Bond Registrar.



The Bond Ordinance defines “Record Date” as, in the case of each interest or principal payment date, the Bond Registrar’s close of business on the 15th day of the month preceding the interest or principal payment date. With regard to redemption of a Bond prior to its maturity, the Record Date means the Bond Registrar’s close of business on the day prior to the date on which the Bond Registrar sends the notice of redemption to the Registered Owner(s) of the affected Bonds.

**Redemption of Bonds**

*Optional Redemption.* The Bonds maturing on and before October 1, 2034, are not subject to redemption prior to maturity. The City reserves the right and option to redeem Bonds maturing on and after October 1, 2035, prior to their stated maturity dates at any time on and after October 1, 2034, as a whole or in part, at a price equal to 100% of the stated principal amount to be redeemed plus accrued interest to the date fixed for redemption.

*Mandatory Redemption.* If not redeemed or purchased at the City’s option prior to maturity, the Bonds designated as Term Bonds must be redeemed, at a price equal to 100% of the principal amount to be redeemed plus accrued interest, on October 1 in the years and principal amounts as follows:

<u>TERM BONDS</u>		<u>TERM BONDS</u>		<u>TERM BONDS</u>	
<u>Years</u>	<u>Amounts</u>	<u>Years</u>	<u>Amounts</u>	<u>Years</u>	<u>Amounts</u>
(1)		(1)		(1)	

(1) Maturity.

If the City optionally redeems or purchases Term Bonds prior to maturity, the principal amount of those Term Bonds so redeemed or purchased (irrespective of their actual redemption or purchase prices) will be credited against the remaining mandatory redemption installment payments as directed by the Director of Finance. In the absence of direction by the Director of Finance, credit will be allocated to each mandatory redemption installment payment for that Bond on a *pro rata* basis.

*Selection of Bonds for Redemption.* If fewer than all of the outstanding Bonds are to be redeemed at the option of the City, the Director of Finance will select the maturity or maturities to be redeemed. If less than all of the principal amount of a maturity of the Bonds is to be redeemed and such maturity is held in Book-Entry Form, the portion of such maturity to be redeemed will be selected for redemption by the Securities Depository in accordance with the Letter of Representations, and if such maturity is not then held in Book-Entry Form, the portion of such maturity to be redeemed will be selected by the Bond Registrar at random in such manner as the Bond Registrar determines.

All or a portion of the principal amount of any Bond that is to be redeemed may be redeemed in denominations of \$5,000 or integral multiples thereof within a maturity of the Bonds (“Authorized Denominations”). If less than all of the outstanding principal amount of any Bond is redeemed, upon surrender of that Bond to the Bond Registrar, there will be issued to the Registered Owner, without charge, a new Bond (or Bonds, at the option of the Registered Owner) of the same maturity and interest rate in any Authorized Denomination in the aggregate principal amount to remain outstanding.

*Notice of Redemption.* The City must cause notice of any intended redemption of Bonds to be given not less than 20 nor more than 60 days prior to the date fixed for redemption by first-class mail, postage prepaid, to the Registered Owner of any Bond to be redeemed at the address appearing on the Bond Register on the Record Date, and that notice requirement will be deemed to have been fulfilled when notice has been mailed as so provided, whether or not it is actually received by the Owner of any Bond. Interest on Bonds called for redemption will cease to accrue on the date fixed for redemption unless the Bond or Bonds called are not redeemed when presented pursuant to the call. See “—Registration and Book-Entry Form” and Appendix E.

*Rescission of Notice of Redemption.* In the case of an optional redemption, the notice may state that the City retains the right to rescind the redemption notice and the related optional redemption of the Bonds by giving a notice of rescission to the affected Registered Owners at any time on or prior to the scheduled optional redemption date. Any

notice of optional redemption that is rescinded by the Director of Finance will be of no effect, and the Bonds for which the notice of optional redemption has been rescinded will remain outstanding.

### **Purchase**

The City reserves the right and option to purchase any or all of the Bonds offered to the City at any time at any price acceptable to the City plus accrued interest to the date of purchase.

### **Failure to Pay Bonds**

If any Bond is not paid when properly presented at its maturity or redemption date, the City will be obligated to pay interest on that Bond at the same rate provided on that Bond from and after its maturity or redemption date until that Bond, principal, premium, if any, and interest, is paid in full or until sufficient money for its payment in full is on deposit in the Water System Parity Bond Account (the “Parity Bond Account”), and that Bond has been called for payment by giving notice of that call to the Registered Owner of that Bond.

### **Refunding or Defeasance of Bonds**

The City may issue refunding bonds pursuant to the laws of the State or use money available from any other lawful source (i) to pay when due the principal of (including premium, if any) and interest on any Bond or portion thereof included in a refunding or defeasance plan (the “Defeased Bonds”), (ii) to redeem and retire, release, refund, or defease the Defeased Bonds, and (iii) to pay the costs of such refunding or defeasance. If money and/or Government Obligations (defined below) maturing at a time or times and in an amount sufficient, together with known earned income from the investment thereof, to redeem and retire, release, refund, or defease the Defeased Bonds in accordance with their terms, are set aside in a special trust fund or escrow account irrevocably pledged to such redemption, retirement, or defeasance (the “Trust Account”), then all right and interest of the Owners of the Defeased Bonds in the covenants of the Bond Ordinance and in Net Revenue (defined under “Security for the Bonds—Pledge of Net Revenue”) and the funds and accounts pledged to the payment of such Defeased Bonds, other than the right to receive the funds so set aside and pledged, will cease and become void. Such Owners thereafter have the right to receive payment of the principal of and interest or redemption price on the Defeased Bonds from the Trust Account. After the Trust Account is established and fully funded, the Defeased Bonds will be deemed no longer outstanding and the Director of Finance may then apply any money in any other fund or account established for the payment or redemption of the Defeased Bonds to any lawful purposes. Notice of refunding or defeasance will be given, and selection of Bonds for any partial refunding or defeasance will be conducted, in the manner set forth in the Bond Ordinance for the redemption of Bonds.

The term “Government Obligations” is defined in the Bond Ordinance to include any securities that are then permissible investments under the State law definition of “government obligations” under RCW 39.53.010. In the Pricing Certificate, the City has limited eligibility to the following types of securities (provided that such securities are then permissible under the applicable statute): (i) direct obligations of, or obligations the principal of and interest on which are unconditionally guaranteed by, the United States of America, and bank certificates of deposit secured by such obligations; (ii) bonds, debentures, notes, participation certificates, or other obligations issued by the Banks for Cooperatives, the Federal Intermediate Credit Bank, the Federal Home Loan Bank system, the Export-Import Bank of the United States, Federal Land Banks, or the Federal National Mortgage Association; (iii) public housing bonds and project notes fully secured by contracts with the United States; and (iv) obligations of financial institutions insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation, to the extent insured or to the extent guaranteed as permitted under any other provision of State law.

### **Defaults and Remedies; No Acceleration of the Bonds**

The Bond Ordinance does not enumerate events of default or remedies upon an event of default. In the event of a default, Bond owners would be permitted to pursue remedies permitted by State law. See “—Failure to Pay Bonds” above and “Security for the Bonds” below.

The Bonds are not subject to acceleration upon the occurrence of a default. The City, therefore, would be liable only for principal and interest payments as they become due. In the event of multiple defaults in payment of principal or interest on the Bonds, the Registered Owners would be required to bring a separate action for each such payment not made. This could give rise to a difference in interests between Registered Owners of earlier and later maturing Bonds.

## USE OF PROCEEDS

### Purpose

The Bonds are being issued to pay for part of the costs of various projects of the City's Water System, to provide for a deposit to the Reserve Subaccount, and to pay the costs of issuing the Bonds.

### Sources and Uses of Funds

The proceeds of the Bonds will be applied as follows:

**TABLE 1**  
**SOURCES AND USES OF FUNDS**

<b>SOURCES OF FUNDS</b>	
Stated Principal Amount of the Bonds	
Original Issue Premium	
Total Sources of Funds	<u>\$ -</u>
<b>USES OF FUNDS</b>	
Construction Account Deposit	
Reserve Subaccount Deposit	
Costs of Issuance <sup>(1)</sup>	
Total Uses of Funds	<u>\$ -</u>

(1) Includes legal fees, financial advisory and rating agency fees, printing costs, underwriter's discount, and other costs of issuing the Bonds.

## SECURITY FOR THE BONDS

### Pledge of Net Revenue

The Bonds are special limited obligations of the City payable from and secured solely by the Net Revenue of the Water System and by money in the Parity Bond Account and the subaccounts therein (including the Reserve Subaccount). Net Revenue is pledged to make the payments in respect of the Parity Bonds into the Parity Bond Account and the Reserve Subaccount required by the Bond Documents, which pledge constitutes a lien and charge upon such Net Revenue prior and superior to all other liens and charges whatsoever. The Bonds are on a parity with the Outstanding Parity Bonds and all Future Parity Bonds, without preference or priority of right or lien. Upon the redemption or defeasance of certain of the Outstanding Parity Bonds, the Bond Documents provide that the Bonds will cease to be secured by the Reserve Subaccount. See "Reserve Subaccount" below. The City has covenanted that for as long as any Bond is outstanding, it will issue Future Parity Bonds only in accordance with the Bond Documents. See "—Additional Obligations" and Appendix A—Summary of Bond Ordinance.

The City has reserved the right to combine the Water System, including its funds and accounts, with other City utility systems, funds, and accounts. See "—Combined Utility Systems."

*The Bonds do not constitute general obligations of the City, the State, or any political subdivision of the State, or a lien or charge upon any general fund or upon any money or other property of the City, the State, or any political subdivision of the State not specifically pledged thereto by the Bond Documents. Neither the full faith and credit nor the taxing power of the City, nor any revenues of the City derived from sources other than the Water System, are pledged to the payment of the Bonds.*

The Parity Bond Account has been created and is maintained as a separate account within the Water Fund for the sole purpose of paying the principal of and premium, if any, and interest on the Parity Bonds, including the Bonds, as the same become due. The City has agreed to pay into the Parity Bond Account, on or prior to the respective dates on

which principal and interest are payable, all utility local improvement district (“ULID”) assessments on their collection (except for ULID assessments deposited in a construction account) and certain amounts from the Net Revenue of the Water System sufficient to pay such principal and interest when due. See Appendix A—Summary of Bond Ordinance.

### **Reserve Subaccount**

The Reserve Subaccount has been created and maintained as a subaccount within the Parity Bond Account for the purpose of securing the payment of the principal of and interest on all Parity Bonds outstanding. The City has covenanted that it will, so long as any Covered Parity Bonds are outstanding, maintain the Reserve Subaccount at the lesser of (i) Maximum Annual Debt Service on all Parity Bonds outstanding at the time of calculation or (ii) 125% of Average Annual Debt Service on all Parity Bonds outstanding at the time of calculation (the “Reserve Requirement”). Under the Bond Documents, the City must fund any increase in the Reserve Requirement due to the issuance of the Bonds by a deposit of Parity Bond proceeds, Net Revenue in no more than five annual installments, or a Reserve Security. See Appendix A—Summary of Bond Ordinance.

*From and after the Reserve Covenant Date (as defined below), the Reserve Subaccount will secure only such Parity Bonds as are designated as “Covered Parity Bonds” and the Reserve Requirement will be calculated based on debt service relating to Covered Parity Bonds only. In the Bond Documents, the Bonds are designated as Parity Bonds that are not Covered Parity Bonds and after the Reserve Covenant Date, the Bonds will no longer be secured by the amounts on deposit in the Reserve Subaccount. See Appendix A—Summary of Bond Ordinance for definitions of Covered Parity Bonds and Reserve Requirement.*

*The Reserve Covenant Date is the earlier to occur of (i) the date on which all of the currently outstanding Water System Revenue Bonds, 2010A (Taxable Build America Bonds-Direct Payment) (the “2010A Bonds”); Water System Refunding Revenue Bonds, 2012 (the “2012 Bonds”); and Water System Improvement and Refunding Revenue Bonds, 2015 (the “2015 Bonds”), have been redeemed or defeased in full; or (ii) the date on which the City has obtained consents of the requisite percentage of Registered Owners of Parity Bonds then-outstanding. **Purchasers of the Bonds are deemed to have given their consent as of the issue date for the Bonds and will be added to the consents obtained at the issuance of the Bonds and any other consents obtained in the future.***

Upon the issuance of the Bonds, the Reserve Subaccount is expected to be funded as shown in the following table. Under the Bond Documents, each of the surety policies shown in the following table qualifies as a Reserve Security in order to satisfy the Reserve Requirement, as each issuer was assigned a credit rating in the two highest rating categories at the time of issuance. See Appendix A—Summary of Bond Ordinance for definitions of Reserve Security and Qualified Insurance.

**TABLE 2**  
**RESERVE SUBACCOUNT SUMMARY**

Surety Provider	Surety Bonds	Expiration Date	Current Ratings	
			Moody's	S&P
NPFG <sup>(1)</sup>	\$3,783,203	08/01/2026	Baa2	NR
AMBAC	5,397,000	10/01/2027	Withdrawn	
NPFG <sup>(1)</sup>	4,431,090	03/01/2029	Baa2	NR
NPFG <sup>(1)</sup>	9,440,403	07/01/2029	Baa2	NR
NPFG <sup>(1)</sup>	1,279,360	11/01/2031	Baa2	NR
NPFG <sup>(2)</sup>	4,256,356	09/01/2033	Baa2	NR
NPFG <sup>(2)</sup>	3,474,371	09/01/2034	Baa2	NR
Assured Guaranty <sup>(3)</sup>	<u>3,110,214</u>	02/01/2037	A3	AA
<b>Total Surety Bonds</b>	<b>\$35,171,996</b>			
<b>Cash Deposits</b>				
Deposit from Bond Proceeds <sup>(4)</sup>	\$5,397,397			
Existing Cash Deposit	<u>20,884,236</u>			
<b>Total Cash and Surety Bonds</b>	<b><u>\$61,453,630</u></b>			
<b>Reserve Fund Requirement<sup>(4)</sup></b>	<b>\$38,337,001</b>			

- (1) National Public Finance Guarantee Corp., a wholly-owned subsidiary of MBIA, Inc. (“NPFG”). Surety originally provided by Financial Guaranty Insurance Company.
- (2) Surety originally provided by MBIA.
- (3) Surety originally provided by Financial Security Assurance Inc.
- (4) Preliminary, subject to change.

**Outstanding Parity Bonds**

The outstanding 2010A Bonds, 2012 Bonds; 2015 Bonds; Water System Improvement and Refunding Revenue Bonds, 2017 (the “2017 Bonds”); Water System Improvement and Refunding Revenue Bonds, 2021 (Green Bonds) (the “2021 Bonds”); and Water System Improvement and Refunding Revenue Bonds, 2022 (Green Bonds) (the “2022 Bonds”), issued by the City and secured by revenues of the Water System on a parity with the Bonds, collectively are referred to as the “Outstanding Parity Bonds.” The Outstanding Parity Bonds, the Bonds, and any Future Parity Bonds collectively are referred to as the “Parity Bonds.” The following table provides a summary of the Outstanding Parity Bonds.

**TABLE 3  
OUTSTANDING PARITY BONDS**

<b>Bond Description</b>	<b>Original Par Amount</b>	<b>Outstanding Principal as of 5/10/2024</b>
2010A Bonds	\$ 109,080,000	\$ 91,170,000
2012 Bonds	238,770,000	10,750,000
2015 Bonds	340,840,000	168,375,000
2017 Bonds	194,685,000	161,480,000
2021 Bonds	82,220,000	76,595,000
2022 Bonds	93,260,000	75,055,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,058,855,000</b>	<b>\$ 583,425,000</b>

### State Loan Program Obligations

The City has seven currently outstanding agreements with the Washington State Department of Ecology (“Ecology”) for very low interest rate loans. These loans were provided through the State’s Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (“DWSRF”) program, which is funded with a combination of State and federal Clean Water Act dollars. The loans are used by the City to pay for the construction of capital improvements.

The City’s currently outstanding loans are identified in the table below. All outstanding loans are secured by a lien on Net Revenue of the Water System that is junior to the lien of the Parity Bonds. The documents for each loan differ slightly from one another in various respects. While some of the programmatic documents contain language purporting to permit acceleration, the State Attorney General’s Office has indicated that none of these provisions would be enforced in the event of a default. Certain of the loan documents and a State statute relating to the revolving fund loans funded by federal grants purport to permit the State to recapture loan debt service payments from other funds payable to the borrower by the State to make the revolving fund whole in the event of a payment default. It is not clear whether such a provision would be enforceable or, if such recapture were to occur, what funds would be charged or how it would be treated from an accounting standpoint.

**TABLE 4  
STATE LOAN PROGRAM OBLIGATIONS<sup>(1)</sup>  
(AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2023)**

<b>Facility</b>	<b>Year of Agreement</b>	<b>Maturity</b>	<b>Amount Outstanding</b>	<b>Interest Rate</b>
Myrtle Reservoir	2005	2025	\$ 448,889	1.50%
Beacon Hill Reservoir	2007	2026	637,895	1.50%
West Seattle Reservoir	2008	2027	637,895	1.50%
Maple Leaf Reservoir	2010	2029	968,099	1.50%
Maple Leaf Reservoir ARRA	2010	2032	3,303,791	1.00%
Chester Morse Lake Pump Plant	2014	2037	8,484,000	1.50%
Chester Morse Lake Pump Plant	2016	2036	4,146,316	1.50%
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$ 18,626,885</b>	

(1) The City has been awarded, but has not signed, a loan in the maximum principal amount of \$12 million for the Bitter Lake Reservoir, bearing interest at a rate of 1.75% over a 24-year term. After the loan is signed, the City expects to begin drawing upon the loan over a two-year period beginning in 2025 and expects to begin repayment in approximately 2027.

### Additional Obligations

*Future Parity Bonds.* The City reserves the right to issue Future Parity Bonds and to enter into Parity Payment Agreements for any lawful purpose of the Water System or to refund a portion of the Parity Bonds upon satisfaction of certain conditions set forth in the Bond Documents. Among other conditions, the City must have on file at the time of the issuance of the Future Parity Bonds:

- (i) a certificate of the Director of Finance demonstrating that, during any 12 consecutive months out of the immediately preceding 24 months, Adjusted Net Revenue (as defined in Appendix A—Summary of Bond Ordinance) was at least equal to 1.25 times the Adjusted Annual Debt Service (the “Coverage Requirement”) for all Parity Bonds plus the Future Parity Bonds to be issued (using Average Annual Debt Service on such proposed Future Parity Bonds as the assumed debt service for those proposed bonds during such 12-month period), or
- (ii) a certificate of the Director of Finance and the General Manager of SPU demonstrating that, in their opinion, Adjusted Net Revenue (taking into account certain permitted revenue adjustments) will be at least equal to the Coverage Requirement for the five fiscal years next following the earlier of (a) the end of the period during which interest on those Future Parity Bonds is to be capitalized or, if no interest is capitalized, the fiscal year in which the Future Parity Bonds are issued, or (b) the date on which substantially all new facilities financed with those Future Parity Bonds are expected to commence operations.

If the Future Parity Bonds proposed to be issued are for the sole purpose of refunding Parity Bonds, no such coverage certification will be required if the Adjusted Annual Debt Service on the Parity Bonds after the issuance of the Future Parity Bonds is not, for any year in which the Parity Bonds being refunded were outstanding, more than \$5,000 over the Adjusted Annual Debt Service on the Parity Bonds prior to the issuance of those Future Parity Bonds. See Appendix A—Summary of Bond Ordinance.

*Future Subordinate Lien Bonds.* In the Bond Documents, the City has reserved the right to issue revenue bonds or other obligations having a lien on Net Revenue subordinate to the lien of the Parity Bonds.

*Parity Payment Agreements.* The City may enter into Parity Payment Agreements secured by a pledge of and lien on Net Revenue on a parity with the Parity Bonds, subject to the satisfaction of the requirements for the issuance of Future Parity Bonds. The Bond Ordinance provides that purchasers of the Bonds have consented to the adoption by the City of future supplemental or amendatory ordinances or resolutions that would permit the City to treat reimbursement obligations under a Qualified Letter of Credit or Qualified Insurance (excluding Reserve Securities) as Parity Payment Agreements. See Appendix A—Summary of Bond Ordinance.

*Contract Resource Obligations.* The City may at any time enter into one or more Contract Resource Obligations for the acquisition, from facilities to be constructed, of water supply, transmission, or other commodity or service. The City may determine that all payments under those Contract Resource Obligations (including payments prior to the time such supply or service is being provided or during suspension or after termination of supply or service) will be an Operation and Maintenance Expense, upon compliance with certain requirements of the Bond Documents. See Appendix A—Summary of Bond Ordinance.

### **Rate Covenant**

The City has covenanted to establish, maintain, revise as necessary, and collect rates and charges for water service that will produce Adjusted Net Revenue of the Water System in each fiscal year at least equal to the Coverage Requirement. The definitions of Adjusted Gross Revenue and Adjusted Annual Debt Service in the Bond Documents provide for adjustments for deposits to and withdrawals from the Revenue Stabilization Subfund and for ULID Assessments. See Appendix A—Summary of Bond Ordinance.

### **Revenue Stabilization Subfund**

The Revenue Stabilization Subfund was originally created by the City as a separate account in the Water Fund named the “Rate Stabilization Account” pursuant to Ordinance 116705 and was subsequently renamed the “Revenue Stabilization Subfund” by Ordinance 120875. The City may at any time, as determined by the Director of Finance, deposit in the Revenue Stabilization Subfund Gross Revenue and any other money received by the Water System and available to be used therefor and may withdraw any or all of the money from that account for inclusion in Adjusted Gross Revenue for any fiscal year of the City. Such deposits and withdrawals may be made up to and including the date 90 days after the end of the fiscal year for which the deposit or withdrawal will be included as Adjusted Gross Revenue. No deposit of Gross Revenue may be made into the Revenue Stabilization Subfund to the extent that such deposit would prevent the City from meeting the Coverage Requirement in the relevant fiscal year.

As of December 31, 2023, the balance in the Revenue Stabilization Subfund was \$47.5 million. See “Water System—Financial Policies” and Appendix A—Summary of Bond Ordinance.

### **Other Covenants**

In the Bond Documents, the City has entered into other covenants, including those with respect to maintenance of the Water System, sale of the Water System, and preservation of tax exemption of interest on the Bonds. See Appendix A—Summary of Bond Ordinance.

### **Separate Utility Systems**

The City has reserved the right to create, acquire, construct, finance, own, or operate one or more additional systems for water supply, transmission, or other commodity or service. The revenue of the separate utility system will not be included in Gross Revenue, and may be pledged to the payment of revenue obligations issued for the purposes of the separate system. Neither Gross Revenue nor Net Revenue of the Water System will be pledged to the payment of any obligations of the separate system, except as a Contract Resource Obligation in compliance with the Bond Documents or, with respect to Net Revenue, on a basis subordinate to the lien of the Parity Bonds on that Net Revenue. See Appendix A—Bond Ordinance.

### **Combined Utility Systems**

The City has reserved the right to combine the Water System with other City utility systems, including their funds and accounts. See the definition of “Municipal Water System” in Appendix A—Summary of Bond Ordinance. Also see “Seattle Public Utilities—Administrative Structure” for a description of existing City utilities that have reserved the right to combine with other City utilities.

### **Debt Service Requirements**

The following table shows the debt service scheduled to be paid from the Net Revenue of the Water System.



**TABLE 5**  
**DEBT SERVICE REQUIREMENTS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2023<sup>(1)</sup>**

Year	Outstanding Parity Bonds <sup>(2)</sup>			The Bonds <sup>(3)</sup>			Total Parity Bonds	State Loan Program Obligations <sup>(4)</sup>	Total Debt Service
	Principal	Interest	Total	Principal	Interest	Total			
2024	\$ 44,025,000	\$ 27,962,999	\$ 71,987,999	\$ -	\$ 1,085,951	\$ 1,085,951	\$ 73,073,950	\$ 2,312,819	\$ 75,386,770
2025	46,170,000	25,722,859	71,892,859	1,025,000	3,399,500	4,424,500	76,317,359	2,283,905	78,601,264
2026	44,140,000	23,446,577	67,586,577	1,075,000	3,348,250	4,423,250	72,009,827	2,030,548	74,040,375
2027	42,405,000	21,286,301	63,691,301	1,130,000	3,294,500	4,424,500	68,115,801	1,792,369	69,908,170
2028	40,505,000	19,122,918	59,627,918	1,185,000	3,238,000	4,423,000	64,050,918	1,610,538	65,661,456
2029	43,415,000	17,380,008	60,795,008	-	3,178,750	3,178,750	63,973,758	1,590,573	65,564,331
2030	31,285,000	15,684,354	46,969,354	2,515,000	3,178,750	5,693,750	52,663,104	1,409,257	54,072,361
2031	33,930,000	13,882,655	47,812,655	1,370,000	3,053,000	4,423,000	52,235,655	1,391,712	53,627,367
2032	32,455,000	12,315,333	44,770,333	1,440,000	2,984,500	4,424,500	49,194,833	1,374,167	50,569,000
2033	29,295,000	10,990,915	40,285,915	1,515,000	2,912,500	4,427,500	44,713,415	989,534	45,702,949
2034	25,200,000	9,702,767	34,902,767	1,590,000	2,836,750	4,426,750	39,329,517	975,660	40,305,177
2035	23,330,000	8,571,110	31,901,110	1,670,000	2,757,250	4,427,250	36,328,360	961,786	37,290,145
2036	24,270,000	7,509,339	31,779,339	1,750,000	2,673,750	4,423,750	36,203,089	947,912	37,151,000
2037	25,245,000	6,404,865	31,649,865	1,840,000	2,586,250	4,426,250	36,076,115	615,090	36,691,205
2038	20,340,000	5,256,245	25,596,245	1,930,000	2,494,250	4,424,250	30,020,495	-	30,020,495
2039	14,780,000	4,425,938	19,205,938	2,025,000	2,397,750	4,422,750	23,628,688	-	23,628,688
2040	15,365,000	3,690,151	19,055,151	2,130,000	2,296,500	4,426,500	23,481,651	-	23,481,651
2041	8,630,000	2,925,300	11,555,300	2,235,000	2,190,000	4,425,000	15,980,300	-	15,980,300
2042	8,990,000	2,563,000	11,553,000	2,345,000	2,078,250	4,423,250	15,976,250	-	15,976,250
2043	9,365,000	2,185,550	11,550,550	2,465,000	1,961,000	4,426,000	15,976,550	-	15,976,550
2044	9,755,000	1,792,200	11,547,200	2,585,000	1,837,750	4,422,750	15,969,950	-	15,969,950
2045	10,175,000	1,382,250	11,557,250	2,715,000	1,708,500	4,423,500	15,980,750	-	15,980,750
2046	7,660,000	1,013,400	8,673,400	2,855,000	1,572,750	4,427,750	13,101,150	-	13,101,150
2047	2,020,000	687,750	2,707,750	2,995,000	1,430,000	4,425,000	7,132,750	-	7,132,750
2048	2,125,000	586,750	2,711,750	3,145,000	1,280,250	4,425,250	7,137,000	-	7,137,000
2049	2,230,000	480,500	2,710,500	3,300,000	1,123,000	4,423,000	7,133,500	-	7,133,500
2050	2,340,000	369,000	2,709,000	3,465,000	958,000	4,423,000	7,132,000	-	7,132,000
2051	2,460,000	252,000	2,712,000	3,640,000	784,750	4,424,750	7,136,750	-	7,136,750
2052	2,580,000	129,000	2,709,000	3,825,000	602,750	4,427,750	7,136,750	-	7,136,750
2053	-	-	-	4,015,000	411,500	4,426,500	4,426,500	-	4,426,500
2054	-	-	-	4,215,000	210,750	4,425,750	4,425,750	-	4,425,750
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 604,485,000</b>	<b>\$ 247,722,033</b>	<b>\$ 852,207,033</b>	<b>\$ 67,990,000</b>	<b>\$ 65,865,451</b>	<b>\$ 133,855,451</b>	<b>\$ 986,062,484</b>	<b>\$ 20,285,870</b>	<b>\$ 1,006,348,354</b>

## NOTES TO TABLE:

- (1) Totals may not add due to rounding.
- (2) Does not reflect the 35% federal interest rate subsidy associated with the 2010A Bonds. See “Treatment of Tax Credit Subsidy Payments Under the Bond Documents and Consent to Future Amendments.”
- (3) Preliminary, subject to change. Assumes bonds are sold at a premium with a 5% interest rate.
- (4) These loans are secured by a lien on Net Revenue of the Water System that is junior to the lien of the Parity Bonds.

### **Treatment of Tax Credit Subsidy Payments Under the Bond Documents and Consent to Future Amendments**

*Tax Credit Subsidy Bond Payments and Future Amendments to Bond Documents.* The 2010A Bonds were issued as Build America Bonds. The Bond Documents authorizing the Outstanding Parity Bonds and the Bonds do not currently permit the City to net the Tax Credit Subsidy Payments received out of its calculation of Annual Debt Service for purposes of calculating whether the Coverage Requirement has been met, or to include the payments expected to be received as Gross Revenue for purposes of meeting the test for issuing Future Parity Bonds. The City includes the amounts actually received in respect of Tax Credit Subsidy Payments as “Other Income” in calculating current compliance with the Coverage Requirement.

The Bond Ordinance provides that purchasers of the Bonds have consented to the adoption by the City of future supplemental or amendatory ordinances or resolutions that would permit the tax credit subsidy payments to be netted against debt service to be paid in the future. See Appendix A—Summary of Bond Ordinance.

*Effect of Federal Sequestration.* With respect to the City’s outstanding 2010A Parity Bonds, the City is eligible for a tax credit subsidy payment of 35% of each interest payment due. As a result of federal sequestration, the interest subsidy payments from the federal government that came due in federal fiscal year 2023 were reduced by 5.7% (\$108,291), and payments in federal fiscal year 2024 will also be reduced by 5.7% (\$104,432). The City has sufficient cash available in the Water Fund to make timely debt service payments through its 2024 budget cycle. The City cannot predict how future federal legislative or budgetary measures could adversely affect the amount of the subsidy payment to the City.

## SEATTLE PUBLIC UTILITIES

### **Administrative Structure**

The City’s water, drainage, wastewater, and solid waste utility services are consolidated administratively into a single entity known as Seattle Public Utilities. Within SPU, there are three separate funds: the Water Fund, the Drainage and Wastewater Fund, and the Solid Waste Fund. The City has reserved the right to combine the Water System, including the Water Fund, with other City utility systems, funds, and accounts in the future. The City also has reserved the right to combine the Drainage and Wastewater System (including the Drainage and Wastewater Fund) and the Solid Waste System (including the Solid Waste Fund) with other City utility systems, funds and accounts.

### **Management**

SPU consists of the General Manager’s Office, which includes groups dedicated to corporate policy and planning, corporate performance, and intergovernmental relations, and six Executive Branches. Of these six Executive Branches, People, Culture, and Community provides City-wide services; Financial and Risk Services and Project Delivery and Engineering provide utility-wide services; and Drainage and Wastewater, Solid Waste, and Water are lines of business. SPU’s organizational structure has been created through strategic business planning activities and priorities across multiple years. See “Seattle Public Utilities—Strategic Business Plan.” The General Manager administers SPU in accordance with policies established by the Mayor of the City (the “Mayor”) and the City Council. Brief biographies of the members of SPU’s executive management team follow.

*Andrew Lee, PE, PMP, General Manager/Chief Executive Officer.* Mr. Lee joined SPU in 2019 and currently is responsible for SPU’s annual budget and oversight of its rates and utility funds, as well as conservation of the City’s watersheds and compliance with federal and State water quality and environmental laws. He has more than 20 years of experience in utilities, having worked for SPU, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, Bellevue Utilities, Brown and Caldwell, and Olivia Chen Consultants (now AECOM). He has extensive experience in capital planning

and program management, regulatory compliance and negotiations, asset management, and drainage, wastewater, and drinking water engineering, and is a member of the Project Management Institute.

Mr. Lee has a bachelor's degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering and a Master of Science degree in Environmental Engineering and Sciences, both from Stanford University. He is a licensed Professional Engineer in Washington and California and a certified Project and Program Management Professional.

*Paula Laschober, Chief Financial Officer/Deputy Director of Financial and Risk Services.* Ms. Laschober was appointed as CFO in 2019 and oversees the functions of finance, accounting, internal control, real property, contracts and procurement, and risk and quality assurance. Prior to joining SPU, she served for 30 years at Seattle City Light in financial services. Most recently, she was City Light's CFO, responsible for leadership and strategic direction of financial planning, rate setting, budgeting, accounting, internal audit, corporate performance and risk mitigation. She also managed City Light's information technology planning and strategy, via liaison with Seattle Information Technology ("Seattle IT"), a City department. Prior to joining City Light, she was a senior analyst with the utility consulting firm R.W. Beck and Associates in its Seattle headquarters office.

Ms. Laschober has a Master of Business Administration degree in Finance and a Ph.D. in Latin American Literature from the University of Washington.

*Idris Beauregard, Deputy Director, People, Culture, and Community.* Mr. Beauregard oversees the Corporate Performance, Human Resources, Customer Care, and Clean Cities divisions. He has been with the City for more than 20 years. He began his City career at Seattle Parks and Recreation and joined SPU in 2013. Prior to taking on the deputy director role, he was the Clean City Division Director, overseeing illegal dumping and graffiti response, as well as encampment trash, sharps, RV remediation, homelessness, and litter abatement programs.

Mr. Beauregard earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Washington and his Executive Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Washington's Evans School of Public Policy and Governance.

*Keri Burchard-Juarez, PE, PMP, Deputy Director for Project Delivery and Engineering.* Ms. Burchard-Juarez joined SPU in 2018 as the Deputy Director for Project Delivery and Engineering, overseeing the design and construction of drinking water, wastewater, drainage, and solid waste projects. In this role, she oversees Project Management and Controls, Engineering and Technical Services, Project Services, Construction Management, Development Services, and delivery of the Ship Canal Water Quality Project. Previously, she served as the Assistant Director for Engineering and Capital Project Delivery at the City of Austin, Texas, where she worked for 11 years. She started in Austin as a Project Manager, managing drainage and water treatment plant rehabilitation projects, then served as Manager of the Project Management Division. She played a significant role in delivering major infrastructure projects to Austin residents, including a new water treatment plant and a mile-long drainage tunnel through downtown. She also spent time in the private sector, designing public infrastructure and land development projects.

Ms. Burchard-Juarez earned a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin. She is a licensed Professional Engineer in Texas and Washington and a certified Project Management Professional.

*Ellen Stewart, Deputy Director for Drainage and Wastewater Line of Business.* Ms. Stewart oversees planning, program management, regulatory compliance, operations and maintenance, source control, and pollution prevention for the Drainage and Wastewater line of business. She started with SPU in 2001 as a Source Control Inspector and most recently served as the Division Director for the Source Control and Pollution Prevention Division, which includes regulatory compliance functions such as stormwater and wastewater source control, as well as outreach and engagement programs. Her expertise includes ensuring systems and processes are designed for efficiency and innovation.

Ms. Stewart has a Bachelor of Science degree in Aquatic Resources from the University of Vermont.

*Jeff Fowler, PE, Deputy Director for Solid Waste Line of Business.* Mr. Fowler is the Deputy Director of the Solid Waste line of business and Program and Planning Division. He oversees the management of two transfer stations, two household hazardous waste facilities, and multiple closed landfills, administration and compliance of SPU's solid waste collection contracts, and solid waste-related outreach and education. He has been with SPU for more than

25 years. Most recently, he was the Director of SPU Construction Management, responsible for contract administration and quality assurance on capital improvements.

Mr. Fowler has a Bachelor of Civil Engineering degree from Washington State University and a Master of Civil Engineering degree from the University of Washington. He is a licensed Professional Engineer in Washington.

*Alex Chen, PE, Deputy Director for Water Line of Business and Utility Operations and Maintenance Branch.* As the Deputy Director for the Water Line of Business and Utility Operations and Maintenance since early 2020, Mr. Chen oversees SPU's drinking water system. He supervises SPU's Watershed Management Division, Water Quality Division, Water Planning and Program Management Division, Water Operations and System Maintenance Division, and Utility Operations and Maintenance Division. He has been at SPU since 2005, serving nine years as the drinking water treatment plants contract manager and five years as the Division Director for long-term asset management of the drinking water system as well as water supply operations. Prior to joining SPU, he spent seven years as a private design consultant, managing the design and construction of wastewater and drinking water reservoirs, pump stations, and treatment plants for a variety of utility clients, and four years as a treatment plant engineer for the East Bay Municipal Utility District.

Mr. Chen holds Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Civil/Environmental Engineering from Stanford University. He is a licensed Professional Engineer, a Water Treatment Plant Operator IV, and a Water Distribution Manager IV in Washington.

*Andrew Greenhill, Chief of Staff, Office of the General Manager.* As the Chief of Staff for the Office of the General Manager since late 2023, Mr. Greenhill supervises the General Manager's office administrative staff and three divisions: Community Affairs, Corporate Planning and Policy, and Government Relations and Legislative Affairs. Prior to joining SPU, he served the City of Tucson for 24 years, including 13 years as Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor, three years as Assistant to the City Manager, and eight years as Intergovernmental Relations Manager for the City of Tucson and the Tucson Water Utility.

Mr. Greenhill has a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Vassar College and a Master of Arts degree in English from the University of Arizona.

### **Employment Retirement System and Employee Relations**

As of December 31, 2023, SPU has approximately 1,325 regular employees, approximately 85% of whom are represented under one of 14 labor agreements with the Coalition of City Unions. In 2021, the Civil Service Commission certified the Washington State Council of County and City Employees ("WSCCCE") as the exclusive bargaining unit for SPU's Strategic Advisors and Managers, which became effective on January 1, 2022. WSCCCE and the City are currently negotiating the collective bargaining agreement. See "The City of Seattle—Labor Relations."

Almost all SPU employees are members of the Seattle City Employee Retirement System, which requires SPU, like all City departments, to make employer contributions equal to an actuarially determined percentage of covered payroll. See "The City of Seattle—Pension Plans."

### **Recovery from COVID-19 Pandemic**

SPU's financial performance was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, as reflected in the notes to the financial statements for 2020 through 2022, but 2023 results were close to pre-pandemic levels. General Service was 1.2% below the five-year average pre-COVID, and Residential was 0.6% below that same five-year average. Wholesale is up 0.3% by the same metric. All are within annual swing margins and also align with the overall trend of flat to slight decline. See "Water System—Management Discussion and Analysis of Operating Results."

### **Climate Change**

The City expects that global climate change will have wide-ranging impacts in the Central Puget Sound, including, but not limited to, shifts to the region's water and hydrologic cycle, increases in air temperature, and rising water levels along the marine shoreline. Each of SPU's lines of business is working to assess the implications of a changing

climate on the utility’s assets, services, and business functions and to develop adaptation options that can be integrated into SPU’s operations, capital planning, and overall decision-making processes. SPU’s enterprise-wide climate work focuses on building collaborative partnerships to share and enhance knowledge, engaging in applied research to advance SPU’s understanding of the implications of climate change, and fostering an enabling environment to support implementation. SPU maintains on its website an interactive map of sea level rise, modeling projections at levels from two feet to five feet, which is the range projected for the year 2100. SPU also maintains a carbon neutrality initiative, focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions from utility operations, including producing an annual greenhouse inventory of gas emissions from SPU’s operations.

SPU has begun a multi-year effort to model and understand future water supply system uncertainties and vulnerabilities and to develop an adaptive management strategy for meeting supply system objectives under a range of future scenarios, including climate impacts. In partnership with SPU’s climate policy team, the Water Planning and Program Management Division has conducted detailed climate impact assessments of the water supply since 2002, with the most recent study completed in 2018. The operational adaptation strategies in the 2019 Water System Plan indicated that significant investments in new sources of water supply would not be required to address potential climate change impacts until approximately 2060. See “Water System—Future Water Supply and Conservation.”

In 2018, SPU completed a climate vulnerability assessment and recommended actions to improve resilience to floods, drought, and wildfire. Key recommendations included forest adaptation strategies such as thinning and planting diverse climate-adapted species and improving road crossings over streams to ensure capacity for peak flow flood events. SPU conducts wildfire risk management on an ongoing basis, with successful prevention and suppression programs, and continues to assess how wildfire risk may change with longer, warmer summers and the consequent impacts on water quality and supply to ensure appropriate post-wildfire response strategies. SPU has developed a Forest Management Plan for the Cedar River Watershed that advances multiple objectives, including climate adaptation of forest ecosystems and wildfire risk reduction around critical assets.

The utility is also active in regional and national climate policy development and leadership focused on urban water resilience via the Puget Sound Climate Preparedness Collaborative, King County—Cities Climate Collaboration, the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies, and the U.S. Water Alliance. SPU is a founding member of the Water Utility Climate Alliance, comprised of 12 of the nation’s largest urban water utilities, which collaborates on climate science, applied research, and adaptation.

See “The City of Seattle—Climate Change” for a discussion of the response of the City as a whole to climate change.

### **Emergency Operations Plan and Incident Response**

The City maintains an integrated emergency management system in which all hazards are considered in a central planning structure. See “The City of Seattle—Emergency Management and Preparedness.” In addition, SPU maintains a suite of preparedness and response plans that include utility-wide plans such as the SPU Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and Continuity of Operations Plan, as well as hazard- and service-specific plans like the Solid Waste Line of Business Emergency Response Plan, the Water Line of Business Emergency Response Plan, and the Wet Weather Readiness and Response Plan. These plans are resourced and implemented through SPU’s Comprehensive Emergency Management Program, which includes Planning, Training and Exercise, Logistics, Outreach, and Response Readiness activities. The SPU Emergency Management Program coordinates its activities as directed and needed with the National Incident Management System, the Seattle Office of Emergency Management, King County Emergency Management, the Washington State Emergency Management Division, and other governmental and nongovernmental partners.

*Tolt River Dam Early Warning System.* The City owns and operates the Tolt Reservoir and Dam, located 16 miles upstream from the City of Carnation on the South Fork Tolt River, which provides drinking water and a small hydroelectric plant operated by Seattle City Light. To enhance the safety of residents living near the dam, the City operates the Tolt Dam Early Warning System (“TDEWS”), designed to alert residents to evacuate in the unlikely event of a catastrophic failure. A warning system was first implemented by King County (the “County”) in 1978 and was transferred to the City in 1981, who subsequently improved the network. The most recent replacement of the TDEWS system was expected to be completed during 2024. In March 2024, however, the newly upgraded system experienced an event in which the weekly test of the warning siren occurred two hours earlier than expected. The error

was traced to a software vendor, which failed to schedule the test in the appropriate time zone. The issue is currently being resolved with the vendor. In the meantime, SPU has deactivated TDEWS and is working closely with the City of Carnation on continuous monitoring and inspection. Until resolved, the siren warning system has been disabled and SPU's 24/7 staff combined with wireless emergency alerts and Reverse 911 calls to landlines serve to supplement general City and County emergency warning and disaster response systems.

### **Risk Management and Quality Assurance**

The Risk and Quality Assurance Program ("RQA") was first established in 2004 and became a separate division in 2011. While housed in the Financial and Risk Services branch, the program reports to a Policy and Risk and Quality Assurance Board, which consists of the SPU General Manager, the Executive Team, program staff, and a representative from the City Attorney's Office. In 2016, the Safety, Security, Emergency Management, Privacy/PCI, and Customer Appeals programs were brought into the RQA division to enable better alignment and synergy of the overall mission of reducing risk to the organization. The program's goals are to (i) provide strategic advice to SPU's Executive Team and guide the development of policies that enable SPU to be more efficient and effective in meeting customer expectations; (ii) assess planned and ongoing business practices and procedures to recognize threats and opportunities; (iii) recommend measures to ensure sufficient internal controls are in place to reduce risks to SPU's employees, customers, and assets; (iv) investigate, advise, and respond to legal requests and filings on behalf of SPU; (v) conduct internal investigations, assessments, and audits to ensure that SPU is complying with regulations, policies, and procedures; and (vi) develop, implement, and review plans that ensure that SPU is prepared for emergencies, incidents, and disasters.

*Emergency Management and Security.* The Emergency Management program uses an all-hazards approach to identify and analyze risks to the utility's critical assets and systems and to invest in the development and resourcing of emergency plans, training employees, and exercising plans for improved response. See "The City of Seattle—Risk Management" for a discussion of City-wide risk management practices.

SPU's security program specific to its infrastructure is based on a layered-defense system, to deter, detect, delay, and respond. It is comprised of fencing, a key management system, cyber locks (for certain assets), security guard patrols, and an integrated system that includes access control devices, door and hatch contacts, alarms, closed circuit television, and around-the-clock monitoring for all critical water system assets. Additional physical security measures are in place at the Cedar River and South Fork Tolt Watersheds to provide access control for 100,000 acres of source supply watershed lands, built assets, and workforce facilities. SPU conducts vulnerability and risk assessments, invests in mitigation and security countermeasures, and partners with local, State, and federal agencies to coordinate planning and response activities.

SPU has developed and equipped a wildland fire crew to attack and suppress wildland fires that may threaten the Cedar River or South Fork Tolt Watersheds. This crew serves as initial attack for wildfires on watershed lands and serves as a regional resource per agreement with Washington Department of Natural Resources, which is the lead firefighting agency in the state. The SPU wildland fire crew can serve as a resource off watershed lands, reimbursable by the requesting agency, which allows for critical fire line training experience.

See "The City of Seattle—Risk Management" for a discussion of the City's risk management practices.

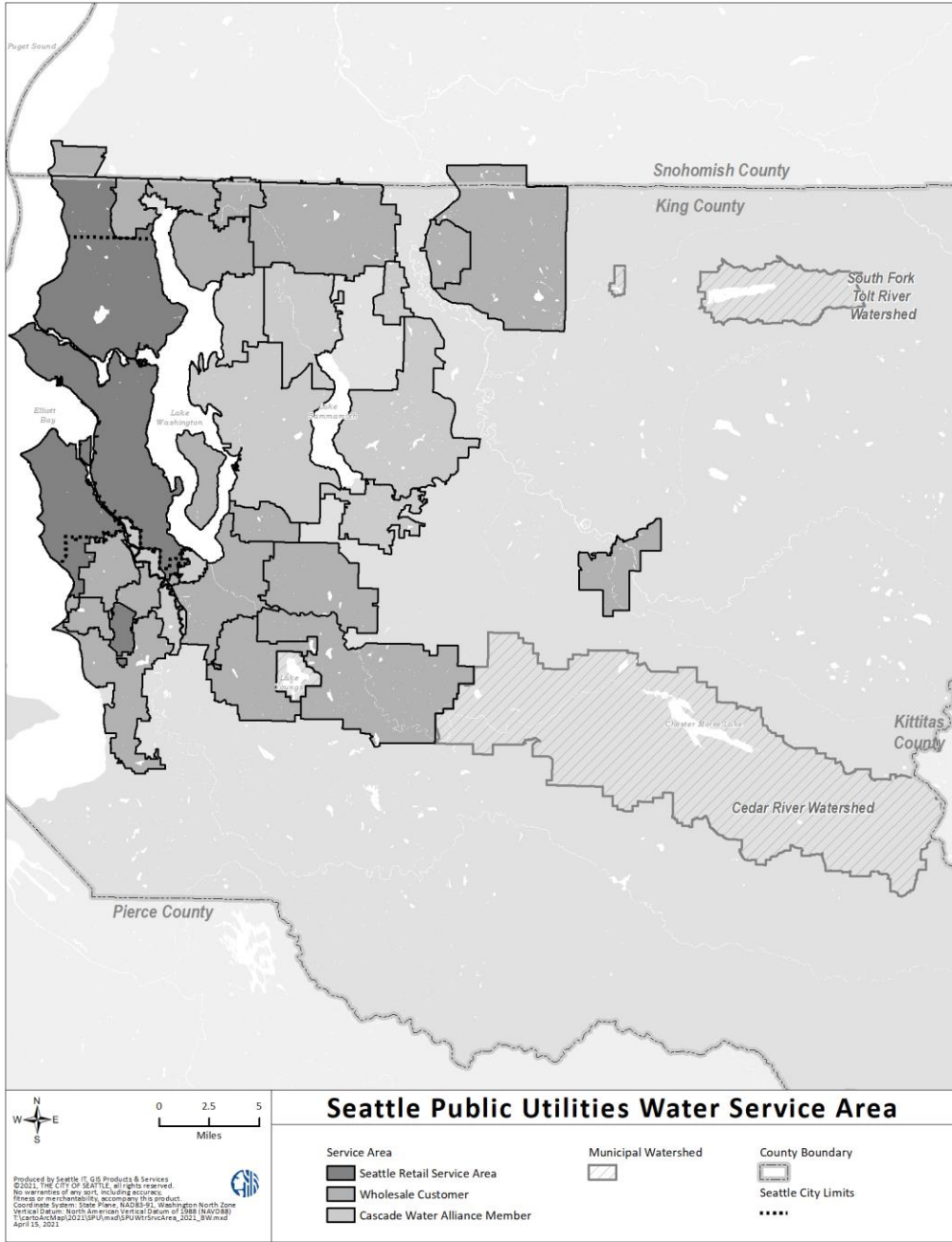
### **Strategic Business Plan**

In 2020 and the first part of 2021, SPU worked with customers and employees to update the Strategic Business Plan to guide its work from 2021 through 2026. The Strategic Business Plan is a six-year plan updated triennially. The Plan Update outlines new investments, cost savings, and a retail rate path for the six-year period, and is an update of the 2018-2023 Plan. The Plan grew out of SPU's efforts to provide greater rate predictability to its customers, while still making important investments for the future. The Strategic Business Plan Update was adopted by the City Council in May 2021. Through that adoption, the Council endorsed an average annual rate increase of 4.2% for all funds taken together. In early 2023, SPU began updating the Strategic Business Plan to guide its work from 2025 through 2030. The plan currently proposes an average annual rate increase of less than 5% for all funds taken together. The updated Strategic Business Plan is expected to be released by the end of June 2024.

## **WATER SYSTEM**

### **General**

The Water System was established in 1890. It currently includes two watershed sources of supply east of the City, the Cedar River Watershed and the South Fork Tolt Watershed, which comprise more than 100,000 acres of mountainous forest lands, and two small well fields located immediately north of the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (the “Seattle Well Fields”), as well as approximately 1,800 miles of pipeline and 327 million gallons (“MG”) of storage capacity in treated water transmission and distribution reservoirs. The Water System’s service area includes retail service to Seattle and portions of the Cities of Shoreline, Burien, Lake Forest Park, Mercer Island, and SeaTac, as well as a portion of unincorporated King County (the “direct service area”), and wholesale service to areas served by 17 suburban water districts and municipalities plus the Cascade Water Alliance (“Cascade”) (together, the “Wholesale Customers”) in King County and south Snohomish County. See “Wholesale Customer Contracts” for a discussion of contracts with Wholesale Customers. The population of the Water System’s direct service area is approximately 843,000, and the population indirectly served through the Wholesale Customers is approximately 765,000. The map below shows the direct service area and the locations of the Wholesale Customers. A summary of operating statistics for the Water System follows.





**TABLE 6  
WATER SYSTEM OPERATING STATISTICS**

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Population Served					
Retail	806,000	820,000	820,000	826,000	843,000
Wholesale <sup>(1)</sup>	729,000	741,000	741,000	749,000	765,000
Total Population Served	1,535,000	1,561,000	1,561,000	1,575,000	1,608,000
Water Sales Revenues (\$000) <sup>(2)(3)</sup>					
Retail	\$ 208,476	\$ 207,590	\$ 213,552	\$ 221,191	\$ 230,721
Wholesale	56,985	56,782	57,362	56,242	59,043
Total Water Sales Revenues	\$ 265,461	\$ 264,372	\$ 270,914	\$ 277,433	\$ 289,764
Billed Water Consumption (MG) <sup>(3)</sup>					
Retail	19,889	18,882	19,522	19,560	19,914
Wholesale	22,128	21,712	23,328	22,770	23,368
Total Billed Water Consumption	42,017	40,594	42,849	42,330	43,282
Operating Costs (\$ per MG)	\$ 5,250	\$ 5,246	\$ 5,184	\$ 5,316	\$ 5,184
Gallons Used per Day per Capita	75	71	75	74	74
Retail Meters in Use	197,747	198,726	200,152	200,838	201,847
Number of New Retail Meters	1,113	979	1,426	686	1,009
Total Water Diversions from Sources (MGD)	124.2	118.2	124.9	123.6	125.7
Non-Revenue	9.1	7.0	7.5	7.6	6.9
% Non-Revenue	7.3	5.9	6.0	6.2	5.5

- (1) Estimated total population served by SPU’s water supply. Because some Wholesale Customers obtain some of their water from sources other than SPU, this number is less than the total population of the shaded areas on the map on the previous page.
- (2) Calculated on a revenue basis. Revenues represent payments from customers for service provided at published rates in each year as well as contractual payments from certain Wholesale Customers. Wholesale Customers pay a rate that represents only the costs of the regional system, while retail customers pay rates that cover the entire distribution system, which is expensive relative to the regional component. Revenues shown do not include the impact(s) of transfers to the Revenue Stabilization Subfund or other credits or deferrals of income. See Table 15—Water System Operating Results.
- (3) Revenue fluctuations have resulted from increases in rates and seasonal consumption, where SPU utilizes an increasing step rate structure. Variations in billed water use are primarily associated with year-to-year variations in temperature and precipitation in the summer irrigation period. There has been no significant change in the geographic area served.

Source: Seattle Public Utilities

### **Comprehensive Planning**

The SPU Water System Plan (the “Water System Plan”) is a 20-year comprehensive plan for the Water System, which is updated every ten years on a rolling basis. The Water System Plan provides guidance for planning and operating the Water System and includes objectives for the next 20 years in the areas of water quality and treatment, maintenance and rehabilitation of transmission, distribution, and water resource assets, and water resources (ability to meet forecasted demand with available water resources, including water conservation).

SPU released the Public Review Draft of the 2019 Water System Plan on March 12, 2018. The Water System Plan, which reflects comments received from the public, was adopted by Ordinance 125687 in October 2018, and was approved by the County and the State Department of Health (“DOH”) in 2019. It is valid until 2029.

In addition to the Water System Plan, SPU's seismic mitigation program is reducing the impact of seismic activity on system reliability. See "Seismic Impact on System Reliability."

### **Water Supply**

The Water System's two surface water supply diversions are located on the Cedar River and on the South Fork of the Tolt River, each approximately 25 miles east of Seattle. The watershed areas upstream of the water supply intakes on these two rivers consist of approximately 104,000 acres of forest land in the Cascade Mountains of western Washington. Rainfall in the watersheds averages in excess of 100 inches annually. The snowpack at higher elevations averages five feet per year. Raw water storage capacity is 47,000 acre-feet in the Cedar River Watershed and approximately 56,000 acre-feet in the South Fork Tolt Watershed. A newly constructed floating pumping plant and refurbished existing barge-mounted pumping plant on Chester Morse Lake in the Cedar River Watershed provide access to an additional 27,000 acre-feet of stored water.

The City has diverted water from the Cedar River for use by the Water System since 1901. The City acquired this right by purchase, riparian right, appropriation, and other applicable laws. This claim of water rights, its relationship to instream flow requirements, and the effect of the City's diversion dam in blocking the passage of anadromous fish have been addressed in the Cedar River Watershed Habitat Conservation Plan (the "HCP"), a comprehensive, 50-year set of legal agreements with State and federal governments signed in 2000. See "—Endangered Species Act" for further information relating to the HCP. In 2006, in a comprehensive settlement with the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe regarding the Cedar River Watershed, the City agreed to further limits on its annual diversions. The agreement resolved long-standing issues between the City and the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe and strengthened the status of the City's water rights on the Cedar River. As part of the agreement, the City agreed to dedicate that portion of its water right above 124 million gallons per day ("MGD") to instream flows and to certain limits on its annual diversions from the Cedar River in perpetuity. In 2016, Ecology accepted the City's 35-year donation of a portion of its Cedar River Water Right Claim, 22,403 acre-feet per year, into the Washington State Trust Water Right Program, administered by Ecology. The donation satisfied the City's commitment to dedicate these flows to benefit instream flows.

The South Fork Tolt Reservoir, which came online in 1964, provides 18.3 billion gallons (approximately 56,000 acre-feet) of storage. The City's water rights on the South Fork of the Tolt River were established by permits for water storage and water diversion granted by the State in 1957, with a priority date of July 14, 1936. The reservoir storage certificate was issued in 2003, but the diversion water right remains in permit status. The City's diversions from the South Fork of the Tolt River are not subject to instream flow restrictions established in 1979 for the Snohomish River under the Instream Resources Protection Program because of the earlier priority date. However, in 1989, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission granted a 40-year license to Seattle City Light to build a hydroelectric power plant on the South Fork of the Tolt River, resulting in modifications to the terms of the original water permits, including the establishment of minimum instream flows. In 1997, Seattle City Light documented the full beneficial use of the water needed for the hydropower plant and received a certificate of water right. See "—Endangered Species Act." The watershed lands and road network are managed under the South Fork Tolt River Municipal Watershed Management Plan, which was completed in 2011.

In addition to the major surface water supplies, the City operates two small well fields in the City of SeaTac to provide drought capacity and emergency supply, as needed, under a temporary water right permit. The Riverton well field has two wells, and the Boulevard Park well field has one well. The three supply wells have a combined capacity of 10 MGD. The wells are operated under temporary permits from Ecology. The City has applied for permits that can be converted into water rights.

The City also has water rights applications on file with Ecology for potential future sources of supply, including the North Fork of the Tolt River and the Snoqualmie Aquifer. An evaluation of specific City water right claims, permits, and applications as called for in DOH planning guidelines indicates that the City does not need to apply for any new water rights within the next 20 years.

See also "Seattle Public Utilities—Climate Change" for a discussion of climate impacts affecting water supply.

## Future Water Supply and Conservation

At present, SPU has adequate supply resources to meet Water System demands under a wide range of weather conditions. Existing sources of supply owned by the City provide an average annual firm yield of 172 MGD. The current firm yield is based on an update completed in 2016 to include inflow datasets from October 1928 through March 2016 to represent current operating conditions, namely the use of the current spring refill target elevation of 1,563 feet for Chester Morse Lake and the use of a revised monthly demand distribution based upon the actual demand in 2006 through 2014. Demand in the service area has averaged approximately 122 MGD since 2010.

SPU's official water demand forecast was updated for the 2019 Water System Plan; it is slightly lower than the revised 2013 Water System Plan forecast and remains considerably below SPU's current firm yield of 172 MGD until well after 2060. Given the current firm yield estimate for SPU's existing supply resources, this forecast indicates that no new source of supply is needed before 2060.

In the 2019 Water System Plan update, SPU considered the potential uncertainties associated with demand forecasts, as well as the potential impacts future climate change may have on its water supplies and demands, in determining that no significant investments in new sources are needed before 2060. See "Seattle Public Utilities—Climate Change" for a discussion of potential climate change impacts on the supply system and adaptation strategies.

The total population of retail and wholesale customers in King and south Snohomish Counties currently served by SPU is about 1.6 million. While population has steadily risen in the service area, by about 39% through 2020, water demand has decreased by 26% since 1990 due primarily to conservation. Conservation has been encouraged through higher marginal rates in the summer peak season, utility water conservation programs, new State plumbing codes specifying efficiency standards for water fixtures, and improved Water System operations. In addition, the majority of new housing added recently has been higher density housing, which tends to use less water per capita.

SPU and 18 Wholesale Customers operate regional conservation programs collaboratively as the Saving Water Partnership. These regional conservation programs provide opportunities for customers within the direct service area and the service areas of participating Wholesale Customers. Additionally, the City has its own water conservation program to support low income households by offering rebates for toilets, common area clothes washers, and aerators to qualifying single-family, multi-family, and institutional low income residential buildings. Customers in the Utility Discount Program are referred to this latter program to help overcome first-cost barriers to installing water efficient fixtures and appliances. See "—Water Rates—Low-Income Assistance."

In 2003, the State Legislature passed a Municipal Water Law that resulted in the adoption of water use efficiency rules set by the DOH. The rules include planning requirements, distribution leakage standards, water use efficiency goal-setting, and performance reporting. SPU and the Saving Water Partnership have had a series of water use efficiency goals since 2003 and consistently met those goals. The most recent regional goal is documented in SPU's 2019 Water System Plan: for the period 2019-2028, keep the total average annual retail water use of Saving Water Partnership members under 110 MGD through 2028, despite forecasted population growth, by reducing per capita water use. In 2023, the Saving Water Partnership, with the support of residential and commercial customers, met the goal, using 96.3 MGD.

In addition to new conservation programs, several potential water resources were identified in the 2019 Water System Plan, should they be needed in the future. These include:

- (i) *Permanent Cedar Drawdown:* Access storage in Chester Morse Lake below elevation 1,532 feet for normal supply using Morse Lake Pump Plant.
- (ii) *South Fork Tolt Reservoir Drawdown:* Draw an additional 50 feet to elevation 1,660 feet, the lowest intake level, which may require changes at the Tolt Water Treatment Facility.
- (iii) *Lake Youngs Drawdown:* Use 28 feet of storage in Lake Youngs to access an additional 17,390 acre-feet, which will likely require the addition of filtration at the water treatment facilities.
- (iv) *North Fork Tolt River Diversion:* Construct a small diversion on the North Fork Tolt in addition to drawdown of the South Fork Tolt to elevation 1,660 feet.

- (v) *Snoqualmie Aquifer*: Development of the Snoqualmie Aquifer with a deep well, new river intake, filtration plant, pump station, and an interconnection to SPU's Tolt pipeline.
- (vi) *Cedar High Dam*: Construct a new and higher dam at the current Overflow Dike location at the Chester Morse Reservoir.
- (vii) *Desalination*: Construct a desalination plant to use saltwater pumped from Puget Sound.
- (viii) *Reclaimed Water*: Develop one or more reclaimed water projects to reuse wastewater.
- (ix) *Distributed Systems*: Construct multiple small systems throughout the service area to offset potable water use, such as greywater and rainwater harvesting systems.
- (x) *Regional Interties*: Construct interties with adjacent regional water suppliers to access water from those sources.

These new resource alternatives vary in the amount of new supply provided, capital and operating costs, and level of effort needed to develop. SPU has not yet selected any of these potential resources for development as a preferred next source of supply.

### **Endangered Species Act**

In 1999, the National Marine Fisheries Service ("NMFS") listed the Puget Sound Chinook salmon, which migrate through waterways within and adjacent to the City, as a "threatened species" under the Endangered Species Act ("ESA"). NMFS subsequently finalized a "4(d) rule" extending the ESA's prohibition against "take" to Puget Sound Chinook salmon. This rule enables jurisdictions to submit plans that, if approved, would limit the application of the general prohibition to activities covered in the plan. Eligible activities include certain municipal, residential, commercial, and industrial development activities, certain road maintenance activities, and certain forestry activities. ESA-listed species within the City's water operational area include not only Chinook salmon, but bull trout, steelhead, northern spotted owls, and marbled murrelets.

In an effort to reduce uncertainty with regard to its largest water supply source, the Cedar River, the City developed the HCP with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NMFS, among other parties, in 2000. The HCP specifies the measures the City will undertake to minimize and mitigate potential impacts on listed species in the Cedar River Watershed. The HCP commits the City to spend about \$118 million (in 2023 dollars) to improve conditions for fish and wildlife within the Cedar River Watershed through the year 2050. See "—Watershed Management Policies" and "—Capital Improvement Program." While these measures include commitments to instream flow levels, the Water System's estimated firm yield is not expected to be impacted adversely by the HCP. The incidental take permit, which the City was issued when the HCP was approved, protects the City from ESA liability resulting from potential impacts of the Water System's Cedar River operations on listed species and approximately 76 other species of fish, mammals, birds, and amphibians known to be present and potentially affected by the City's water supply and hydroelectric and land management activities.

The second major Water System supply is drawn from the South Fork of the Tolt River with the aid of a dam. Streamflow downstream from the impoundment is affected by dam operations and water diversions, with potential impacts on Chinook salmon and steelhead, which are both listed under the ESA as threatened. A 2008 study investigating fish populations in the South Fork Tolt Reservoir and its tributaries identified cutthroat trout as the only salmonid species upstream of the South Fork Tolt Dam. The City, various tribes, and several federal agencies entered into the Tolt River Settlement Agreement in 1988, which included commitments for instream flows and habitat improvements intended to mitigate for impacts caused by the City's water supply and power generation operations. SPU is jointly working with Seattle City Light to re-license the City's hydropower project on the Tolt River, with the new license expected to be issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC") in 2028. This process will be led by FERC and may result in updated commitments made by the City to mitigate for the potential impact of water and hydroelectric operations on ESA-listed species.

To further manage legal risks, the City invests in aquatic resources research and monitoring in its major waterways and participates in regional watershed planning and salmon recovery in the Cedar River, the Snohomish/Tolt Rivers, and the Green/Duwamish Rivers. As a result, the City has assembled substantial, long-term data sets and coauthored scientific papers on Chinook salmon, sockeye salmon, coho salmon, steelhead/rainbow trout, and bull trout.

The City and SPU expect that additional funding will be needed to support habitat restoration programs that address salmon-related policy objectives. Funding for these programs is expected to come from a variety of sources, including City water rates, drainage and wastewater rates, taxes or fees imposed by other local jurisdictions, and federal and State grants.

**Transmission Facilities**

The transmission facilities of the Water System consist of multiple primary transmission lines from the Cedar River, one transmission line and substantial portions of a second line from the Tolt River (“Tolt 1” and “Tolt 2,” respectively), and a network of supply mains throughout the service area. In all, there are approximately 160 miles of primarily concrete or steel pipelines ranging in diameter from 30 to 96 inches.

After two segments of Tolt 1 ruptured in the late 1980s, most of the pipeline was replaced or sliplined (sliding a new smaller pipe inside an existing larger pipe) by 2005, except for the first two miles where the new Tolt 2 had already been built. In addition, for both reliability and new capacity, approximately 18 miles of Tolt 2 were constructed beginning at the Tolt Regulating Basin and running parallel to and interconnecting with Tolt 1 at several locations. SPU is also expanding its cathodic protection program to extend the service life of both steel and concrete cylinder pipelines.

To assist in maintaining water flow to the distribution portion of the Water System, the transmission system includes two regulating basins, seven covered storage reservoirs, four elevated tanks, one standpipe, and two control works surge tanks to provide drinking water storage. In addition, there are 15 transmission pumping stations with a total rated capacity of more than 180,000 gallons per minute (“GPM”). The following table shows the hydraulic capacities of the primary transmission lines and the transmission regulating basins and reservoirs of the Water System.

**TABLE 7  
HYDRAULIC CAPACITY OF INDIVIDUAL COMPONENTS OF THE TRANSMISSION SYSTEM<sup>(1)</sup>**

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Capacity</u>
Transmission Lines (MGD)	
Cedar River	200
Tolt River	<u>135</u>
Total	335
Raw Water Storage Facilities (MG)	
Lake Youngs (regulating basin)	4,812
Tolt Regulating Basin	<u>312</u>
Total	5,124
Treated Water Storage Facilities (MG)	
Transmission Reservoirs	215
Elevated Tank and Other Storage	<u>7</u>
Total	222

(1) Treatment capacity is 120 MGD on the Tolt River source and 180 MGD on the Cedar River source. Equalizing reservoirs (clearwells) at the outlet of the treatment plants (7.4 MG on the Tolt River source and 20 MG on the Cedar River source) make it possible to deliver higher flow rates as needed into the transmission system for several hours. Averaged over several days, though, effective transmission capacity cannot exceed treatment capacity, as all water must be treated.

*Source: Seattle Public Utilities*

During the month of record maximum consumption, July 1985, the transmission lines delivered an average of 301 MGD. Water delivery by transmission pipelines on peak days at present typically does not exceed 200 MGD.

*Completion of Tolt Landslide Pipeline Mitigations.* Beginning in about 2000, new, slow-creeping slope movement was reinitiated, probably due to both new logging in upland areas above the slope and erosion by the North Fork Tolt River at its toe. In 2009, it was determined that Tolt 1 and Tolt 2 lay across an ancient deep-seated (approximately

100-foot) landslide complex located between the Tolt Regulating Basin and the Tolt Water Treatment Facility. The 1,300-foot-wide slope had been stable for many decades, dating to at least the completion of the pipelines across it. The potential for renewed instability was therefore unknown. This slope movement affected both pipelines for 20 years. Tolt 1, the older, more brittle concrete cylinder pipeline (“CCP”), sustained catastrophic damage and was largely unused from 2009 through 2022. A 48-inch double ball joint expansion sleeve was installed on the newer steel Tolt 2 to allow the pipeline to better accommodate the slow-creeping slide (also in 2009). The designed 14-degree maximum movement radius of the pipe joint was reaching its terminus after eight years, and the joint was excavated and reset in October 2017 to provide flexibility for another ten years or more at the then-current rate of ground movement.

In addition, SPU initiated an ongoing survey and inclinometer monitoring program to monitor the slope and pipeline movement since the issue became known in 2009. Information from multiple geological and geotechnical experts in 2014-2016 indicated that the potential for sudden, large catastrophic slope failure was low. This modeling and evaluation work also pointed to seasonal groundwater pressures as playing a major role in the annual slow-creeping (1-2 inches/year) slope movement.

In 2017, SPU installed a series of five engineered logjams on the streambank at the toe of the slope to stabilize it against continued erosion. In 2020, SPU constructed a system of 85 horizontal groundwater drains near the toe of the unstable slope to lower groundwater levels, which geotechnical experts believed would significantly slow or even stop the slope movement. This work was completed in November 2020. Results through February 2024 indicate that groundwater levels have been lowered by an average of 20 feet and have not substantially risen since then. In the three winter seasons now completed since the execution of the project, total slope movement has ranged across multiple inclinometers from 0.01 inches to 0.24 inches total movement (total movement before the drains were completed was one to two inches annually). Thus, the work to stabilize the slope was successful and SPU then turned to a project to rehabilitate the damaged Tolt 1 pipeline.

In 2022, SPU sliplined a 2,550-foot segment of Tolt 1 where historic slope movement had broken and damaged it. The project installed a 54-inch diameter high-density polyethylene pipe inside of the 66-inch diameter Tolt 1 CCP and replaced all valves and appurtenances onto the new sliplined pipe. That work was completed in December 2022 and Tolt 1 was returned to regular service in January 2023. Reduced frequency monitoring of this area continues.

*Seismic Resiliency Investments.* SPU has also begun to design and implement recommendations from 2018 and 2020 reports and investigations into long-term seismic risk and vulnerabilities. In Q4 2023, SPU executed a work assignment with a consultant design team to design flexible joint retrofits to the three Cedar River Transmission Pipelines in downtown Renton, Washington, where studies show that they are vulnerable to seismic liquefaction impacts. SPU plans to complete design of this suite of seismic retrofits in 2025, with construction expected in the early part of 2026.

SPU has also begun planning for the acquisition and storage of a cache of both distribution and transmission system pipeline repair materials. SPU’s expectation is that re-supply of pipe sticks, repair clamps, butt straps, and other critical pipeline rupture repair/replacement materials may take several weeks following a large earthquake. To remove that constraint in an emergency repair mobilization, SPU is developing a surplus of materials to be staged strategically throughout the service area in order to expedite emergency repair agility following a large seismic event.

## Storage and Distribution

Storage of water within the distribution portion of the Water System is accomplished through the use of six covered distribution reservoirs, five standpipes, and one elevated tank, with capacities as follows:

**TABLE 8**  
**CURRENT CAPACITY OF DISTRIBUTION RESERVOIRS (MG)**

Reservoirs	97.0
Standpipes	7.0
Elevated Tank	<u>1.0</u>
Total	105.0

Source: Seattle Public Utilities

The adequacy of SPU’s distribution and transmission storage volumes has been demonstrated by using a computerized hydraulic model of the Water System to simulate a suite of emergency and peak demand conditions and other analyses.

The distribution system consists of approximately 1,690 miles of predominantly cast iron and ductile iron pipe with some concrete cylinder and steel pipe. To assist in maintaining adequate pressure within the distribution system, there are 16 electric and hydraulic pumping stations (36 individual pump units) with a total rated pumping capacity of more than 100,000 GPM.

The storage and distribution facilities and conservation incentives have met the needs of the expanding population in the service area. Peak day consumption levels as high as 329 MG and 348 MG were recorded on June 29, 1987, and July 15, 1970, respectively. However, since 2003, peak daily consumption has been less than 250 MG.

Leakage from the distribution system is low, as evidenced by SPU’s low distribution system leakage (“DSL”) number. DSL must be calculated annually and reported to both DOH and SPU’s retail customers. The compliance threshold is 10% or less and is based on a rolling three-year average. DSL is calculated as water produced and purchased minus “authorized consumption,” which includes water sold at retail and wholesale, as well as authorized system uses such as reservoir cleaning and flushing. The table below shows the three most recent years of DSL data. For 2023, the annual DSL was 5.5% and the three-year average was 5.8%, which is well below the maximum allowed of 10%.

**TABLE 9**  
**DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM LEAKAGE**

Component	2021		2022		2023	
	MG	MGD	MG	MGD	MG	MGD
Total Produced	45,589	124.9	45,096	123.6	45,862	125.6
Told Sold	42,849	117.4	42,307	115.9	43,282	118.6
Sold at Wholesale	23,328	63.9	22,747	62.3	23,368	64.0
Sold at Retail	19,522	53.5	19,560	53.6	19,914	54.6
Authorized System Uses	67	0.2	15	0.0	58	0.2
DSL Volume (one year)	2,672	7.3	2,774	7.6	2,522	6.9
DSL as % of Total Produced						
(one year)	5.9%		6.2%		5.5%	
DSL as % of Total Produced						
(three-year average)	6.2%		5.9%		5.8%	

To reduce missed revenue opportunities, SPU has adopted focused meter testing and meter replacement programs to assure the accuracy of its billing meters. SPU operates approximately 200,000 billing meters, of which 5,550 are large (three-inch to 24-inch), and the rest are small (3/4-inch to two-inch). SPU conducts periodic tests of statistically significant samples of small meters and generally has found that these meters tend to remain accurate until sudden and complete failure occurs, which is rapidly detected and the failed meters replaced. Because large meters tend to gradually lose accuracy with use, SPU has a goal to test every large retail meter at least once in every five years. SPU

has not been able to meet this goal for all meters due to limited resources and the relatively high cost of meter testing. The average rate of large meter testing is currently once every eight to ten years. However, SPU has made progress toward this goal by focusing on meters showing greater consumption where accuracy improvement as a result of testing would translate into higher revenue recovery. High-use meters are tested between twice a year and once in five years, based on a combination of size and annual volume of water passing through the meter.

SPU also has an ongoing large meter replacement program to replace failing and obsolete meters and certain high-use meters where improved accuracy is likely to translate to revenues sufficient to cover the replacement in three years or less. Approximately 46% of the large meter stock has been replaced in the past 15 years. The remaining older meters are low-use, and the cost of replacement is unlikely to be recovered through increased revenues. Instead, these older low-use mechanical meters are gradually replaced as they fail.

### **Seismic Impact on System Reliability**

A comprehensive seismic evaluation of the Water System was completed by a consultant in 1990. This evaluation considered two levels of probabilistic seismic ground motions. Lower level ground motions were defined to have an approximately 40% probability of exceedance in 50 years or an average return interval of 100 years. Upper level ground motions corresponded to the building code design ground motions at that time, with a 10% probability of exceedance in 50 years or an average return interval of 472 years. Based on the findings of the 1990 study, many critical facilities were seismically upgraded.

The 1965 and 2001 Puget Sound earthquakes demonstrated that the SPU water system can withstand moderate earthquakes with relatively minor damage. However, during the 1990s, it became apparent to seismologists that the seismicity of the Puget Sound area was much higher than previously believed and that the Seattle Fault Zone that runs through Seattle and Bellevue was seismically active. Additionally, the 1990 study was unsure whether large M9.0 Cascadia subduction zone earthquakes were possible off the Pacific Northwest coast. These M9.0 earthquakes, which would produce strong shaking in the Puget Sound region, are now believed to occur with a 500-year average return interval. Earthquakes much larger than the 1965 and 2001 events have occurred in the past and will occur in the future in the Seattle area. The most recent M9.0 earthquake occurred in 1700. Building code, seismic ground motions, and seismic design requirements in the Puget Sound region were significantly increased to reflect the increased seismic hazard posed by these larger earthquakes.

In 2018, SPU completed an updated water system seismic study to reflect hazards from a Seattle Fault earthquake and incorporate the latest seismic code updates. SPU is currently implementing the recommendations from the 2018 study. An earthquake mitigation plan to further improve facility and system performance during and after a major earthquake has been developed, and SPU is moving forward with projects to improve the seismic resiliency of its pipelines and facilities. SPU is also evaluating potential transmission pipeline seismic upgrades in vulnerable locations. Seismic assessments have been carried out on its Riverton and Eastside concrete reservoirs and seismic retrofits will be constructed on Eastside Reservoir and possibly Riverton Reservoir in the next several years. Design of seismic retrofits for the Magnolia elevated steel water storage tank is underway with construction expected to soon follow. SPU previously brought four of its major in-town reservoirs up to seismic standards as part of its open reservoir covering program.

Following through on additional recommendations from the 2018 seismic study, SPU completed an earthquake-specific hazard response plan in 2020 to help mitigate earthquake damage. A seismic study on SPU's transmission pipelines was also completed in 2022. SPU is beginning the process of acquiring more emergency repair materials such as pipe repair clamps and pipe segments so that earthquake pipe damage can be more quickly repaired in the immediate aftermath of a large seismic event. SPU has also been installing earthquake-resistant pipe for new pipelines that are in liquefaction- and landslide-susceptible areas and for critical pipelines that serve essential facilities or are essential for firefighting.

In addition to the seismic upgrades SPU has completed, SPU has two reservoirs in reserve to provide critical emergency water resources for SPU customers if needed for emergency water supply after a major earthquake, specifically the Roosevelt and Volunteer Reservoirs. In 2014, SPU removed these two remaining open storage facilities from service. In the event of a major earthquake, the reservoirs can be reconnected to provide a vital source for emergency water and firefighting purposes.



## Water Quality

SPU has a comprehensive source-to-tap water quality management program. Water quality is ensured through an integrated effort of source protection, state-of-the-art treatment, and ongoing monitoring throughout the Water System for potential microbial and chemical contaminants.

SPU owns more than 99% of the Cedar River Watershed and 70% of the South Fork Tolt Watershed above the intake points. The other 30% of the South Fork Tolt Watershed is on U.S. Forest Service land. Protection of the two watersheds from agricultural, industrial, and recreational activities helps ensure that high-quality water is delivered to the Seattle area. In addition to the two primary surface sources, the Seattle Well Fields periodically provide a small portion of the City's water supply. These wells are deep and afford natural protection from contamination.

On the Cedar River source, water is screened and fluoridated at the Landsburg Cedar River Diversion facilities before traveling through transmission pipelines to Lake Youngs. Primary treatment for the source is provided by the Cedar Treatment Facility at the outlet of Lake Youngs, which was commissioned in 2004 with a maximum treatment capacity of 180 MGD. The Cedar Treatment Facility is operated under a long-term contract with Jacobs. The plant treatment processes include ozonation, ultraviolet light disinfection, pH adjustment, and chlorination.

The treatment plant on the Tolt source, commissioned in 2001, has a maximum treatment capacity of 120 MGD. The Tolt Treatment Facility is operated under a long-term contract with American Water/CDM. The plant provides primary treatment for the Tolt source using treatment processes including ozonation, direct filtration, pH and alkalinity adjustment, fluoridation, and chlorination.

When the Seattle Well Fields are in operation, treatment includes chlorination, fluoridation, and pH adjustment. The intent of treatment is to protect public health and to comply with treatment and monitoring requirements of the DOH. SPU operates a water quality laboratory accredited by Ecology for bacteriological and chemical analyses to help ensure compliance with drinking water standards.

As an operator of a public water system, SPU must comply with treatment and monitoring requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 as amended and any additional requirements as specified by the DOH. Water quality parameters and regulations of particular significance are discussed below.

*Surface Water Treatment.* The federal Surface Water Treatment Rule established filtration and disinfection requirements for public water systems utilizing surface sources. Since startup of the Tolt Treatment Facility in 2001, the Tolt source has been treated to meet these requirements.

The Surface Water Treatment Rule also established criteria for unfiltered systems with a Limited Alternative to Filtration ("LAF"), including (i) watershed protection and management, (ii) raw water quality, (iii) treatment efficiency and redundancy, and (iv) some aspects of distribution system water quality. SPU began operation of the Cedar Treatment Facility under the requirements of the LAF in 2004 and continues to operate the Cedar Treatment Facility in accordance with such requirements.

In 2006, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (the "EPA") issued the Long-Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule, which requires higher levels of treatment for water sources with higher levels of *Cryptosporidium*. SPU conducted monitoring for *Cryptosporidium* in the Tolt and Cedar sources over the years with results showing extremely low levels and no change of water treatment required. SPU conducted additional *Cryptosporidium* monitoring in 2015 and 2016 which verified continued low levels.

*Lead and Copper.* The City meets the requirements of the current Lead and Copper Rule ("LCR") and qualifies for reduced levels of monitoring for lead and copper. A revised Lead and Copper Rule was published by EPA in early 2021 and includes new requirements that will take effect in October 2024. The primary focus of the revised rule is lead service line removal, which does not impact SPU. However, new tap sampling requirements may need to be implemented for the direct service area, and school and childcare testing was added as a new requirement. SPU does not anticipate experiencing difficulties in complying with the new requirements of the LCR.

EPA proposed a new regulation called Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (“LCRI”) in November 2023. Comments were due to EPA by February 5, 2024. SPU and others submitted comments as requested. The final LCRI is expected to be published by the end of 2024. Highlights of LCRI include reducing the lead action level from 15 to 10 parts per billion, requiring utilities to remove lead service lines within ten years, and keeping the service line inventories updated annually.

SPU utilizes corrosion control treatment to reduce the potential for lead leaching from plumbing materials into drinking water. SPU optimized its corrosion control parameters more than a decade ago and continuously monitors water chemistry at its treatment facilities and collects routine samples throughout the distribution system to ensure appropriate water pH and alkalinity at ten distribution system locations. Results are reported regularly to the DOH. In addition, SPU maintains a State-accredited analytical laboratory that performs the testing above in addition to most of the regulatory testing for SPU’s Wholesale Customers. Lead and copper have not been detected in the source water.

Lead in water normally comes from plumbing materials, primarily from corrosion of lead solder used to connect copper pipes and corrosion of brass fixtures that contain lead. SPU recognized this as a potential problem over 30 years ago and has been treating the water to reduce its corrosiveness since the early 1980s. The City was the first municipality in the nation to ban the use of lead solder in potable plumbing systems. The steps taken in the last two decades to reduce the corrosiveness of the water have been successful in reducing lead levels at customer taps.

SPU did not historically, and does not currently, install lead water mains or lead service lines in the water distribution system. SPU maintains a database of water mains and service lines that provides documentation of location, installation date, and material type. Water meter type and location are documented as well. Meters are generally made of brass, and some older meters use an alloy that does contain lead. Any new meter installation by SPU must utilize lead-free brass that meets EPA requirements. The majority of service lines (the pipe connecting a water main to an individual meter) are made of copper or plastic. A small percentage (approximately 4%) is made of galvanized steel. Based on historical maintenance and repair records, SPU believes less than 15% of the galvanized steel service lines utilized a lead gooseneck connecting the main to the service line. The water main and service line records (some dating back more than a century) do not include information on which specific galvanized steel service connections had lead goosenecks installed. These are removed whenever encountered during leak repair or other construction activities.

SPU has surveyed the records described and the presence of lead components in the distribution system appears limited to those described above. SPU also maintains a “Research Your Water Service Line” Map Tool available on its website that provides a basic illustration of the water service lines to all properties served by SPU. The Map Tool includes information about the service line pipe material, *e.g.*, copper, plastic or galvanized steel, for the portion of the water service line that SPU owns and maintains (generally from the SPU water main to a point a few feet beyond the service line’s water meter).

*Total Coliform Rule.* SPU has been continuously in compliance with the Total Coliform Rule. The Total Coliform Rule requires monitoring to demonstrate that a water system is operating and maintaining its distribution system in a way that minimizes the risk of bacterial intrusion or regrowth. SPU collects required monthly samples from its retail service area distribution system and tests for coliforms, which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator of whether other, potentially harmful bacteria may be present. In April 2016, the Revised Total Coliform Rule took effect nationally for public water systems, adding a requirement for system assessments with corrective action when coliform contamination is detected. No assessments have been triggered for SPU.

*Disinfection Byproducts.* The use of disinfectants, such as chlorine, to provide protection against microbes in water can result in the formation of disinfection byproducts (“DBPs”) when the disinfectants react with organic matter in the water. SPU meets current regulatory standards under Stage 2 DBP Rules.

*Arsenic.* EPA’s maximum contaminant level for arsenic is ten parts per billion (“ppb”). Testing of the City’s two primary drinking water sources, the Cedar and Tolt sources, indicates that arsenic is not present above one part per billion, the analytic detection limits. Naturally occurring arsenic concentrations in the Seattle Well Fields ranged from 1.7 to 7.9 ppb when the wells were last operated in 2015. The wells are used seasonally during some dryer years and otherwise remain inactive. When they are operated, water is blended with surface supplies prior to delivery to customers. Arsenic results remain below regulatory limits.

*Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring Rule (“UCMR”).* UCMR data is used to report information about new contaminants that may be regulated in the future. EPA requires SPU to monitor contaminants that do not have defined health-based standards. EPA uses this information to determine the occurrence of contaminants in drinking water systems, which may lead to future regulations. The contaminants monitored are selected through a data-driven process that considers adverse health effects (potency and severity) and occurrence (prevalence and magnitude), but additional health information is needed to know whether the contaminants pose a health risk.

The most recent round of UCMR data, UCMR5, was collected in 2023. Of the 30 compounds (29 PFAS compounds and lithium) analyzed, SPU did not detect any in its drinking water. SPU will continue to monitor as required by the UCMR rules. UCMR6 monitoring will begin in 2028.

*Perfluorinated Compounds (“PFCs”).* In April 2024, the EPA issued a final rule setting maximum contaminant levels for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (“PFAS”) in drinking water. The National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (“NPDWR”) requires public water utilities to complete initial monitoring of certain specified PFAS (a subset of PFCs) within three years. Public water utilities have five years to implement measures to reduce any levels of these PFAS that exceed the specified maximum contaminant levels. Under the EPA’s fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule, SPU already monitors for 29 PFCs, including the PFAS now subject to the NPDWR. In 2023, this monitoring activity showed no detections for the City’s surface water supplies. The Seattle Well Field was monitored in 2018 and 2022, and two of the three wells had no detections. One compound was detected in the third well slightly above the maximum contaminant level established in the final rule and that well has been taken out of service until appropriate next steps have been identified.

SPU expects to be able to comply with the new PFC/PFAS regulations.

### **Watershed Management Policies**

SPU carries out programs of watershed resource management, fire protection, and the protection of water resources within the Cedar River and South Fork Tolt Watersheds. Seattle City Light also operates small hydroelectric plants in the Cedar River and South Fork Tolt Watersheds.

A land exchange with the U.S. Forest Service in 1996 completed the consolidated ownership of Cedar River Municipal Watershed by the City, which now owns approximately 91,500 acres after more than a century of land acquisitions. A land exchange with Weyerhaeuser Timber Company in 1997 completed the ownership of the lower two-thirds of the South Fork Tolt River Municipal Watershed by the City, with the upper third of the drainage basin remaining under the U.S. Forest Service ownership and land management.

The City’s ownership of the Cedar River Watershed includes protection of water quality, limited forest management, protection of fish and wildlife habitat, watershed management-relevant research, education, managed recreation outside hydrographic boundaries, fire suppression, and trespass control and other programs that are based upon comprehensive management policies adopted in 1989 to guide the secondary uses of the watershed. In 2000, the City committed to discontinuing timber harvesting for commercial purposes over the 50-year lifespan of the Cedar River Watershed HCP, effectively designating this watershed as an ecological reserve. While trees may be cut, timber harvests are allowed only for forest restoration purposes that benefit fish or wildlife populations and support the goals and objectives of the HCP. Forest management goals, objectives, and strategies have been updated in the new Cedar River Watershed Forest Management Plan, to maintain consistency with the HCP and incorporate climate resilience, tribal wildlife habitat objectives, and wildfire hazard reduction. During the 24 years of HCP implementation, the City has removed 236 miles of forest roads that were built for logging and were not necessary for forward-looking watershed management. The City continues to improve and maintain the remaining road network to handle extreme precipitation events, protect aquatic ecosystems, and maintain protection of high quality source water supply.

The HCP provides the City with legal coverage for its drinking water and hydroelectric operations in the Cedar River Watershed under the ESA. It commits the City to improving fish and wildlife habitat, including providing salmonid passage at the Landsburg diversion dam, ecological and restoration thinning and planting of more than 17,000 acres of second growth forest, restoration of riparian, wetland, and stream habitats, the abandonment of more than 200 miles of logging roads in the watershed, road improvements and maintenance of the remaining 400 miles of watershed forest roads, and long-term monitoring. See “Water Supply.”

A watershed management plan was developed for the South Fork Tolt Watershed in 2008 and approved in 2011 to provide a long-term framework for managing the land and natural resources in this watershed. SPU has carried out the plan's recommended restoration actions, and ongoing activities in this watershed relate primarily to access security, forest management, and road maintenance.

### **Wholesale Customer Contracts**

Wholesale Customers consist of 17 water districts and municipalities served under individual contracts and Cascade, a consortium of seven municipalities and water districts that includes five that were formerly served under individual contracts. There are also two customers with emergency intertie agreements and one raw water customer.

Wholesale Customers pay a rate that represents only the costs of the regional system, while retail customers pay rates that cover the entire distribution system. In 2023, approximately 20% of water sales revenue was derived from sales to Wholesale Customers.

Since 2001, 17 Wholesale Customers, representing about 55% of total Wholesale Customer consumption and 30% of total Water System consumption, have signed fixed block or full and partial requirements contracts that expire January 1, 2062. The full and partial requirements contracts include amendment periods where the parties may opt to review and change certain contract terms and conditions in 2022 and 2042. The City and the full and partial requirements Wholesale Customers began the review of certain contract terms in 2021 to determine if any amendments are desired in 2022 under the first amendment period. This review period is ongoing, with potential amendments becoming effective in 2025. The full and partial requirements contracts obligate the City to meet the Wholesale Customers' demand that is not already met by their independent sources of supply, and the customers pay a consumption-based rate for this variable demand. The single fixed block customer pays an annual price for a set amount of water (a block of water) regardless of how much water it consumes, up to the block amount. Any excess use incurs a penalty.

The full and partial contracts also allow the development by Wholesale Customers of alternative sources of water and the reduction of purchases from the City. One customer, Highline Water District, gave notice under the contract in 2011 that it intends to reduce purchases from the City by an amount up to two MGD (approximately 975,900 hundred cubic feet ("ccf")), expected to be effective August 1, 2016. However, due to delays in the timing of completing the acquisition of the alternate supply, the district has not yet implemented the reduction.

SPU signed a 50-year declining block sales contract with Cascade in 2003 that capped Cascade's demand from the Water System at 30.3 MGD through 2023, when the block volume would begin to decline in five-year increments until the end of the contract. In 2013, the contract was amended, which allows Cascade to delay its planned development of Lake Tapps in Pierce County as a future potable water supply for its members. The amendment increased Cascade's block size to 33.3 MGD through 2039, after which the block begins to decline in yearly increments until the end of the contract in 2063. The amendment also included lump sum payments from Cascade of \$5.0 million in 2013, \$12.0 million in 2018, and \$5.0 million in 2024. Cascade's 2023 demand represents about 45% of total Wholesale Customer consumption and 24% of Water System consumption. Cascade pays an annual price for its block of water, regardless of how much water it consumes, up to the block amount. Any excess use incurs a penalty. In 2020, Cascade requested that the City consider selling it additional increments of surplus water that would extend the date at which Cascade's block would begin to decline to sometime past 2039. The City's declining block contract does not obligate the City to sell any additional surplus water to Cascade or any further extensions, unless by mutual agreement. The City began discussions with Cascade in 2022, and discussions are continuing through 2024.

In 2008, SPU signed a 60-year partial requirements contract with the City of North Bend to provide untreated water for North Bend's use in supplementing stream flows affected by its well operation. This contract has a cap of 1.1 MGD. Water deliveries began in 2009.

In 2011, two Wholesale Customers (Lake Forest Park Water District and the City of Edmonds) signed emergency intertie agreements with Seattle to replace their previous wholesale supply contracts that were scheduled to expire at the end of 2011. These customers have alternate supplies and did not purchase water from Seattle on a regular basis, and the contracts more appropriately reflect this status. The contracts expire in 2062.

The Office of the City Auditor conducted an audit of Wholesale Customer water sales to ensure that internal controls over the billing- and payment-related processes are adequate and conducted in accordance with City and department policies and procedures. Results were released in 2018. The City Auditor concluded that SPU’s billing of wholesale customers was generally accurate and complete, but found that certain internal controls needed to be improved. Nineteen internal control recommendations were issued relating to billing adjustment approval and authorization, accuracy of meter reads, current cycle consumption adjustments, and annual meter read verifications. SPU has implemented 16 recommendations and is working on implementing the remainder.

The following table lists consumption in ccf by individual Wholesale Customers and revenues generated by water sales to individual Wholesale Customers in 2023.

**TABLE 10**  
**ANNUAL WATER SALES TO WHOLESAL CUSTOMERS IN 2023<sup>(1)</sup>**

<b>Wholesale Customer</b>	<b>Consumption(ccf)</b>	<b>Revenue</b>
Cascade Water Alliance	13,994,592	\$23,969,284
Northshore Utility District <sup>(2)</sup>	2,698,646	6,015,889
Highline Water District <sup>(3)</sup>	2,380,578	5,048,682
Soos Creek Water and Sewer District <sup>(2)</sup>	1,938,427	3,881,635
Woodinville Water District <sup>(2)</sup>	1,930,759	4,036,175
Water District #20 <sup>(2)</sup>	1,301,977	2,716,406
City of Mercer Island <sup>(2)</sup>	1,012,097	2,133,899
Cedar River Water and Sewer District	968,855	2,006,576
North City Water District <sup>(2)(4)</sup>	768,678	1,552,565
Water District #90	751,307	1,570,570
City of Bothell <sup>(2)</sup>	708,739	1,466,450
Coal Creek Water and Sewer District <sup>(2)</sup>	681,305	1,452,151
Water District #125 <sup>(2)</sup>	605,536	1,247,776
Water District #49 <sup>(2)</sup>	595,855	1,245,719
Olympic View Water and Sewer District	419,577	898,753
City of Duvall <sup>(2)</sup>	318,788	655,540
Water District #119 <sup>(2)</sup>	126,549	257,162
City of Renton	37,757	236,040
Lake Forest Park Water District	174	5,182
City of Edmonds	7	4,648
Total	<u>31,240,203</u>	<u>\$60,401,102</u>

(1) Figures are 2023 metered water consumption and associated revenue from SPU records, not net of certain credits, accruals, and allowances included in the Water System’s audited financial statements. Certain customer contracts also include a payment due when they connect new retail customers to their system.

(2) Indicates Wholesale Customers that buy all their water from SPU.

(3) Highline Water District has given notice under the contract that it intends to reduce purchases from the City by an amount up to 975,900 ccf beginning in 2016. The reduction has been delayed, with an unknown effective date. If this were effective at 2023 rates, it would have resulted in a reduction in revenue to SPU of approximately \$2.1 million.

(4) Formerly Shoreline Water District.

Source: Seattle Public Utilities

## Major Retail Water Users

There are no major water-intensive retail customers in the service area representing more than 2% of total Water System sales revenue. The Water System’s ten largest retail water users in 2023 are shown below.

**TABLE 11**  
**LARGEST WATER CUSTOMERS**

	<b>2023 Revenue</b>	<b>% of Water</b>
	<b>(\$000)</b>	<b>Sales Revenue</b>
City of Seattle	\$ 4,862	1.8%
University of Washington	4,320	1.6%
Port of Seattle	3,873	1.4%
Seattle Housing Authority	3,446	1.2%
King County	1,679	0.6%
Equity Residential Properties	1,263	0.5%
Marriott International Inc	1,037	0.4%
Nucor Steel	902	0.3%
Seattle Public Schools	856	0.3%
Certaineed Gypsum	683	0.2%
Total-Ten Largest Customers	\$ 22,919	8.3%

Totals may not add due to rounding.

## Water Rates

*Establishment of Rates.* Water rates are proposed by the Mayor, reviewed by the City Council and adopted by ordinance after public hearings. The City Council has exclusive authority to set rates and charges for water services. The City is not subject to the rate-making jurisdiction of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission or any other State or federal agency.

In September 2023, the City Council adopted rates for the Water Fund for the years 2024-2026, which resulted in an average annual rate increase of 2% each year. Major drivers of the Rate Study recommendations included revised demand projections, increased operational and maintenance expense, the Water System’s capital improvement program (the “CIP”) (see “—Capital Improvement Program”), and financial policy targets. In addition, retail rates were set to recover revenue reductions expected from the low-income discount program.

In early 2023, SPU began updating SPU’s Strategic Business Plan (see “Seattle Public Utilities—Strategic Business Plan”), which will establish a recommended rate path for the next six-year period (2025 through 2030).

The following table shows historical system-wide water rate increases for the last six years.

**TABLE 12**  
**SYSTEM-WIDE WATER RATE ADJUSTMENTS**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Rate Adjustment</b>
2018	1.3%
2019	4.2
2020	1.6
2021 <sup>(1)</sup>	(2.5)
2022	4.9
2023	0.3

- (1) Decrease in 2021 reflects an adjustment in wholesale rates to reflect past overpayments of allocated costs in accordance with wholesale contracts. In addition, the proportion of wholesale consumption, which is billed at lower rates, increased in 2021. See “—Wholesale Customer Contracts” for more information. Retail rates did not change in 2021.

Source: Seattle Public Utilities

The following table shows the rates effective January 2024.

**TABLE 13**  
**MONTHLY WATER RATES EFFECTIVE IN 2024**

	<u>Residential<sup>(1)</sup></u>	<u>Commercial<sup>(1)</sup></u>	<u>Wholesale</u>
<b>Commodity Charge (\$ per ccf)</b>			
Winter (eight months)	\$ 5.76	\$ 5.90	\$ 1.67
Summer (four months)		7.50	2.50
Up to 5 ccf	5.92	n/a	n/a
Next 13 ccf	7.32	n/a	n/a
Over 18 ccf	11.80	n/a	n/a
<b>Basic Service Charge (\$ per month)<sup>(2)</sup></b>			
3/4"	\$ 19.60	\$ 21.90	n/a
1"	20.20	22.60	n/a
1 1/2"	13.15	34.80	n/a
2"	34.50	38.55	n/a
3"	127.80	143.00	
4"	183.05	205.00	n/a

(1) Retail rates for customers outside the City limits and not within the City of Shoreline, the City of Lake Forest Park, or the City of Burien are 14% higher than in the table above. Rates for customers within the City of Shoreline and the City of Lake Forest Park are 21% higher than in the table above. Rates for customers within the City of Burien are 24% higher than in the table above.

(2) The Basic Service Charge is based on the size of the customer’s meter. Rates for larger meters are not shown.

*Source: Seattle Public Utilities*

*Rate Structure.* Both retail and wholesale rates are seasonally differentiated; the summer residential rate has an inclining block structure. The structure and basis for rates to Wholesale Customers served through master meters are governed by the Wholesale Customer contracts and differ for each Wholesale Customer.

*Low-Income Assistance.* The City assists qualified low-income retail customers with their water bills by providing a 50% discount. Income guidelines vary depending on the number of people in the household and monthly and annual income. Income limits are updated every January and are based on 70% of the State median income. Currently, about 30,000 water customers receive a discount. In addition to the discount program, SPU also has an Emergency Assistance Program (“EAP”) to assist customers in immediate need of bill relief. The EAP allowance is limited to \$507 per allowance for 2024. Most customers are permitted one allowance per year; households with children are permitted two allowances per calendar year. The EAP allowance is income limited to 80% of State median income. Rate proposals include the financial impact of both programs.

*Rate Comparisons.* SPU’s water rates have risen faster than the rate of inflation over the past five years and now are above the average of other cities of its size. The following table shows representative water bills for SPU compared to other cities in the region as of January 1, 2024.

**TABLE 14**  
**REGIONAL COMPARISONS**  
**(RATES IN EFFECT AS OF JANUARY 1, 2024)**

<u>City</u>	<u>Monthly Bill</u>
Bellevue WA	\$ 81.47
Kirkland WA	59.39
Portland OR	56.22
Everett WA	53.34
Issaquah WA	52.73
Tacoma WA	50.70
<b>Seattle WA</b>	<b>48.66</b>
Redmond WA	36.35

*Source: Survey by SPU of rates in effect on January 1, 2024, in each respective city*

*Utility Taxes.* The City’s retail rates include the cost of paying the State public utility tax (5.029%) and City utility tax (15.54%). Currently, most of SPU’s retail service areas in other municipal jurisdictions (Shoreline and Lake Forest Park) are not subject to any additional local utility taxes. Beginning in 2021, revenues in the City of Burien are subject to an 8.0% water utility tax. In 2014, the court of appeals in *City of Wenatchee v. Chelan Public Utility District No. 1*, 181 Wash. App. 326, 325 P.3d 419 (2014), found that a code city could impose a utility tax on another municipality providing utility services within its boundaries on revenues from the other municipality’s proprietary activities. If Shoreline and Lake Forest Park were to levy local utility taxes on SPU in the future, SPU’s retail rates in those jurisdictions would need to be adjusted to include the costs of paying the additional local utility tax.

**Billing**

The City’s utility billing function is co-managed by both SPU and Seattle City Light. SPU provides customer service through a call center and walk-in center. Seattle City Light operates and manages the billing system. SPU and Seattle City Light bill and reimburse each other for these services.

SPU accounts are billed bimonthly for residential and small commercial customers and monthly for larger accounts. Inside the City, residential customers receive a combined utility bill that itemizes amounts due for water, wastewater, and solid waste services, while commercial customers receive a combined utility bill that itemizes amounts due for water and wastewater. Customers outside the City receive bills for water only. Payments received from the combined utility bills are allocated to the appropriate funds. If a payment received from a customer is insufficient to cover the total amount due and payable under the combined utility bill, that payment is credited first to the Solid Waste Fund. The balance of the payment is then credited to the Drainage and Wastewater Fund and then, if funds are available, to the Water Fund. Past-due customers receive a water shut-off notice. By State law, water may be shut off when an account is delinquent, and outstanding balances are considered a lien on the property. Delinquent charges bear interest at the rate of 12% per annum. Total 90-day-plus outstanding balances for SPU billed water, wastewater, and solid waste services were \$15.8 million (less than 2% of annual direct service revenue billed by SPU) as of December 31, 2023. Total 90-day-plus outstanding balances for the year ending December 31, 2022, were consistent, closing with \$15.8 million, or 1.5%, of annual direct service revenue billed by SPU. These figures include all outstanding amounts going back to 2009.

In 2020, SPU revised its leak adjustment policy. The policy now provides retail customers a 100% adjustment for up to two billing periods for any leak-related charges that go above the customer’s normal consumption.

**Financial Policies**

The Mayor and City Council have adopted resolutions establishing financial policies for SPU, including the Water System. In accordance with these policies, water rates are set to achieve generally positive net income, cash balances



equal to 30 days of operating expenses, 20% of capital expenditures financed with current revenue, and a minimum debt service coverage ratio on fixed rate long-term Parity Bonds of 1.70 times annual debt service. All targets have been met or exceeded since 2012. In September 2023, the City Council approved water rate increases consistent with the City’s financial policies for the period 2024 through 2026. See “—Water Rates.”

In 2002, the City by ordinance adopted policies for maintaining funding of the Revenue Stabilization Subfund at a minimum balance of \$9.0 million. As of December 31, 2023, the balance in the Revenue Stabilization Subfund was \$47.5 million. See “Security for the Bonds—Revenue Stabilization Subfund.”

Under the City Charter, City taxes on the Water System may be paid only after provision has been made for debt service and obligations of the Water System as well as for necessary betterments and replacements for the current year.

### **Financial Performance and Projections**

Table 15—Water System Operating Results shows actual revenues and expenses of the Water System for the years 2019 through 2023 and projected results for 2024 through 2026. Footnotes for the table are on the following page. Projections for 2024 through 2026 reflect adopted rate increases effective January 1, 2024.

*SPU does not as a matter of course make public projections as to future sales, earnings, or other results. However, the management of SPU has prepared the prospective financial information as set forth below in Table 15—Water System Operating Results and under “—Capital Improvement Program” to provide readers of this Official Statement with information related to projected revenues and expenses of the Water System. The accompanying prospective financial information was not prepared with a view toward public disclosure or with a view toward complying with the guidelines established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants with respect to prospective financial information, but, in the view of SPU’s management, was prepared on a reasonable basis, reflects the best currently available estimates and judgments, and presents, to the best of management’s knowledge and belief, the expected course of action and the expected future financial performance of the Water System. However, this information is not fact and should not be relied upon as being necessarily indicative of future results, and potential purchasers of the Bonds and the readers of this Official Statement are cautioned not to place undue reliance on the prospective financial information.*

*Neither SPU’s independent auditors, Moss Adams LLP, nor the State auditor nor any other independent accountants have compiled, examined, or performed any procedures with respect to this Official Statement or any financial information contained herein, nor have they expressed any opinion or any other form of assurance on such information, and they assume no responsibility for, and disclaim any association with, this Official Statement and such information.*

*The financial statements of the Water Fund as of and for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023, included herein as Appendix C, have been audited by Moss Adams LLP, independent auditors, as stated in its report appearing herein. SPU has not requested that Moss Adams LLP provide permission for inclusion of its report on the audited financial statements in this Official Statement, and Moss Adams LLP has not performed, since the date of its report included herein, any procedures on the financial statements addressed in that report. Further, Moss Adams LLP has not participated in any way in the preparation or review of this Official Statement.*

*The debt service coverage calculations set forth below are intended to reflect compliance with the rate covenant and the Future Parity Bond covenant contained in the Bond Documents and described under “Security for the Bonds” and for no other purpose. Such calculations reflect the application of generally accepted accounting principles as applied to financial results and may reflect non-recurring or extraordinary accounting transactions permitted under the Bond Documents and generally accepted accounting principles.*

*In providing a rating on the Bonds, certain rating agencies may have performed independent calculations of coverage ratios using their own internal formulas and methodology which may not reflect the provisions of the Bond Documents. See “Other Bond Information—Ratings on the Bonds.” The City makes no representation as to any such calculations, and such calculations should not be construed as a representation by the City as to past or future compliance with any bond covenants or the availability of particular revenues for the payment of debt service, or for any other purpose.*

**TABLE 15**  
**WATER SYSTEM OPERATING RESULTS**  
**(\$000)**

	Actual					Projected		
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 <sup>(10)</sup>	2025 <sup>(10)</sup>	2026 <sup>(10)</sup>
<b>Operating Revenue</b>								
Residential/Commercial Services	\$ 210,994	\$ 207,590	\$ 213,552	\$ 221,695	\$ 230,379	\$ 232,423	\$ 241,074	\$ 246,122
Wholesale Services	56,985	56,782	57,362	56,242	59,043	64,949	58,440	59,708
Other	15,547	14,206	13,585	12,932	15,775	13,948	14,171	14,397
(Deposits to)/Withdrawals from Revenue Stabilization Subfund <sup>(1)</sup>	(2,518)	-	19,000	-	(3,700)	-	-	-
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 281,008</b>	<b>\$ 278,578</b>	<b>\$ 303,499</b>	<b>\$ 290,869</b>	<b>\$ 301,496</b>	<b>\$ 311,320</b>	<b>\$ 313,685</b>	<b>\$ 320,228</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>								
Other Operations and Maintenance <sup>(2)</sup>	\$ 118,975	\$ 112,855	\$ 118,675	\$ 121,634	\$ 148,896	\$ 156,619	\$ 163,089	\$ 171,616
City Taxes <sup>(3)</sup>	34,468	34,020	35,036	36,212	37,259	37,457	38,829	39,631
Taxes Other Than City Taxes	12,278	12,081	12,691	11,492	13,289	12,913	13,335	13,614
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 165,721</b>	<b>\$ 158,956</b>	<b>\$ 166,402</b>	<b>\$ 169,338</b>	<b>\$ 199,445</b>	<b>\$ 206,989</b>	<b>\$ 215,253</b>	<b>\$ 224,862</b>
<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<b>\$ 115,287</b>	<b>\$ 119,622</b>	<b>\$ 137,097</b>	<b>\$ 121,531</b>	<b>\$ 102,051</b>	<b>\$ 104,331</b>	<b>\$ 98,432</b>	<b>\$ 95,366</b>
<b>Adjustments</b>								
Add: Capital Contributions Connection Charge	\$ 5,196	\$ 4,770	\$ 4,613	\$ 5,438	\$ 4,038	\$ 6,074	\$ 6,226	\$ 6,381
Add: City Taxes <sup>(4)</sup>	34,468	34,020	35,036	36,212	37,259	37,457	38,829	39,631
Add: Investment Interest	4,563	2,931	2,261	3,191	5,348	2,067	2,112	2,137
Less: Reserve Subaccount Earnings	(510)	(360)	(303)	(385)	(664)	(664)	(856)	(1,047)
Add: BABs Subsidy	1,984	1,937	1,885	1,827	1,765	1,741	1,671	1,597
Add: Net Other Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)	5,940	2,203	5,876	1,244	1,356	1,318	1,345	1,373
Add: Net Proceeds from Sale on Assets	181	113	423	274	120	-	-	-
<b>Total Adjustments</b>	<b>\$ 51,821</b>	<b>\$ 45,614</b>	<b>\$ 49,792</b>	<b>\$ 47,801</b>	<b>\$ 49,222</b>	<b>\$ 47,992</b>	<b>\$ 49,326</b>	<b>\$ 50,073</b>
<b>Net Revenue Available for Debt Service <sup>(5)</sup></b>	<b>\$ 167,107</b>	<b>\$ 165,236</b>	<b>\$ 186,889</b>	<b>\$ 169,332</b>	<b>\$ 151,273</b>	<b>\$ 152,323</b>	<b>\$ 147,758</b>	<b>\$ 145,438</b>
<b>Annual Debt Service <sup>(6)</sup></b>								
Annual Debt Service <sup>(6)</sup>	\$ 81,340	\$ 81,725	\$ 82,409	\$ 78,348	\$ 81,290	\$ 73,095	\$ 76,446	\$ 79,081
Less: Reserve Subaccount Earnings <sup>(7)</sup>	(510)	(360)	(303)	(385)	(664)	(664)	(856)	(1,047)
<b>Adjusted Annual Debt Service</b>	<b>\$ 80,830</b>	<b>\$ 81,365</b>	<b>\$ 82,107</b>	<b>\$ 77,963</b>	<b>\$ 80,625</b>	<b>\$ 72,430</b>	<b>\$ 75,591</b>	<b>\$ 78,034</b>
<b>Coverage <sup>(8)</sup></b>	<b>2.07</b>	<b>2.03</b>	<b>2.28</b>	<b>2.17 <sup>(9)</sup></b>	<b>1.88</b>	<b>2.10</b>	<b>1.95</b>	<b>1.86</b>

Notes to table on following page.

#### NOTES TO TABLE:

- (1) Withdrawals from the Revenue Stabilization Subfund are added to and deposits are deducted from Operating Revenues, in accordance with Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 71 of the Financial Accounting Standards Board. Withdrawals from the Revenue Stabilization Subfund are available for payment of debt service and increase debt service coverage. Deposits to the Revenue Stabilization Subfund reduce revenue available for payment of debt service and lower debt service coverage. See “Security for the Bonds—Revenue Stabilization Subfund.”
- (2) Excludes non-cash accounting entries for depreciation and amortization.
- (3) The City currently levies a tax of 15.54% upon total gross income of the Water System from its retail business within and outside the City.
- (4) Under the City Charter, City taxes on the Water System may be paid only after ample provisions have been made for debt service and obligations of the Water System as well as for necessary betterments and replacements for the current year. See “—Financial Policies.”
- (5) See the Bond Ordinance for the definition of Adjusted Net Revenue.
- (6) Assumes the issuance of the Bonds and associated debt service in 2024, and future projections. Annual Debt Service is the debt service on all Parity Bonds outstanding, and does not include debt service on DWSRF loans. See “Security for the Bonds—State Loan Program Obligations.”
- (7) Earnings from interest in the Reserve Subaccount are not included in the calculation of debt service coverage. Earnings are subtracted from annual debt service for the purpose of this calculation.
- (8) Calculated in accordance with the Bond Documents, including adjustments to the Coverage Requirement definition and related definitions and covenants. Therefore, the ratios displayed may differ from those set forth in prior official statements and disclosure documents, in order to track the revised definitions in the Bond Documents as now in effect. Such calculations are performed in accordance with the definitions of the terms Adjusted Annual Debt Service, Adjusted Net Revenue, and certain other terms as provided in the Bond Documents. See Appendix A—Summary of Bond Ordinance.
- (9) The debt service coverage calculation shown in the statistical section of the City’s 2022 Water Fund financials was incorrect. The calculation mistakenly included a non-cash non-operating revenue figure of \$10.0 million in the calculation of Net Revenue Available for Debt Service. The corrected calculation shown above in Table 15 reflects the removal of this non-cash revenue item.
- (10) Revenues for 2024 through 2026 are projected in the 2024–2026 Water Retail Rate Study. Rate increases for those years have been adopted by City Council.

*Source: Seattle Public Utilities*

Operating revenues are generated primarily from wholesale and retail water sales. The water sales revenue increase of 8% from 2019 to 2023 is due primarily to retail rate increases. The decrease in wholesale revenues in 2022 is due to the return of past overpayments in accordance with wholesale contracts. Changes in other operating revenue are primarily due to demand in tap installations and the resulting installation fee revenue. These demand increases are due largely to economic conditions.

Operating results during the period 2019 through 2023 were affected by a variety of factors, including deposits to the Revenue Stabilization Subfund in 2019 and 2023, a withdrawal from the Revenue Stabilization Subfund in 2021, a continued strong demand for new taps and other development-related revenue, the refunding of certain Parity Bonds in 2021, and defeasance of certain parity bonds in 2021 and 2022.

#### **Management Discussion and Analysis of Operating Results**

This section provides a brief discussion of operating results for the period 2019 through 2023 based on information in Table 15 and the Management’s Discussion and Analysis included in Appendix C—2023 Audited Financial Statements of the Water Fund.

Between 2019 and 2023, the Water System met or exceeded all financial policy targets. Debt service coverage was maintained well above policy targets, though operating cash balances fell from \$130.0 million at the end of 2019 to \$106.3 million in 2023. The primary cause for the decreased cash balances is the defeasance of approximately \$100 million of high-interest bond debt in 2021 and 2022. SPU expects to meet or exceed all financial policy targets for 2024 through 2026. Figures for 2024 through 2026 incorporate rates that have been adopted by ordinance. See “—Water Rates.”

Both operating and non-operating revenue performance has been strong. Water System financial forecasts assume two major sources of revenue: water sales and development-related revenue. Water demand forecasts assume continued per-capita declines with in-fill development and water efficiency increases related to conservation initiatives. Per-capita declines are assumed to be partially mitigated by increasing population and economic activity. Development-related forecasts assume continued new housing development and redevelopment of existing commercial properties. The Seattle area has experienced significant economic growth in recent years, with a five-year compound real GDP growth rate for the period 2018-2022 of 4.0%<sup>(1)</sup>. SPU's water service area has experienced a five-year compound annual population growth rate for the same period of 1.3%<sup>(2)</sup>. System-wide consumption fell slightly in 2020 due to COVID-related restrictions, but has rebounded to pre-2020 averages since 2021. The prolonged economic expansion also provided the utility with higher than anticipated development-related revenue, as net new service installations averaged more than 1,100 per year.

Overall demand is modeled to remain flat through 2026. Regional water conservation programs and other water use reductions are expected to continue offsetting the impact of population and employment growth on water demand.

### **Capital Improvement Program**

Capital investments are guided by the Water System Plan and multi-year CIP, which is developed within the framework of the Water System Plan and included in the capital improvement program of the City as a whole. The CIP is reviewed, revised, and adopted annually by the Mayor and City Council as part of the City's budget process. The CIP identifies facility needs and financing for rehabilitation, enhancement, and expansion of the Water System. Currently the main areas of focus are to rehabilitate the water distribution system, ensure seismic resiliency, and make water quality improvements.

The City expects to issue approximately \$540 million in long-term debt for the CIP during the period 2024 through 2029, including the Bonds. Annual debt service is expected to rise from approximately \$75 million in 2024 to approximately \$95 million in 2029. In addition, the City expects to take advantage of opportunities to refund prior debt for savings purposes as such opportunities arise.

The CIP is organized into eight program areas: (i) Distribution, (ii) Transmission, (iii) Watershed Stewardship, (iv) Water Quality and Treatment, (v) Water Resources, (vi) Habitat Conservation, (vii) Shared Cost Projects, and (viii) Technology. The amount shown for each program area is based on the adopted CIP. The table below shows the adopted CIP for 2024 through 2029 along with planned funding sources.

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(1) BEA series CAGDP1, 2018-2022 for the Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue MSA

(2) SPU Analysis of Service Area, Table 7.

**TABLE 16**  
**ADOPTED WATER SYSTEM CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**  
**(Amounts in Thousands of Nominal Dollars)**

Program Area	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Total
Distribution	\$ 44,060	\$ 57,113	\$ 65,491	\$ 65,295	\$ 59,907	\$ 74,633	\$ 366,499
Transmission	13,522	26,288	17,730	24,500	16,501	22,338	120,879
Watershed Stewardship	4,886	1,353	2,513	1,232	1,358	908	12,250
Water Quality and Treatment	6,450	5,065	16,283	29,777	30,294	23,046	110,915
Water Resources	16,706	13,812	7,520	5,819	17,245	16,502	77,604
Habitat Conservation	3,686	1,098	567	616	508	384	6,859
Shared Cost Projects <sup>(1)</sup>	44,593	34,035	23,637	23,931	20,182	10,710	157,088
Technology	5,323	4,221	4,221	4,221	4,221	4,221	26,428
<b>Total Adopted CIP</b>	<b>\$ 139,226</b>	<b>\$ 142,985</b>	<b>\$ 137,962</b>	<b>\$ 155,391</b>	<b>\$ 150,216</b>	<b>\$ 152,742</b>	<b>\$ 878,522</b>
Adjustment for Additional CIP <sup>(2)</sup>	(41,739)	(12,456)	(14,152)	(25,758)	(26,807)	(15,680)	(136,592)
<b>Total Projected CIP<sup>(3)</sup></b>	<b>\$ 97,487</b>	<b>\$ 130,529</b>	<b>\$ 123,810</b>	<b>\$ 129,633</b>	<b>\$ 123,409</b>	<b>\$ 137,062</b>	<b>\$ 741,930</b>
<b>Funding Sources</b>							
<b>Debt Financing</b>							
Outstanding Bonds	\$ 25,833	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25,833
The Bonds <sup>(3)</sup>	27,992	42,008	-	-	-	-	70,000
Future Parity Bonds	-	46,541	98,670	103,209	98,238	109,033	455,691
Future Loans	-	12,000	-	-	-	-	12,000
<b>Total Debt Financing</b>	<b>\$ 53,825</b>	<b>\$ 100,549</b>	<b>\$ 98,670</b>	<b>\$ 103,209</b>	<b>\$ 98,238</b>	<b>\$ 109,033</b>	<b>\$ 563,524</b>
<b>Revenue Financing</b>							
Internally Generated Funds	\$ 43,662	\$ 28,480	\$ 23,640	\$ 24,924	\$ 23,671	\$ 26,529	\$ 170,906
Grants and Reimbursements	-	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	7,500
<b>Total Revenue Financing</b>	<b>\$ 43,662</b>	<b>\$ 29,980</b>	<b>\$ 25,140</b>	<b>\$ 26,424</b>	<b>\$ 25,171</b>	<b>\$ 28,029</b>	<b>\$ 178,406</b>
<b>Total Funding Sources</b>	<b>\$ 97,487</b>	<b>\$ 130,529</b>	<b>\$ 123,810</b>	<b>\$ 129,633</b>	<b>\$ 123,409</b>	<b>\$ 137,062</b>	<b>\$ 741,930</b>

Notes to table on following page.

## NOTES TO TABLE:

- (1) Includes projects that affect the Water System, but involve more than a water purpose and are typically funded from multiple sources. See “—Shared Cost Projects” below.
- (2) Adjustments reflect timing shifts and revisions to adopted CIP.
- (3) Does not include deposits to the Reserve Subaccount.

The development of the CIP balances financial capacity with the demands of rehabilitation, improvement, water quality, and expansion. Through the late 1990s and the 2000s, SPU steadily expanded the CIP, raised rates, and increased its long-term borrowing. In managing the CIP, SPU has emphasized efficient project design and careful staging of improvements within the 20-year time frame of the Water System Plan. In the period 2024 through 2029, SPU expects the financial requirements for these projects to be met from Net Revenue of the Water System and the proceeds of Parity Bonds. Approximately 75% of projected CIP spending is expected to be financed by the issuance of Parity Bonds, including the Bonds.

*Shared Cost Projects.* The Shared Cost Projects program area includes Seattle Department of Transportation (“SDOT”) projects (including Move Seattle projects) and represents approximately 20% of the total CIP. SPU’s scope is limited to the impact on its utility systems and is typically governed by agreements with lead or coordinating City departments and State agencies. As a result, SPU has less control over the ultimate timing and expenditures associated with its portion of these projects.

It is likely that more transportation projects or other multi-agency projects will be proposed in the future, and SPU will work with SDOT and other agencies to fully understand the potential impacts of these projects on the Water System.

## THE CITY OF SEATTLE

The following provides general information about the City.

### **Municipal Government**

Incorporated in 1869, the City is the largest city in the Pacific Northwest and is the County seat.

The City is a general purpose government that provides a broad range of services typical of local municipalities, such as streets, parks, libraries, human services, law enforcement, firefighting and emergency medical services, planning, zoning, animal control, municipal court, and utilities. The City owns and operates water, electric, solid waste, and drainage and wastewater utilities, although the County provides wastewater treatment service. The County also provides certain services throughout the County and within the City, including courts of general jurisdiction, felony prosecution and defense, jail, public health, and transit services.

The City is organized under the mayor-council form of government and operates under its City Charter. The Mayor, the city attorney, and the Municipal Court judges are all elected to four-year terms. The nine City Council members are elected to staggered four-year terms.

*Mayor.* The Mayor serves as the chief executive officer of the City. The Mayor presents to the City Council annual statements of the financial and governmental affairs of the City, budgets, and capital improvement plans. The Mayor signs, or causes to be signed on behalf of the City, all deeds, contracts, and other instruments.

*City Council.* As the policy-making legislative body of the City, the City Council sets tax levies and utility rates, makes appropriations, and adopts and approves the annual operating budget and capital improvement plans for the City. The City Council members serve on a full-time basis.

*Municipal Court.* The State Constitution provides for the existence of county superior courts as the courts of general jurisdiction and authorizes the State Legislature to create other courts of limited jurisdiction. The Seattle Municipal Court has limited jurisdiction over a variety of cases, including misdemeanor criminal cases, traffic and parking infractions, collection of fines, violation of no-contact or domestic violence protection orders, and civil actions for

enforcement of City fire and housing codes. The Municipal Court has seven judges. Municipal Court employees report to the judges.

### **Budgeting and Forecasting**

*The City Budget Office.* The City Budget Office (“CBO”) is within the executive branch and the Budget Director is appointed by the Mayor. The CBO is responsible for developing and monitoring the City’s annual budget, carrying out budget-related functions, and overseeing fiscal policy and financial planning activities. The CBO provides strategic analysis in relation to the use of revenues, debt, and long-term issues. The office also provides technical assistance, training, and support to City departments in performing financial functions.

In prior years, the City’s annual budget has been based in part on General Fund revenue forecasts prepared by the CBO; in 2022 much of the forecasting function transitioned to the Office of Economic and Revenue Forecasts. See “—The Office of Economic and Revenue Forecasts.” The CBO continues to be responsible for coordinating with departments to forecast and project all other General Fund revenues, including a variety of excise taxes and public utility taxes, license and service fees, fines, inter- and intra-governmental charges, transfers and shared revenues, grants, interest earnings, and other lesser revenue items.

Additional information on the CBO as well as current and past adopted budgets can be found at <https://www.seattle.gov/city-budget-office>.

*The Office of Economic and Revenue Forecasts.* The Office of Economic and Revenue Forecasts (the “Forecast Office”) was created in July 2021, pursuant to Ordinance 126395. The Forecast Office provides an independent source for the economic and revenue forecasts that underlie the City’s annual budget process. The Forecast Office reports to the Economic and Revenue Forecast Council (the “Forecast Council”), which includes equal representation from the Legislative and Executive branches of City government. The following elected and appointed officials (or their designees) comprise the Forecast Council: the Mayor, the Director of Finance, the Council President, and the Chair of the City Council Finance Committee. The Forecast Council selects one member to serve as Chair of the Forecast Council annually.

The Forecast Office is tasked with preparing three revenue forecasts each year, to be delivered in April, August, and November. The forecasts that are developed by the Director of the Forecast Office and approved by the Forecast Council serve as the official City economic and revenue forecasts and as the basis for the estimates of revenues described in State statutes governing budgeting. The Mayor or City Council has the authority to deviate from the official forecasts.

Forecasts informing the City’s annual budget proposals through the 2022 budget were performed by the CBO. Beginning with the April 2022 Revenue and Budget Update and the 2023 budget cycle, the forecasting function is now performed by the Forecast Office, including forecasting the largest and most economically-dependent general government revenue sources, including sales tax, B&O tax, property tax, private utility taxes, and Payroll Expense Tax. The CBO continues to be responsible for coordinating with departments to forecast and project all other General Fund revenues, including a variety of excise taxes and public utility taxes, license and service fees, fines, inter- and intra-governmental charges, transfers and shared revenues, grants, interest earnings, and other lesser revenue items.

In addition, the Forecast Office staffs the Forecast Council, develops economic and revenue forecasts, conducts special studies at the request of the Forecast Council, and provides *ad hoc* analytical support on economic and revenue estimation for legislative and executive staff consistent with its work program. Additional information on the Forecast Office, as well as the economic and revenue forecasts produced, can be found at <https://www.seattle.gov/economic-and-revenue-forecasts>.

*Municipal Budget.* City operations are guided by a budget prepared under the direction of the Mayor by the CBO pursuant to State statute (chapter 35.32A RCW). The proposed budget is submitted to the City Council by the Mayor each year not later than 90 days prior to the beginning of the next fiscal year. Currently the fiscal year of the City is January 1 through December 31. The City Council considers the proposed budget, holds public hearings on its contents, and may alter and revise the budget at its discretion, subject to the State requirement that budgeted revenues must at least equal expenditures. The City Council is required to adopt a balanced budget at least 30 days before the

beginning of the next fiscal year, which may be amended or supplemented from time to time by ordinance. The Mayor may approve the City Council's budget, veto it, or permit it to become law without the Mayor's signature. The Mayor does not have line-item veto power.

The 2024 budget was adopted by Ordinance 126955, passed by the City Council on November 21, 2023. The City's adopted General Operating Fund budget was approximately \$1.623 billion in 2023 and is approximately \$1.698 billion in 2024. See "—The City Budget Office."

*As used herein, "General Operating Fund" is defined as the financial activity accounted for in the City's General Operating Fund (00100) and does not reflect financial activity outside of this fund. The General Operating Fund is one of a set of more than 20 additional defined funds that are combined into one General Fund for the purposes of reporting in the City's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.*

### **Fiscal Reserves**

*Emergency Fund.* Under the authority of RCW 35.32A.060, and as regulated by Ordinance 116642 (amended by Ordinances 117977 and 125492), the City maintains the Emergency Fund (the "EMF") of the General Fund. The EMF is the principal reserve for the City to draw upon when certain unanticipated expenses occur during the fiscal year. Eligible expenses include costs related to storms or other natural disasters. State law limits the amount of money the City can set aside in this reserve to \$0.375 per \$1,000 of assessed value of property within the City.

The City's financial policies for the EMF establish a minimum balance of \$60 million, adjusted each year with the rate of inflation. This policy strikes a balance between ensuring that resources will be available to address unanticipated expenditures and making resources available to address current needs.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and related economic downturn, the City drew on the EMF and suspended its contributions in 2020 and 2021, and in 2021 amended the financial policies to require that after a severe event requiring deep or multi-year spending from the EMF, the City will return to making contributions to satisfy the target balance within a period of five years, or sooner if practically possible.

The EMF had a fund balance of \$65.0 million as of year-end 2019. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the City withdrew a net \$31.3 million from the EMF in 2020 and 2021. The City subsequently contributed \$10 million to the reserve in 2022 and an additional \$15 million in 2023, resulting in a fund balance in the EMF of \$58.7 million at the end of 2023. In 2024, the City has budgeted to contribute \$14.2 million as part of a plan to fund the Emergency Fund to \$73 million by year-end 2024.

*Revenue Stabilization Fund.* The City maintains the Revenue Stabilization Fund (the "RSF") in the General Fund to be used for revenue stabilization for future City operations and to fund activities that would otherwise be reduced in scope, suspended, or eliminated due to unanticipated shortfalls in General Fund revenues.

Certain required transfers into and restrictions on expenditures from the RSF are set forth in Chapter 5.80 of the Seattle Municipal Code ("SMC"). All expenditures from the RSF require an ordinance, adopted following consideration of projections and recommendations for at least partial replenishment within four years. The RSF is funded by (i) one-time transfers authorized by ordinance, (ii) automatic annual transfers of 0.50% of forecast General Operating Fund tax revenues, and (iii) upon completion of fiscal year accounting, automatic transfer of 50% of the ending balance in the General Operating Fund, less encumbrances, carryforwards as authorized by ordinance or State law, and planned reserve amounts reflected in the adopted budget, that is in excess of the latest revised estimate of the unreserved ending fund balance for that closed fiscal year (as published in the adopted budget). The phrase "tax revenues" means all tax revenues deposited into the General Operating Fund, including but not limited to tax revenue from the regular property tax levy, business and occupation tax, utility business taxes, the portion of admissions tax not dedicated to the Arts and Culture Fund, leasehold excise tax, gambling taxes, and sales and use taxes.

The SMC also provides that automatic transfers will be suspended to the extent that the balance in the RSF exceeds 5% of the forecast General Operating Fund tax revenues for the year, and when forecasts underlying the adopted budget anticipate a nominal decline in General Operating Fund revenues, as compared to the revenue forecasts underlying the adopted budget for the fiscal year immediately prior. Automatic transfers remain suspended until



positive revenue growth is reflected in the revenue forecasts underlying the adopted budget and are reinstated at a level of 0.25% of General Operating Fund tax revenues in the first year showing such recovery, followed by 0.50% thereafter.

To respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, the City withdrew a net \$51.7 million from the RSF in 2020 and 2021, reducing the ending fund balance from \$57.8 million at the end of 2019 to \$6.0 million at the end of 2021. Based on the automatic transfer mechanism described above, the City made a deposit of \$55.7 million to the RSF in 2022 and \$3.6 million in 2023, resulting in an RSF ending fund balance of \$65.3 million at the end of 2023, an increase of \$7.5 million over pre-pandemic levels. The City's 2024 Adopted Budget plans to fund the RSF to \$67.6 million by year-end 2024.

The combined fund balance of these two reserves is projected to reach \$159 million by year-end 2026.

## **Financial Management**

City financial management functions are provided by the Office of City Finance within the Department of Finance and Administrative Services. The Director of Finance is a charter position appointed by the Mayor and reporting directly to the Mayor's Office, while being located within the Department of Finance and Administrative Services.

*Accounting.* The accounting and reporting policies of the City conform to generally accepted accounting principles for municipal governments and are regulated by the State Auditor's Office, which maintains a resident staff at the City to perform a continual current audit as well as an annual, post-fiscal year audit of City financial operations. The Citywide Accounting and Payroll Division of the Office of City Finance within the Department of Finance and Administrative Services maintains general supervision over the accounting functions of the City.

*Auditing.* The State Auditor is required to examine the affairs of all local governments at least once every three years; the City is audited annually. The examination must include, among other things, the financial condition and resources of the City, compliance with the State Constitution and laws of the State, and the methods and accuracy of the accounts and reports of the City. Reports of the State Auditor's examinations are required to be filed in the office of the State Auditor and in the Department of Finance and Administrative Services. The State Auditor's Office has authority to conduct independent performance audits of State and local government entities. The Office of the City Auditor also reviews the performance of a wide variety of City activities such as span of control, City-wide collections, special events permitting, and specific departmental activities.

## **Investments**

*Authorized Investments.* Chapter 35.39 RCW permits the investment by cities and towns of their inactive funds or other funds in excess of current needs in the following: United States bonds, United States certificates of indebtedness, State bonds or warrants, general obligation or utility revenue bonds or warrants of their own or of any other city or town in the State, their own bonds or warrants of a local improvement district that are within the protection of the local improvement guaranty fund law, and any other investment authorized by law for any other taxing district. Under chapter 39.59 RCW, a city or town also may invest in the following: bonds of the State or any local government in the State; general obligation bonds of any other state or local government of any other state that have at the time of the investment one of the three highest credit ratings of a nationally recognized rating agency; registered warrants of a local government in the same county as the government making the investment; certificates, notes, or bonds of the United States, or other obligations of the United States or its agencies, or of any corporation wholly owned by the government of the United States; or United States dollar-denominated bonds, notes, or other obligations that are issued or guaranteed by supranational institutions, provided that, at the time of investment, the institution has the United States government as its largest shareholder; Federal Home Loan bank notes and bonds, Federal Land Bank bonds and Federal National Mortgage Association notes, debentures, and guaranteed certificates of participation, or the obligations of any other government-sponsored corporation whose obligations are or may become eligible as collateral for advances to member banks as determined by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve system; bankers' acceptances purchased on the secondary market; commercial paper purchased in the secondary market, provided that any local government of the State that invests in such commercial paper must adhere to the investment policies and procedures adopted by the Washington State Investment Board; and corporate notes purchased on the secondary market, provided that any local government of the State that invests in such notes must adhere to the investment policies and procedures adopted by the Washington State Investment Board. Under chapter 43.250 RCW, local

governments may invest in the Washington State Local Government Investment Pool, managed by the State Treasurer to maximize potential surplus funds while ensuring safety of those funds.

Money available for investment may be invested on an individual fund basis or may, unless otherwise restricted by law, be commingled within one common investment portfolio. All income derived from such investment may be either apportioned to and used by the various participating funds or used for the benefit of the general government in accordance with City ordinances or resolutions.

*Authorized Investments for Bond Proceeds.* Funds derived from the sale of bonds or other instruments of indebtedness will be invested or used in such manner as the initiating ordinances, resolutions, or bond covenants may lawfully prescribe.

*City Investments.* The information in this section does not pertain to pension funds that are administered by the City (see “Pension Plans”) and certain refunding bond proceeds that are administered by trustee service providers.

All cash-related transactions for the City, including its utilities, are administered by the Treasury Services Division of the Office of City Finance within the Department of Finance and Administrative Services (“City Treasury”). Investments of temporarily idle cash may be made, according to existing City Council-approved policies, by City Treasury in securities described above under “—Authorized Investments.”

State statutes, City ordinances, and Office of City Finance policies require the City to minimize market risks by safekeeping all purchased securities according to governmental standards for public institutions and by maintaining safety and liquidity above consideration for returns. Current City investment policies require periodic reporting on the City’s investment portfolio to the Mayor and the City Council. The City’s investment operations are reviewed by the City Auditor and by the State Auditor.

As of December 31, 2023, the City’s pooled investment portfolio, which excludes pensions, totaled \$3.71 billion market value. The City’s investment portfolio consists solely of City funds. As of December 31, 2023, the annualized earnings yield of the City’s investment portfolio was 3.48% for the month and 3.14% for the year. As of December 31, 2023, the weighted average maturity of the City’s investments was 733 days. Approximately 24%, or \$905 million, was invested in securities with maturities of three months or less.

Investments were allocated as follows, by market value:

U.S. Government Agencies	46%
U.S. Government	35%
State and Local Government Investment Pool	11%
Municipal Bonds	4%
Corporate Bonds	2%
U.S. Government Agency Mortgage-Backed	1%
Supranational	1%
Repurchase Agreements	1%
Commercial Paper	0%

Note: may not add to 100% due to rounding.

*Interfund Loans.* The City is authorized to make interfund loans, bearing interest payable by the borrowing fund. The Director of Finance may approve interfund loans for a duration of up to 90 days. Loans of a longer duration require City Council approval.

As of December 31, 2023, the City had outstanding two interfund loans totaling approximately \$41.1 million, including interest, in the amounts of \$15.7 million and \$25.4 million.

## **Risk Management**

The City purchases excess liability insurance to address general, automobile, professional, public official, and other exposures. Currently the City’s excess liability policy provides \$20 million limits above a \$10 million self-insured retention per occurrence, but coverage excludes partial or complete failure of any of the City’s hydroelectric dams.

The City also purchases all risk property insurance, including earthquake and flood perils, that provides up to \$500 million in limits subject to a schedule of deductibles and sublimits. Earthquakes and floods are subject to annual aggregate limits of \$100 million. City hydroelectric generation and transmission equipment and certain other utility systems and equipment are not covered by the property insurance policy. In 2019, the City began purchasing cyber insurance to cover business interruption, system failure, data asset protection, event management, and privacy and network security liability.

The City insures a primary level of fiduciary, crime liability, inland marine, and various commercial general liability, medical, accidental death and dismemberment, and miscellaneous exposures. Surety bonds are purchased for certain public officials and notaries.

### **Pension Plans**

The information below describes pension plans available to City employees generally. City employees are eligible for coverage by one of the following defined benefit pension plans: Seattle City Employees' Retirement System ("SCERS"), Firefighters' Pension Fund, Police Relief and Pension Fund, and the Law Enforcement Officers' and Fire Fighters' Retirement System ("LEOFF"). The first three are administered by the City and are reported as pension trust funds as part of the City's reporting entity. The State administers LEOFF through the State Department of Retirement Systems ("DRS").

Pursuant to an agreement with various City labor unions, the City Council passed legislation in August 2016 that created a new defined benefit retirement plan, SCERS Plan 2 ("SCERS 2"), covering non-uniformed employees. The new plan is open to employees first hired on or after January 1, 2017. SCERS 2 includes, among other adjustments to SCERS Plan 1 ("SCERS 1"), a slight decrease in benefit levels, raising the minimum retirement age, and deferring retirement eligibility by increasing the age-plus-years-of-service required for retirement with full benefits. The City expects SCERS 2 to provide a more cost-effective method for the City to provide retirement benefits to its employees. It does not affect uniformed employees. The historical information provided in this section relates only to SCERS 1.

Additional detail on the existing plans is available from SCERS and DRS on their respective websites (SCERS: <http://www.seattle.gov/retirement/>; DRS: <http://www.drs.wa.gov/>).

Permanent non-uniformed City employees and certain grandfathered employees of the County (and a predecessor agency of the County) are eligible for membership in SCERS. Newly-hired uniformed police and fire personnel are generally eligible for membership in LEOFF. The Seattle Firefighters' Pension Fund and Police Relief and Pension Fund have been closed to new members since 1977.

*GASB 67/68 Reporting.* Governmental Accounting Standards Board ("GASB") Statements No. 67 ("GASB 67") and 68 ("GASB 68") modified the accounting and financial reporting of pensions by pension plans (GASB 67) and by state and local government employers (GASB 68), but did not alter the funding requirements under State law and City ordinance for members, employers, or the State. The SCERS annual financial statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2020, and DRS's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for LEOFF for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021, were prepared in accordance with GASB 67.

The 2023 Audited Financial Statements of the Water Fund, attached as Appendix C, were prepared in accordance with GASB 68. As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Water Fund reported a liability of \$94.2 million and \$57.1 million, respectively, representing its proportionate share of NPL for SCERS. The NPL was measured as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the TPL used to calculate the NPL was determined by the actuarial valuation as of those dates. The Water Fund's proportion of the NPL was based on contributions to SCERS during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023 and 2022. As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Water Fund's proportion was 5.68% and 5.90%, respectively. Schedules of the Water Fund's proportionate share of NPL and of the Water Fund's contributions are provided as required supplementary information to the Water Fund's 2023 Audited Financial Statements attached as Appendix C.

*Seattle City Employees' Retirement System.* SCERS is a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit public employee retirement plan, administered in accordance with Chapter 4.36 SMC, by the Retirement System Board of Administration (the "Board"). The Board consists of seven members, including the Chair of the Finance Committee

of the City Council, the City’s Director of Finance, the City’s Human Resources Director, two active members and one retired member of the system, and one outside board member who is appointed by the other six board members. Elected and appointed Board members serve for three-year terms.

SCERS is a pension trust fund of the City and provides retirement, death, and disability benefits under SCERS 1 and SCERS 2. Employees first entering the system on or after January 1, 2017, are enrolled in SCERS 2, with limited exceptions for certain exempt employees and those with service credit prior to January 1, 2017. Members already enrolled in SCERS 1 do not currently have an option to switch to SCERS 2.

Under SCERS 1, retirement benefits vest after five years of credited service, while death and disability benefits vest after ten years of service. Retirement benefits are calculated as 2% multiplied by years of creditable service, multiplied by average salary, based on the highest 24 consecutive months. The benefit is actuarially reduced for early retirement. Under SCERS 2, retirement benefits vest after five years of credited service, while death and disability benefits vest after ten years of service. Retirement benefits are calculated as 1.75% multiplied by years of creditable service, multiplied by average salary, based on the highest 60 consecutive months. The benefit is actuarially reduced for early retirement.

According to the most recent actuarial valuation (with a valuation date as of January 1, 2023), which was approved by the Board on June 8, 2023 (the “2022 Actuarial Valuation”), there were 7,513 retirees and beneficiaries receiving benefits, and 9,309 active members of SCERS. There are an additional 1,647 terminated employees in SCERS who are vested and entitled to future benefits and another 1,839 who are not vested and not entitled to benefits beyond contributions and accumulated interest. From January 1, 2022, to January 1, 2023, the net number of active members in SCERS increased by 2.9%, the net number of retirees receiving benefits increased by 2.7%, and the net number of vested terminated members increased by 5.8%.

Certain demographic data from the 2022 Actuarial Valuation are shown below:

**TABLE 17  
PLAN MEMBER DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, SCERS**

<u>Age Range</u>	<u>Retirees and Beneficiaries</u>			
	<u>Receiving Benefits</u>		<u>Active Employees</u>	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
<25	-		126	1.4%
25-39	-		2,553	27.4%
40-49	10 <sup>(1)</sup>	0.1% <sup>(1)</sup>	2,454	26.4%
50-59	248	3.3%	2,603	28.0%
60-69	2,379	32.1%	1,439	15.5%
70+	4,776	64.4%	134	1.4%

(1) Includes everyone under the age of 50.

*Source: 2022 Actuarial Valuation*

FINANCIAL CONDITION AND ACTUARIAL VALUATIONS. As a department of the City, SCERS is subject to the City’s internal control structure and is required by SMC 4.36.505.E to transmit a report to the City Council annually regarding the financial condition of SCERS (the “SCERS Annual Report”). The most recent SCERS Annual Report, for the years ended December 31, 2022, and December 31, 2021, was transmitted on June 6, 2023, by CliftonLarsonAllen LLP.

Milliman Inc., as consulting actuary, has evaluated the funding status of SCERS annually since 2010. The most recent actuarial report, the 2022 Actuarial Valuation (with a valuation date as of January 1, 2023), is available on the City’s website at:

<https://www.seattle.gov/retirement/about-us/board-of-administration#actuarialreportsandexperiencestudies>

In March 2022, the Board reduced the 30-year investment expectation to 6.75% following recommendations in the 2022 Experience Study. This change was incorporated into the annual actuarial valuations beginning with the 2021 Actuarial Valuation (with a valuation date as of January 1, 2022). The following summarizes some key assumptions utilized in the 2022 Actuarial Valuation and compares those to the assumptions used in the last four actuarial valuations.

**TABLE 18**  
**ACTUARIAL ASSUMPTIONS**

	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Investment return	6.75%	6.75%	7.25%	7.25%	7.25%	7.50%
Price inflation	2.60%	2.60%	2.75%	2.75%	2.75%	3.25%
Wage growth (price inflation plus wage inflation)	3.35%	3.35%	3.50%	3.50%	3.50%	4.00%
Expected annual average membership growth	0.25%	0.25%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%
Interest on member contributions made on or after January 1, 2012 <sup>(1)</sup>	3.85%	3.85%	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%	4.75%

(1) Contributions made prior to January 1, 2012, are assumed to accrue interest at 5.75%.

*Source: 2017-2022 Actuarial Valuations*

As of January 1, 2023 (as set forth in the 2022 Actuarial Valuation), the actuarial value of net assets available for benefits was \$3,903.1 million and the actuarial accrued liability was \$5,158.0 million. An Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability (“UAAL”) exists to the extent that actuarial accrued liability exceeds plan assets. Per the 2022 Actuarial Valuation, the UAAL increased from \$1,241.8 million as of January 1, 2022, to \$1,254.9 million as of January 1, 2023. The funding ratio increased from 75.0% as of January 1, 2022, to 75.7% as of January 1, 2023, which increase was primarily due to contributions made to pay down the UAAL and was partially offset by a lower than assumed investment return. For the year ended December 31, 2022, SCERS assets experienced an investment loss of about -9.8% on a market value basis (net of investment expenses), a rate of return that was significantly less than the assumed rate of 6.75% for 2022. The result is an actuarial loss on assets for 2022, but only one-fifth of this loss was recognized in the current year actuarial value of assets (“AVA”). To improve its ability to manage short-term market volatility, the City has adopted a five-year asset smoothing methodology that recognizes the asset gain or loss occurring in each year evenly over a five-year period. Under this methodology, combined with prior years’ asset gains and losses, the 2022 return was a positive 6.2% on an actuarial value basis.

The following table provides historical plan funding information for SCERS:

**TABLE 19**  
**HISTORICAL SCERS SCHEDULE OF FUNDING PROGRESS <sup>(1)</sup>**  
**(\$000,000)**

Actuarial Valuation Date (January 1)	Actuarial Value of Assets (AVA) <sup>(2)</sup>	Actuarial Accrued Liability (AAL) <sup>(3)</sup>	Unfunded AAL (UAAL)	Funding Ratio	Covered Payroll <sup>(4)</sup>	UAAL as % of Covered Payroll
2014	2,094.3	3,260.1	(1,165.8)	64.2%	597.9	195.0%
2015	2,266.7	3,432.6	(1,165.9)	66.0%	630.9	184.8%
2016	2,397.1	3,605.1	(1,208.0)	66.5%	641.7	188.2%
2017	2,564.1	3,766.4	(1,202.3)	68.1%	708.6	169.7%
2018	2,755.2	3,941.8	(1,186.6)	69.9%	733.3	161.8%
2019	2,877.4	4,216.7	(1,339.3)	68.2%	779.1	171.9%
2020	3,040.7	4,411.1	(1,370.4)	68.9%	819.7	167.2%
2021	3,345.8	4,673.1	(1,327.3)	71.6%	878.2	151.1%
2022	3,717.2	4,959.0	(1,241.8)	75.0%	876.4	141.7%
2023	3,903.1	5,158.0	(1,254.9)	75.7%	972.6	129.0%

- (1) For accounting purposes under GASB 67/68, UAAL is replaced with net pension liabilities. However, because the City continues to set its contribution rates based on an actuarially required contribution based on the UAAL and funding ratios calculated under the pre-GASB 67/68 methodology, both methods are currently reported in the SCERS actuarial valuations and annual reports.
- (2) Based on five-year asset smoothing.
- (3) Actuarial present value of benefits less actuarial present value of future normal cost. Based on Entry Age Actuarial Cost Method, defined below under “SCERS Contribution Rates.”
- (4) Covered Payroll shown for the prior calendar year; includes compensation paid to all active employees on which contributions are calculated.

*Source: Annual Actuarial Valuation Reports*

In accordance with GASB 67, the 2022 SCERS audited financial statements included a calculation of TPL and NPL based on the actuarial valuation dated as of January 1, 2022, rolled forward using generally accepted actuarial procedures (assuming a 6.75% investment rate of return and 3.35% salary increases) to December 31, 2022, as follows: TPL was calculated to be \$5,152.0 million, plan fiduciary net position (“Plan Net Position”) was calculated to be \$3,638.9 million, and NPL was calculated to be \$1,513.0 million, for a funding ratio (Plan Net Position as a percentage of TPL) of 70.6%. A Schedule of the Water Fund’s Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability and Schedule of the Water Fund’s Contributions is set forth in the required supplementary information in Appendix C—2023 Audited Financial Statements of the Water Fund.

SCERS CONTRIBUTION RATES. Member and employer contribution rates for SCERS 1 and SCERS 2 are established separately by Chapter 4.36 SMC. The SMC provides that the City contribution for SCERS 1 must match the normal contributions of SCERS 1 members and does not permit the employer rate to drop below the employee rate. There is no similar restriction in the SMC with respect to SCERS 2. The SMC also requires that the City contribute, in excess of the matching contributions, no less than the amount determined by the most recent actuarial valuation that is required to fully fund the plan. Contribution rates are recommended annually by the Board, based on the system’s actuarial valuation. Benefit and contribution rates are set by the City Council.

The Actuarially Required Contribution (“ARC”) rate is based on amortizing the required contribution over 30 years, meaning that the total contribution rate must be sufficient to pay for the costs of benefits earned during the current year, as well as the annual cost of amortizing the plan’s UAAL over 30 years. The City Council may from time to time set the amortization period by resolution, and in 2013, it passed a resolution to close the 30-year amortization period for calculating UAAL as of the January 1, 2013, actuarial valuation. As a result, for purposes of the 2022 Actuarial Valuation calculation, a 20-year amortization period was used. This policy may be revised by the City Council in future years. The 2022 Actuarial Valuation was prepared using the Entry

Age Normal Cost (“EANC”) method. Under the EANC method, the actuarial present value of the projected benefits of each individual included in the valuation is allocated as a level percent of the individual’s projected compensation between entry age into the system and assumed exit age (*e.g.*, termination or retirement).

Current and historical contribution rates for SCERS, based on a percentage of employee compensation (exclusive of overtime), are shown in the table below.

**TABLE 20**  
**EMPLOYER AND EMPLOYEE SCERS CONTRIBUTION RATES**

<b>Calendar Years (beginning Jan. 1)</b>	<b>Employer Rate</b>	<b>Employee Rate</b>	<b>Total Contribution Rate</b>	<b>Total ARC<sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>% of Total ARC Contributed</b>
2015	15.73%	10.03%	25.76%	25.76%	100%
2016	15.23%	10.03%	25.26%	25.26%	100%
2017	15.29%	10.03%	25.32%	25.32%	100%
2018	15.23% <sup>(2)</sup>	10.03%	25.26%	25.00%	101% <sup>(2)</sup>
2019	15.26% <sup>(2)</sup>	9.85% <sup>(3)</sup>	25.11%	24.40% <sup>(4)</sup>	103% <sup>(2)</sup>
2020	16.14%	9.65% <sup>(3)</sup>	25.79%	25.79% <sup>(4)</sup>	100%
2021	16.10%	9.46% <sup>(3)</sup>	25.56%	25.56% <sup>(4)</sup>	100%
2022	16.10% <sup>(2)</sup>	9.35% <sup>(3)</sup>	25.45%	24.68% <sup>(4)</sup>	103% <sup>(2)</sup>
2023	15.82%	9.24% <sup>(3)</sup>	25.06%	25.06% <sup>(4)</sup>	100%
2024	15.17%	8.95% <sup>(3)</sup>	24.12%	24.12% <sup>(4)</sup>	100%

- (1) Reflects total actuarial required contribution (*i.e.*, employer plus employee contribution rates). Since November 21, 2011, this rate has been used for City budgeting purposes.
- (2) The City contribution rate is intentionally more than the total ARC in these years in an effort to reduce a projected increase in future contribution rates.
- (3) Reflects a blended employee contribution rate based on rates for SCERS 1 and SCERS 2 members.
- (4) Since 2019, the ARC reflects a blended normal cost for SCERS 1 and SCERS 2.

*Source: Seattle Municipal Code; Annual Budgets; Annual Actuarial Valuation Reports*

In 2011, the City Council adopted Resolution 31334, affirming the City’s intent to fully fund the annual ARC each year with its budget. See Table 20—Employer and Employee SCERS Contribution Rates and Table 21—Projected Actuarially Required Total Contribution Rates for SCERS by Employer and Employee.

The City’s contracts with all labor unions that represent SCERS members limit the ability of the City to pass on increases to pension contribution rates to the employee portion. Therefore, any future increases to pension contribution rates will be reflected in the City’s employer contribution.

As indicated in Table 20, the Total ARC is decreasing to 24.12% as a percent of payroll beginning on January 1, 2024. This compares to the 25.06% Total ARC in 2023. The employees’ share averages 8.95% between SCERS 1 and SCERS 2 in 2024. The employer’s share needed to meet the Total ARC is decreasing from 15.82% in 2023 to 15.17% in 2024.

Projected total actuarially required contribution rates for SCERS reported in the 2022 Actuarial Valuation are shown in the table below:

**TABLE 21**  
**PROJECTED ACTUARIALLY REQUIRED TOTAL CONTRIBUTION RATES FOR SCERS**  
**BY EMPLOYER AND EMPLOYEE**

<u>Contribution Year<sup>(1)</sup></u>	<u>Assuming 6.75% Returns</u>	<u>Confidence Range<sup>(2)</sup></u>
2024	15.17%	15.17-15.17
2025	15.28%	14.01-16.37
2026	15.65%	12.16-18.57
2027	16.46%	10.12-21.60
2028	17.68%	8.95-25.33
2029	17.67%	8.95-28.10

(1) Contribution year lags valuation year by one. For example, contribution year 2024 is based on the 2022 Actuarial Valuation (as of January 1, 2023) results, amortized over 20 years beginning in 2023 if the contribution rate change takes place in 2024.

(2) Confidence range for asset returns between the 5th and 95th percentile.

*Source: 2022 Actuarial Valuation*

Employer contributions were \$139.3 million in 2022 and \$145.0 million in 2023. Employer contributions from the Water Fund were \$8.6 million in 2022 and \$8.6 million in 2023. The employer share for employees of each of the utility funds is allocated to and paid out of the funds of each respective utility.

INVESTMENT OF SCERS PLAN FUNDS. In accordance with chapter 35.39 RCW, the Board has established an investment policy for the systematic administration of SCERS funds. The investment of SCERS funds is governed primarily by the prudent investor rule, as set forth in RCW 35.39.060. SCERS invests retirement funds for the long term, anticipating both good and poor performing financial markets. Contributions into SCERS 1 and SCERS 2 are invested together.

The market value of SCERS’s net assets decreased by \$495.8 million (-12.0%) during 2022, including member and employer contributions of \$228.3 million and net loss from investment activity totaling -\$452.8 million. Deductions increased by \$20.5 million in 2022, primarily attributed to an \$11.2 million increase in retiree benefit payments and an \$8.3 million increase in the amount of contributions refunded. For the year ending December 31, 2023, SCERS assets experienced an investment return of 11.5% on a market basis (net of investment expenses), which is above the assumed rate of 6.75%.



The following table shows the historical market value of SCERS’s assets (as of each December 31). Table 23 shows the historical investment returns on SCERS for the last ten years.

**TABLE 22**  
**SCERS MARKET VALUE OF ASSETS**

<b>Year</b> <b>(As of December 31)</b>	<b>Market Value of</b> <b>Assets (MVA)<sup>(1)</sup></b>
2013	\$ 2,216.9
2014	2,322.7
2015	2,313.0
2016	2,488.5
2017	2,852.9
2018	2,717.4
2019	3,149.9
2020	3,641.5
2021	4,134.8
2022	3,638.9

(1) In millions.

Source: SCERS Actuarial Valuations

**TABLE 23**  
**SCERS INVESTMENT RETURNS**

<b>Year</b> <b>(As of December 31)</b>	<b>One-Year</b> <b>Annualized Return<sup>(1)</sup></b>
2014	5.3%
2015	0.1%
2016	8.4%
2017	15.7%
2018	-3.7%
2019	17.2%
2020	12.6%
2021	16.8%
2022	-9.8%
2023	11.5%

(1) Calculated net of fees.

Source: SCERS Annual Reports and SCERS 2023 Q4 Performance Summary

The following table below shows the historical distribution of SCERS investments for the years 2019-2023.

**TABLE 24**  
**HISTORICAL SCERS DISTRIBUTION OF INVESTMENTS BY CLASS**

<b>Investment Categories (January 1)</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
Diversifying Strategies	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.0%
Fixed Income	24.7%	23.8%	22.7%	26.7%	28.9%
Infrastructure	2.5%	1.9%	1.5%	1.2%	0.9%
Private Equity	14.7%	13.5%	13.2%	8.6%	8.1%
Public Equity	44.3%	50.1%	53.0%	53.1%	48.8%
Real Estate	13.7%	10.6%	9.7%	10.5%	11.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

*Source: SCERS Actuarial Valuations*

In accordance with SCERS’s Investment Policy, the Board retains external investment managers to manage components of the SCERS portfolio. Managers have authority to determine investment strategy, security selection, and timing, subject to the Investment Policy, specific manager guidelines, legal restrictions, and other Board direction. Managers do not have authority to depart from their guidelines. These guidelines specify eligible investments, minimum diversification standards, and applicable investment restrictions necessary for diversification and risk control.

The Investment Policy defines eligible investments to include securities lending transactions. Through a custodial agent, SCERS participates in a securities lending program whereby securities are lent from the system’s investment portfolio on a collateralized basis to third parties (primarily financial institutions) for the purpose of generating additional income to the system. The market value of the required collateral must meet or exceed 102% of the market value of the securities lent.

*Firefighters’ Pension Fund; Police Relief and Pension Fund.* The Firefighters’ Pension Fund and the Police Relief and Pension Fund are single-employer pension plans that were established by the City in compliance with chapters 41.18 and 41.20 RCW.

All City law enforcement officers and firefighters serving before March 1, 1970, are participants in these plans and may be eligible for a supplemental retirement benefit plus disability benefits under these plans. Some disability benefits may be available to such persons hired between March 1, 1970, and September 30, 1977. Since the effective date of LEOFF in 1970, no payroll for employees was covered under these City plans, and the primary liability for pension benefits for these City plans shifted from the City to the State LEOFF plan described below. The City remains liable for all benefits of employees in service at that time plus certain future benefits in excess of LEOFF benefits. Generally, benefits under the LEOFF system are greater than or equal to the benefits under the old City plan. However, because LEOFF benefits increase with the consumer price index (CPI-Seattle) while some City benefits increase with wages of current active members, the City’s projected liabilities vary according to differences between wage and CPI increase assumptions.

These pension plans provide retirement benefits, death benefits, and certain medical benefits for eligible active and retired employees. Retirement benefits are determined under chapters 41.18 and 41.26 RCW for the Firefighters’ Pension Fund and under chapters 41.20 and 41.26 RCW for the Police Relief and Pension Fund. As of January 1, 2023, eligible pension beneficiaries consisted of 608 fire employees and survivors and 587 police employees and survivors. See “—Other Post-Employment Benefits” below for a discussion of medical benefits paid to retirees.

In 2015, GASB released Statement No. 73 (“GASB 73”), replacing accounting requirements previously mandated under GASB Statements Nos. 25 and 27 for public pension plans that are not within the scope of GASB 68. The City has determined that both the Firefighters’ Pension Fund and the Police Relief and Pension Fund are outside the scope

of GASB 67 and GASB 68, and therefore the accounting and financial reporting for these pension plans has been prepared in accordance with GASB 73.

These pension plans do not issue separate financial reports. The most recent actuarial valuations, dated January 1, 2022, use the EANC method and value plan assets at fair value. The actuarial valuation for the firefighters’ pension fund uses the following long-term actuarial assumptions: inflation rate (CPI), 2.50%; investment rate of return, 5.00%; and projected salary increases, 3.25%. The actuarial valuation for the Police Relief and Pension Fund uses the following long-term actuarial assumptions: inflation rate (CPI), 2.50%; investment rate of return, 2.00%; and projected salary increases, 3.25%. Postretirement benefit increases are projected based on salary increase assumptions for benefits that increase based on salary and based on CPI assumptions for benefits based on CPI.

Since both pension plans were closed to new members effective October 1, 1977, the City is not required to adopt a plan to fund the actuarial accrued liability of these plans. In 1994, the City established an actuarial fund for the Firefighters’ Pension Fund and adopted a policy of fully funding the actuarial accrued liability (“AAL”) by the year 2018 (which was subsequently extended to 2028). In accordance with GASB 73, the plan had a TPL of \$91.3 million as of December 31, 2022, a decrease of \$27.0 million from the TPL of \$118.3 million as of December 31, 2021. As of the January 1, 2023, valuation, the actuarial value of net assets available for benefits in the Firefighters’ Pension Fund was \$29.8 million, and the AAL was \$86.6 million. As a result, the UAAL was \$56.7 million and the funded ratio was 34.4%. In the January 1, 2022, actuarial valuation, the UAAL was \$52.6 million and the funded ratio was 39.3%. The City’s employer contribution to the fund in 2022 was \$5.6 million; there were no current member contributions, as described in the January 1, 2023, actuarial valuation. Under State law, partial funding of the Firefighters’ Pension Fund may be provided by an annual property tax levy of up to \$0.225 per \$1,000 of assessed value within the City. The City does not currently levy this additional property tax, but makes contributions out of the General Fund levy. The fund also receives a share of the State tax on fire insurance premiums.

In contrast to the Firefighters’ Pension Fund policy of fully funding the AAL, the City funds the Police Relief and Pension Fund as benefits become due. In accordance with GASB 73, the plan had a TPL of \$76.7 million as of December 31, 2022, a decrease of \$24.6 million from the TPL of \$101.3 million as of December 31, 2021. As of the January 1, 2023, valuation, the actuarial value of net assets available for benefits in the Police Relief and Pension Fund was \$23.6 million, and the actuarial value of future benefits was \$74.8 million. As a result, the unfunded actuarial liability was \$51.2 million and the funded ratio was 31.6%. In the January 1, 2022, actuarial valuation, the unfunded actuarial liability was \$74.0 million and the funded ratio was 22.2%. The City’s employer contribution to the fund in 2022 was \$9.6 million; there were no current member contributions, as described in the January 1, 2023, actuarial valuation. The fund also receives police auction proceeds of unclaimed property.

*Law Enforcement Officers’ and Fire Fighters’ Retirement System.* Substantially all of the City’s current uniformed firefighters and police officers are enrolled in LEOFF. LEOFF is a State-wide, multiple-employer defined benefit plan administered by the DRS. Contributions by employees, employers, and the State are based on gross wages. LEOFF participants who joined the system by September 30, 1977, are Plan 1 members. LEOFF participants who joined on or after October 1, 1977, are Plan 2 members. For all of the City’s employees who are covered under LEOFF, the City contributed \$16.8 million in 2022 and \$17.0 million in 2021. The following table outlines the contribution rates of employees and employers under LEOFF.

**TABLE 25**  
**LEOFF CONTRIBUTION RATES EXPRESSED AS A PERCENTAGE OF COVERED PAYROLL**  
**(AS OF JULY 1, 2023)**

	<b>Plan 1</b>	<b>Plan 2</b>
Employer	0.18% <sup>(1)</sup>	5.30% <sup>(1)</sup>
Employee	0.00	8.53%
State	N/A	3.41%

(1) Includes a 0.18% DRS administrative expense rate.

*Source: Washington State Department of Retirement Systems*

While the City's current contributions represent its full current liability under the retirement systems, any unfunded pension benefit obligations could be reflected in future years as higher contribution rates. The State Actuary's website includes information regarding the values and funding levels for LEOFF.

According to the Office of the State Actuary's June 30, 2022, valuation, LEOFF had no UAAL. LEOFF Plan 1 had a funded ratio of 152% and LEOFF Plan 2 had a funded ratio of 104%. The assumptions used by the State Actuary in calculating the accrued actuarial assets and liabilities are a 7.00% annual rate of investment return, 3.25% general salary increases, and 2.75% consumer price index increase. Liabilities were valued using the EANC method and assets were valued using the AVA, which defers a portion of the annual investment gains or losses over a period of up to eight years. As of December 31, 2022, the City reported an asset of \$324.4 million for its proportionate share of the net pension asset as follows: \$102.0 million for LEOFF Plan 1 and \$222.4 million for LEOFF Plan 2.

For additional information, see Note 11 to the City's 2022 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.

### **Other Post-Employment Benefits**

The City has liability for two types of OPEB: (i) an implicit rate subsidy for health insurance covering employees retiring under SCERS 1, SCERS 2, or LEOFF Plan 2 and dependents of employees retiring under LEOFF Plan 1, and (ii) medical benefits for eligible beneficiaries of the City's Firefighters' Pension Fund and Police Relief and Pension Fund. The implicit rate subsidy is the difference between (i) what retirees pay for their health insurance as a result of being included with active employees for rate-setting purposes, and (ii) the estimated required premiums if their rates were set based on claims experience of the retirees as a group separate from active employees.

Beginning with the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018, the City has assessed its OPEB liability in accordance with GASB Statement No. 75 ("GASB 75"). While GASB 75 requires reporting and disclosure of the unfunded OPEB liability, it does not require that it be funded.

The City funds its OPEB liabilities on a pay-as-you-go basis.

The City commissions a biennial valuation report on its OPEB liabilities associated with the implicit rate subsidy for health insurance covering employees retiring under the SCERS 1, SCERS 2, or LEOFF plans. The last valuation was based on a measurement date as of January 1, 2023, for the City's fiscal year ending December 31, 2023, and was prepared in accordance with GASB 75. It showed the total OPEB liability for the implicit rate subsidy as of December 31, 2023, decreased to \$50.0 million from \$55.7 million as of December 31, 2022. The City's GASB 75 annual expense in 2023 was calculated at \$0.9 million, which compares to \$3.1 million in 2022.

The valuation of the OPEB liability associated with the City's Firefighters' Pension Fund and Police Relief and Pension Fund is updated annually. The most recent valuations were prepared as of January 1, 2023, in accordance with GASB 75 for the City's fiscal year ending December 31, 2022. As of January 1, 2023, valuations, eligible beneficiaries consisted of 610 fire employees and 513 police employees. As of December 31, 2022, the total OPEB liability in the City's Firefighters' Pension Fund decreased to \$243.8 million from \$290.6 million. The annual OPEB expense for 2022 was a negative \$34.3 million and the estimated benefit payments were \$12.5 million. As of December 31, 2022, the total OPEB liability in the Police Relief and Pension Fund decreased to \$238.0 million from \$293.7 million. The annual OPEB expense for 2022 was a negative \$41.2 million and the estimated benefit payments were \$14.4 million. The reduction in total OPEB liability and annual OPEB expense under both of the City's Firefighters' Pension Fund and Police Relief and Pension Fund plans was primarily due to an increase in the discount rate used to value future benefits under GASB 75.

For additional information regarding the City's OPEB liability, see Note 11 to the City's 2022 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. For additional information regarding the Water Fund's portion of the City's OPEB liability, see Appendix C—2023 Audited Financial Statements of the Water Fund-Note 5.

## **State Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance**

On January 1, 2020, the State became the fifth state in the nation to offer paid family and medical leave benefits to all workers in the State, including State and local government employees. The Paid Family and Medical Leave program is a State-wide insurance program administered by the State Employment Security Department that provides up to 12 to 18 weeks' paid leave for eligible workers to give or receive care. Eligible workers are those who have worked at least 820 hours (equivalent to 20.5 full-time weeks) in the qualifying period before the leave begins. Benefits range between \$100 and \$1,456 per week, and the maximum benefit is adjusted annually. The program is funded by a mix of employer and employee premiums.

The City pays the employer share of premiums based on a percentage of wages that are subject to the federal Social Security tax. As of January 1, 2024, the rate is 0.74% of gross wages, up to the Social Security taxable wage cap. The City pays only the employer share of the assessment for most employees (estimated to be \$3.5 million in 2024, or 0.21% of gross wages subject to the Social Security cap) approximately half of which will be paid from the General Operating Fund and the remainder of which will be paid by other funds.

## **State Long-Term Care Services and Supports Benefit Program**

The Long-Term Services and Supports ("LTSS") Trust Program ("WA Cares") was first enacted in 2019 and was adjusted by further legislation in 2021, 2022, and, as described below, 2024. The program is intended to provide certain long-term care benefits to eligible beneficiaries. Benefits may be paid directly to LTSS providers on behalf of eligible beneficiaries. Administration of the LTSS Trust Program is divided among several State Agencies: the Employment Security Department, the Department of Social and Health Services ("DSHS"), the Health Care Authority, the Office of the State Actuary ("OSA"), the Pension Funding Council, and two new bodies: the LTSS Trust Council and the LTSS Trust Commission.

The legislation imposes premiums on participating employees in the State, collected by employers through employee payroll deductions and remitted to the State; there is no employer contribution required under State law. Collection of premiums commenced on July 1, 2023, and benefits are to become available beginning July 1, 2026. Premiums are assessed at a rate of 0.58% of each employee's wages within the State, and subject to adjustment every two years by the Pension Funding Council based on actuarial studies and valuations to be performed by OSA to maintain financial solvency of the LTSS Trust, but not to exceed 0.58%. Employers are required to remit premiums on behalf of all employees other than employees who are exempt or demonstrate that they had private long-term care insurance on or before November 21, 2021. Self-employed persons may opt into the program; certain employees (e.g., workers who live out of State, military spouses, workers on non-immigrant visas, and certain veterans with disabilities) may apply for exemption from the program.

Any individual employed in the State may become eligible to receive the benefit when they have paid the LTSS Trust premiums while working at least 500 hours per year for either ten years with at least five years uninterrupted, or three of the last six years. Persons born before 1968 can earn lifetime access to 10% of the full benefit amount for each year they contribute. Program participants eligible to receive benefits must have been assessed by DSHS as needing assistance with at least three daily living tasks, must be at least 18 years old (and must not have been disabled before the age of 18), and must reside in the State. There is a lifetime cap of \$36,500 (as of 2026, adjusted annually for inflation) on the benefit for any individual. Pursuant to House Bill 2467, which has passed the Legislature and has been signed by the Governor, beginning July 1, 2026, employees or self-employed persons who have left the State may elect to continue participation in the LTSS Trust Program.

## **Labor Relations**

This information reflects the continued engagement of the Labor Relations Unit within Seattle Human Resources ("Labor Relations") with union representatives. As of December 31, 2023, the City had 38 separate departments and offices with approximately 15,367 employees (including 11,912 regular and 3,455 temporary employees). Thirty-one different unions and 57 bargaining units represent approximately 77% of regular City employees whose employment is governed by 33 different collective bargaining agreements (contracts).

The Mayor ended the COVID-19 pandemic emergency declaration in late 2022 and lifted the vaccine mandate in early 2023. Labor Relations continues to work closely with all of the labor representatives to address the continuing impacts

of the pandemic, along with other social and environmental crises that have affected the City and surrounding communities as well as the City's employees.

In 2021, multiple unions filed unfair labor practices arising out of the COVID-19 vaccine mandate. All but one of those administrative matters before the State's Public Employment Relations Commission have been mutually resolved; the last unfair labor practice filed by the Seattle Police Officers' Guild ("SPOG") remains unresolved and is expected to go to hearing in 2024. The City is separately addressing several other grievance actions and lawsuits brought against the City related to the vaccine mandate.

Labor Relations has concluded its negotiations with SPOG for an interim bargaining agreement to replace its contract that expired on December 31, 2020. Now ratified, this interim contract will be effective retroactively as of January 1, 2021, and will be shown as expiring December 31, 2023, upon approval by the City Council. This interim contract is now in the legislative review process and expected to be completed in the second quarter of 2024. Negotiations are still ongoing for a new SPOG contract to become retroactively effective January 1, 2024.

The new Seattle Police Management Association ("SPMA") contract agreement that became effective January 1, 2020, expired on December 31, 2023. The City expects negotiations for a new SPMA contract to begin in mid-2024.

The City reached a new agreement with IAFF Local 27 Fire Fighters in the fall of 2023; the new contract is effective retroactively as of January 1, 2022, and is valid until December 31, 2026. The City anticipates beginning negotiations with IAFF Local 2898 Fire Chiefs in 2024; that labor agreement expired December 31, 2021. The City has ratified labor agreements with approximately 25 additional bargaining units which are either part of the Coalition of City Unions or "Coalition-Like" unions; these contracts are retroactively effective January 1, 2023, and expire on December 31, 2026. Through legislation, the City authorized extension of the same wage increases and benefits provided in these contracts to virtually all non-represented City employees. Negotiations for the remaining expired labor agreements are ongoing and are expected to be resolved by the second quarter of 2024. All together, these contracts include approximately 61% of the City's represented employees. These unions will continue to operate under their expired contracts until the successor agreements have been formally approved and signed.

One new bargaining unit has completed the certification process, represented by the WSCCCE, Council 2, AFSCME, for Strategic Advisors and Managers at Seattle Public Utilities; the first collective bargaining contract was effective January 1, 2021 and expired on December 31, 2022. The successor bargaining contract will become part of the Coalition of City Unions and, once ratified, will be retroactively effective January 1, 2023, and valid until December 31, 2026. This process is anticipated to be completed by the second quarter of 2024.

### **Emergency Management and Preparedness**

The City's Office of Emergency Management ("OEM") is responsible for coordinating the City's response and resources during emergencies and disasters through close coordination with City departments and partner agencies.

OEM prepares for emergencies; coordinates with regional, State, and federal response agencies as well as private sector partners; provides education to the community about emergency preparedness; plans for emergency recovery; and works to mitigate known hazards. It has identified, assessed, and planned for many types of hazards that may impact the City, including geophysical hazards (*e.g.*, earthquakes, landslides, tsunamis, seismic seiches, volcanic eruptions, and lahars), infectious disease outbreaks, intentional hazards (*e.g.*, terrorism, active shooter incidents, breaches in cyber security, and civil disorder), transportation incidents, fires, hazardous materials, infrastructure failure, and severe weather (*e.g.*, floods, snow, water shortages, and windstorms). However, the City cannot anticipate all potential hazards and their effects, including any potential impact on the economy of the City or the region.

The City's emergency management program was assessed by a third-party team of emergency management professionals according to the Emergency Management Accreditation Program standards and was accredited in 2016 and reaccredited in 2022.

If a disaster were to damage or destroy a substantial portion of the taxable property within the City, the assessed value of such property could be reduced, which could result in a reduction of property tax revenues. Other revenue sources, such as sales tax and lodging tax, could also be reduced. In addition, substantial financial and operational resources

of the City could be required during any emergency event or disaster and could be diverted to the subsequent repair of damage to City infrastructure.

### **Climate Change**

There are potential risks to the City associated with changes in the climate over time and from increases in the frequency, timing, and severity of extreme weather events. Aging infrastructure systems will be more vulnerable to climate-related hazards, as they are less able to mitigate climate-related hazards or cope with extreme events. Extreme events—such as the 2021 heat dome event or the 2022 King Tide flood event—are likely to continue to occur, leading to cascading and compounding impacts for residents, businesses, and systems. While the City’s systems and assets are fairly resilient to the impacts of climate change, the City, including its utilities, is preparing for continued changing climate conditions and the resulting economic, infrastructure, health, and other community impacts by incorporating climate change into its decision making and identifying actions to enhance the resilience of services and infrastructure.

In 2013, the City adopted Resolution 31447 adopting a Climate Action Plan to provide long-term planning direction and guide climate protection and adaptation efforts through 2030. This was most recently updated in 2018 to include a set of short- and long-term actions to reduce the leading contributors of greenhouse gases, including from transportation and buildings, to improve the climate preparedness of City infrastructure and services, and to facilitate coordination across City departments based on plans developed by the Office of Sustainability and the Environment (“OSE”). The OSE plans include sector-specific strategies for transportation; building energy use (including specific energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets for City buildings); trees and green space; food access; a healthy environment; and environmental justice.

In 2019, the City adopted Resolution 31895, committing to creating a “Green New Deal” for the City to address and mitigate the effects of climate change. Funded by the Payroll Expense Tax, the Green New Deal invests in direct support to frontline communities most impacted by climate change by reducing greenhouse emissions, building a green jobs workforce, and building community resilience to climate change. The City has also developed more specific plans addressing utility operations (including drainage, water supply, solid waste, and the electric system) and community preparedness. The City is monitoring and will be documenting climate impacts and likely climate risks as they arise and has not quantified potential impacts on the City, its population, or its operations. Over time, the costs could be significant and could have a material adverse effect on the City’s finances by requiring greater expenditures to counteract the effects of climate change.

The City’s investments in capital projects are guided by policies adopted by resolution that reflect the City’s priorities for sustainable building, including the Sustainable Building Policy for the City adopted in Resolution 30121, updated in 2011 by Resolution 31326, articulating the City’s commitment to environmental, economic, and social stewardship and setting the expectation that new municipal facilities meet established green building standards. In July 2022, the City adopted Resolution 32059, declaring the City’s intent to focus on climate change and resiliency as part of the update to the City’s Comprehensive Plan. In December 2022, Mayor Harrell signed Executive Order 2022-07, directing City departments to work together to prioritize and expand actions that equitably reduce or eliminate greenhouse gas emissions within the transportation sector.

The City retained Cascadia Consulting Group to prepare a Climate Vulnerability Assessment (the “CVA”), dated June 2023, to provide a detailed assessment of how climate change is already affecting and will continue to affect the community wellbeing, economy, health, infrastructure, and natural systems of the City. The CVA was developed to inform the City’s comprehensive plan. The CVA identified that flooding and sea level rise, extreme heat, wildfire smoke, and extreme precipitation will have wide-ranging and interconnected impacts for the City. The CVA identified some key, broad areas that the City can invest in to address these risks, including investments in community services such as cooling and clean air centers, access to cooling and air filtration systems for homes and the tree canopy, communities that will be impacted by flooding, research of potential supply chain impacts, monitoring and maintenance of transportation systems, improving grid capacity and resilience, prioritizing water and wastewater systems’ resilience to flooding impact, protecting and expanding the City’s tree canopy, and protecting watersheds and salmon habitats.

## **Cyber Security and Artificial Intelligence**

*Cyber Security.* Cyber security threats continue to become more sophisticated and are increasingly capable of impacting the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of City systems and applications, including those of critical controls systems. Seattle Information Technology (“Seattle IT”), a City department, working in conjunction with various City departments, has instituted and continues to institute processes, training, and controls to maintain the reliability of its systems and protect against cyber security threats as well as mitigate intrusions and plan for business continuity via data recovery. Cyber security incident response plans are reviewed regularly, and tabletop and other exercises are conducted annually to assess the effectiveness of those plans. Seattle IT and third-party professional services also conduct cyber security assessments with the intent to identify areas for continual improvement, and develop work plans to address issues and support the cyber security program. This includes technical vulnerability assessments, penetration testing, and risk assessments based on the National Institute of Standards and Technology (“NIST”) 800-53a Risk Management Framework. Seattle IT continuously reviews and updates processes and technologies to mature security practices leveraging the NIST Cybersecurity Framework. Cyber security risks create potential liability for exposure of nonpublic information and could create various other operational risks. The City cannot anticipate the precise nature of any particular breach or the resulting consequences. It has had cyber security liability insurance coverage since October 2019. See “—Risk Management.”

*Generative Artificial Intelligence (“AI”).* Advancements in AI have the potential to expedite and modernize City service provision, but the City must balance the power of these tools with the City’s commitments to data privacy, legal obligations, security, and transparency. Seattle IT, working in conjunction with various City departments, external partners, researchers, and subject matter experts, has developed City-wide Responsible AI Principles and a Generative AI Policy for the City, outlining requirements City departments must observe when acquiring and using software that meets the definition of generative artificial intelligence. These are implemented by the Responsible AI (“RAI”) Program, which continues to operationalize the City’s AI Principles through departmental use of AI tools. Building off foundational work of the City’s Privacy Program, the RAI Program has instituted and continues to institute, review and update processes, policies, and procedures for evaluating AI systems, assessing risk, and implementing controls leveraging the NIST AI Risk Management Framework. The City cannot anticipate the precise nature of any particular risk that AI may create or the resulting consequences, and cannot guarantee that its RAI Program will mitigate all risks.

## **OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

### **Public Health Emergencies**

Pandemics and other widespread public health emergencies can and do arise from time to time and can affect broader economic conditions and the State’s financial condition.

The COVID-19 pandemic negatively affected local, State, national, and global economic activity beginning in 2020. Certain response costs and other negative revenue impacts were offset in part by the federal and State funds awarded to the City in 2020 and 2021. The City received \$131 million through the Coronavirus Relief Fund under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Stabilization Act (the “CARES Act”) to help navigate the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak, all of which was spent prior to December 31, 2021, as required by the U.S. Department of the Treasury. The City was also awarded \$232 million of Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (“CLFR”) through ARPA to help the City recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. As of December 31, 2023, \$26.8 million of this funding remains and is expected to be spent by the end of 2024. In addition to CLFR funding, the City received other federal grants intended to aid vulnerable populations particularly impacted by the pandemic. At this time, most revenue sources have returned to pre-pandemic levels, but uncertainty resulting from the pandemic’s effects on broader economic forces persists in the economy.

The City cannot predict whether future pandemics and other public health emergencies may arise that could impact the economy generally or the City’s financial condition.

### **Federal Policy Risk and Other Federal Funding Considerations**

*Federal Sequestration.* The sequestration provisions of the Budget Control Act of 2011 (“Sequestration”) have been in effect since 2013 and are currently scheduled to remain in effect through federal fiscal year (“FFY”) 2029. This



results in a slight reduction in the expected subsidy in respect of certain Build America Bonds and Recovery Zone Economic Development Bonds previously issued by the City. The City does not expect Sequestration to materially adversely affect its ability to make debt service payments in the current or future years.

*Federal Grant Funding Conditions.* The City receives federal financial assistance for specific purposes that are generally subject to review or audit by the grantor agencies. Entitlement to this assistance is generally conditioned upon compliance with the terms of grant agreements and applicable federal regulations, including the expenditure of assistance for allowable purposes. Any disallowance resulting from a review or audit may become a liability of the City.

*Federal Shutdown Risk.* Federal government shutdowns have occurred in the past and could occur in the future. A lengthy federal government shutdown poses potential direct risks to the City's receipt of revenues from federal sources and could have indirect impacts due to the shutdown's effect on general economic conditions. The City has not experienced material adverse impacts from the federal government shutdowns that have occurred in the past but can make no assurances that it would not be materially adversely affected by any future federal shutdown.

## **INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM**

### **State-Wide Measures**

Under the State Constitution, Washington voters may initiate legislation (either directly to the voters, or to the State Legislature and then, if not enacted, to the voters) and require that legislation passed by the State Legislature be referred to the voters. Any law approved in this manner by a majority of the voters may not be amended or repealed by the State Legislature within a period of two years following enactment, except by a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house of the State Legislature. After two years, the law may be amended or repealed by the State Legislature in the same manner as other laws. The State Constitution may not be amended by initiative.

Initiatives and referenda are submitted to the voters upon receipt of a petition signed by at least 8% (initiative) and 4% (referendum) of the number of voters registered and voting for the office of Governor at the preceding regular gubernatorial election.

In recent years, several State-wide initiative petitions to repeal or reduce the growth of taxes and fees, including City taxes, have garnered sufficient signatures to reach the ballot. Some of those tax and fee initiative measures have been approved by the voters and, of those, some remain in effect while others have been invalidated by the courts. Tax and fee initiative measures continue to be filed, but it cannot be predicted whether any more such initiatives might gain sufficient signatures to qualify for submission to the State Legislature and/or the voters or, if submitted, whether they ultimately would become law.

### **Local Measures**

Under the City Charter, Seattle voters may initiate City Charter amendments and local legislation, including modifications to existing legislation, and through referendum may prevent legislation passed by the City Council from becoming law.

## **LEGAL AND TAX INFORMATION**

### **No Litigation Relating to the Bonds**

There is no litigation pending with process properly served on the City questioning the validity of the Bonds or the power and authority of the City to issue the Bonds. There is no litigation pending or threatened which would materially affect the City's ability to meet debt service requirements on the Bonds.

## **Other Litigation**

Because of the nature of its activities, the City is subject to certain pending legal actions that arise in the ordinary course of business of running a municipality, including various lawsuits and claims seeking money damages and/or injunctive relief. These pending actions include matters arising under State and federal environmental law.

Based on its past experience and the information currently known, the City has concluded that its ability to pay principal of and interest on the Bonds on a timely basis will not be impaired by the aggregate amount of uninsured liabilities of the City and the timing of any anticipated payments of judgments that might result from suits and claims. Certain other threatened or pending litigation is described in the City's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, as of its date.

In relation to SPU, the City received a "Notice of Intent to Sue For Failure to Comply With Municipal Stormwater General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Permit, Section S4," dated June 16, 2022, from citizen group Puget Soundkeeper Alliance, regarding the City's municipal stormwater system. This 60-day notice alleges noncompliance with a Clean Water Act municipal stormwater permit issued by Ecology. No complaint has been filed as of the date of this Preliminary Official Statement.

## **Approval of Counsel**

Legal matters incident to the authorization, issuance, and sale of the Bonds by the City are subject to the approving legal opinion of Stradling Yocca Carlson & Rauth LLP, Seattle, Washington, Bond Counsel. A form of the opinion of Bond Counsel with respect to the Bonds is attached hereto as Appendix B. The opinion of Bond Counsel is given based on factual representations made to Bond Counsel and under existing law as of the date of initial delivery of the Bonds. Bond Counsel assumes no obligation to revise or supplement its opinion to reflect any facts or circumstances that may thereafter come to its attention or any changes in law that may thereafter occur. The opinion of Bond Counsel is an expression of its professional judgment on the matters expressly addressed therein and does not constitute a guarantee of result. Bond Counsel will be compensated only upon the issuance and sale of the Bonds.

## **Limitations on Remedies and Municipal Bankruptcies**

Any remedies available to the owners of the Bonds are in many respects dependent upon judicial actions which are in turn often subject to discretion and delay and could be both expensive and time-consuming to obtain. If the City fails to comply with its covenants under the Bond Documents or to pay principal of or interest on the Bonds, there can be no assurance that available remedies will be adequate to fully protect the interests of the owners of the Bonds.

The rights and obligations under the Bonds and the Bond Documents may be limited by and are subject to bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, fraudulent conveyance, moratorium, and other laws relating to or affecting creditors' rights, to the application of equitable principles, and the exercise of judicial discretion in appropriate cases.

A municipality such as the City must be specifically authorized under State law in order to seek relief under Chapter 9 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code (the "Bankruptcy Code"). Washington State law permits any "taxing district" (defined to include cities) to voluntarily petition for relief under the 1898 federal bankruptcy statute that was superseded by the current Bankruptcy Code. The State Legislature has not amended the 1935 State statute to update the cross-reference to the current Bankruptcy Code, but Washington municipal corporations have nonetheless been permitted to seek relief under the Bankruptcy Code. A creditor cannot bring an involuntary bankruptcy proceeding under the Bankruptcy Code against a municipality, including the City. The federal bankruptcy courts have broad discretionary powers under the Bankruptcy Code.

The opinion to be delivered by Stradling Yocca Carlson & Rauth LLP, as Bond Counsel, concurrently with the issuance of the Bonds, will be subject to limitations regarding bankruptcy, reorganization, insolvency, fraudulent conveyance, moratorium, and other similar laws relating to or affecting creditors' rights.

## **Tax Matters**

In the opinion of Bond Counsel, under existing statutes, regulations, rulings, and judicial decisions, and assuming the accuracy of certain representations and compliance with certain covenants and requirements described herein, interest (and original issue discount) on the Bonds is excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes, and is not

an item of tax preference for purposes of calculating the federal alternative minimum tax imposed on individuals. With respect to applicable corporations as defined in Section 59(k) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), generally certain corporations with more than \$1,000,000,000 of average annual adjusted financial statement income, interest (and original issue discount) on the Bonds might be taken into account in determining adjusted financial statement income for purposes of computing the alternative minimum tax imposed by Section 55 of the Code on such corporations.

The difference between the issue price of a Bond (the first price at which a substantial amount of the Bonds of a maturity is to be sold to the public) and the stated redemption price at maturity with respect to the Bond (to the extent the redemption price at maturity is greater than the issue price) constitutes original issue discount. Original issue discount accrues under a constant yield method, and original issue discount will accrue to a Beneficial Owner before receipt of cash attributable to such excludable income. The amount of original issue discount deemed received by a Beneficial Owner will increase the Beneficial Owner's basis in the applicable Bond. In the opinion of Bond Counsel, the amount of original issue discount that accrues to the Beneficial Owner of the Bond is excluded from gross income of such Beneficial Owner for federal income tax purposes and is not an item of tax preference for purposes of the federal alternative minimum tax imposed on individuals.

Bond Counsel's opinion as to the exclusion from gross income for federal income tax purposes of interest (and original issue discount) on the Bonds is based upon certain representations of fact and certifications made by the City and others and is subject to the condition that the City complies with all requirements of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), that must be satisfied subsequent to the issuance of the Bonds to assure that interest (and original issue discount) on the Bonds will not become includable in gross income for federal income tax purposes. Failure to comply with such requirements of the Code might cause the interest (and original issue discount) on the Bonds to be included in gross income for federal income tax purposes retroactive to the date of issuance of the Bonds. The City will covenant to comply with all such requirements.

The amount by which a Beneficial Owner's original basis for determining loss on sale or exchange in the applicable Bond (generally, the purchase price) exceeds the amount payable on maturity (or on an earlier call date) constitutes amortizable bond premium, which must be amortized under Section 171 of the Code; such amortizable bond premium reduces the Beneficial Owner's basis in the applicable Bond (and the amount of tax-exempt interest received), and is not deductible for federal income tax purposes. The basis reduction as a result of the amortization of bond premium may result in a Beneficial Owner realizing a taxable gain when a Bond is sold by the Beneficial Owner for an amount equal to or less (under certain circumstances) than the original cost of the Bond to the Beneficial Owner. Purchasers of the Bonds should consult their own tax advisors as to the treatment, computation and collateral consequences of amortizable bond premium.

The Internal Revenue Service (the "IRS") has initiated an expanded program for the auditing of tax-exempt bond issues, including both random and targeted audits. It is possible that the Bonds will be selected for audit by the IRS. It is also possible that the market value of the Bonds might be affected as a result of such an audit of the Bonds (or by an audit of similar bonds). No assurance can be given that in the course of an audit, as a result of an audit, or otherwise, Congress or the IRS might not change the Code (or interpretation thereof) subsequent to the issuance of the Bonds to the extent that it adversely affects the exclusion from gross income of interest (and original issue discount) on the Bonds or their market value.

SUBSEQUENT TO THE ISSUANCE OF THE BONDS THERE MIGHT BE FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL STATUTORY CHANGES (OR JUDICIAL OR REGULATORY CHANGES TO OR INTERPRETATIONS OF FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL LAW) THAT AFFECT THE FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL TAX TREATMENT OF THE BONDS, INCLUDING THE IMPOSITION OF ADDITIONAL FEDERAL INCOME OR STATE TAXES ON OWNERS OF TAX-EXEMPT STATE OR LOCAL OBLIGATIONS, SUCH AS THE BONDS. THESE CHANGES COULD ADVERSELY AFFECT THE MARKET VALUE OR LIQUIDITY OF THE BONDS. NO ASSURANCE CAN BE GIVEN THAT SUBSEQUENT TO THE ISSUANCE OF THE BONDS STATUTORY CHANGES WILL NOT BE INTRODUCED OR ENACTED OR JUDICIAL OR REGULATORY INTERPRETATIONS WILL NOT OCCUR HAVING THE EFFECTS DESCRIBED ABOVE. BEFORE PURCHASING ANY OF THE BONDS, ALL POTENTIAL PURCHASERS SHOULD CONSULT THEIR TAX ADVISORS REGARDING POSSIBLE STATUTORY CHANGES OR JUDICIAL OR REGULATORY CHANGES OR INTERPRETATIONS, AND THEIR COLLATERAL TAX CONSEQUENCES RELATING TO THE BONDS.

Bond Counsel's opinion may be affected by actions taken (or not taken) or events occurring (or not occurring) after the date hereof. Bond Counsel has not undertaken to determine, or to inform any person, whether any such actions or events are taken or do occur. The Bond Ordinance and the Tax Certificate relating to the Bonds permit certain actions to be taken or to be omitted if a favorable opinion of a bond counsel is provided with respect thereto. Bond Counsel expresses no opinion as to the effect on the exclusion from gross income for federal income tax purposes of interest (or original issue discount) on any Bond if any such action is taken or omitted based upon the advice of counsel other than Bond Counsel.

Although Bond Counsel will render an opinion that interest (and original issue discount) on the Bonds is excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes provided that the City continues to comply with certain requirements of the Code, the ownership of the Bonds and the accrual or receipt of interest (and original issue discount) with respect to the Bonds may otherwise affect the tax liability of certain persons. Bond Counsel expresses no opinion regarding any such tax consequences. Accordingly, before purchasing any of the Bonds, all potential purchasers should consult their tax advisors with respect to collateral tax consequences relating to the Bonds.

### CONTINUING DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT

*Basic Undertaking to Provide Annual Financial Information and Notice of Listed Events.* To meet the requirements of United States Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") Rule 15c2-12(b)(5) ("Rule 15c2-12"), as applicable to a participating underwriter for the Bonds, the Director of Finance is authorized to execute the Continuing Disclosure Agreement (the "CDA") for the benefit of holders of the Bonds, as follows.

*Annual Financial Information.* The City undertakes to provide or cause to be provided, either directly or through a designated agent, to the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (the "MSRB"), in an electronic format as prescribed by the MSRB, accompanied by identifying information as prescribed by the MSRB:

- (i) Annual financial information and operating data of the type included in this Official Statement and described below under "Type of Annual Financial Information Undertaken to Be Provided." The timely filing of unaudited financial statements will satisfy the requirement and filing deadlines pertaining to filing annual financial statements described in the Bond Documents, provided that audited financial statements are to be filed if and when they are otherwise prepared and available to the City.
- (ii) Timely notice (not in excess of ten business days after the occurrence of the event) of the occurrence of any of the following events with respect to the Bonds:
  - (a) principal and interest payment delinquencies;
  - (b) non-payment related defaults, if material;
  - (c) unscheduled draws on debt service reserves reflecting financial difficulties;
  - (d) unscheduled draws on credit enhancements reflecting financial difficulties;
  - (e) substitution of credit or liquidity providers, or their failure to perform;
  - (f) adverse tax opinions, the issuance by the Internal Revenue Service of proposed or final determinations of taxability, Notice of Proposed Issue (IRS Form 5701-TEB), other material notices or determinations with respect to the tax status of the Bonds, or other material events affecting the tax status of the Bonds;
  - (g) modifications to rights of holders of the Bonds, if material;
  - (h) Bond calls (other than scheduled mandatory redemptions of Term Bonds), if material, and tender offers;
  - (i) defeasances;
  - (j) release, substitution, or sale of property securing repayment of the Bonds, if material;
  - (k) rating changes;
  - (l) bankruptcy, insolvency, receivership, or similar event of the City, as such "Bankruptcy Events" are defined in Rule 15c2-12;

- (m) the consummation of a merger, consolidation, or acquisition involving the City or the sale of all or substantially all of the assets of the City other than in the ordinary course of business, the entry into a definitive agreement to undertake such an action or the termination of a definitive agreement relating to any such actions, other than pursuant to its terms, if material; and
  - (n) appointment of a successor or additional trustee or the change of name of a trustee, if material;
  - (o) incurrence of a financial obligation of the City, if material, or agreement to covenants, events of default, remedies, priority rights, or other similar terms of a financial obligation of the City, any of which affect security holders, if material; and
  - (p) default, event of acceleration, termination event, modification of terms, or other similar events under the terms of a financial obligation of the City, any of which reflect financial difficulties.
- (iii) Timely notice of a failure by the City to provide required annual financial information on or before the date specified below.

For purposes of this CDA, the term “financial obligation” means (i) a debt obligation; (ii) a derivative instrument entered into in connection with, or pledged as security or a source of payment for, an existing or planned debt obligation; or (iii) a guarantee of (i) or (ii). The term “financial obligation” does not include municipal securities as to which a final official statement has been provided to the MSRB consistent with Rule 15c2-12.

*Type of Annual Financial Information Undertaken to Be Provided.* The annual financial information that the City undertakes to provide will consist of:

- (i) annual financial statements of the Water System, prepared in accordance with applicable generally accepted accounting principles applicable to governmental units (except as otherwise noted therein), as such principles may be changed from time to time and as permitted by State law;
- (ii) a statement of outstanding bonded debt secured by Net Revenue of the Water System;
- (iii) debt service coverage ratios;
- (iv) general customer statistics, such as number and type of customers and revenues by customer class; and
- (v) current water rates.

Annual financial information, as described above, will be provided to the MSRB not later than the last day of the ninth month after the end of each fiscal year of the City (currently, a fiscal year ending December 31), as such fiscal year may be changed as permitted or required by State law, commencing with the City’s fiscal year ended December 31, 2024. The annual financial information may be provided in a single document or multiple documents, and may be incorporated by specific reference to documents available to the public on the Internet website of the MSRB or filed with the SEC.

*Amendment of CDA.* The CDA is subject to amendment after the primary offering of the Bonds without the consent of any Owner or holder of any Bond, or any broker, dealer, municipal securities dealer, participating underwriter, rating agency, or the MSRB, under the circumstances and in the manner permitted by Rule 15c2-12, including:

- (i) The amendment may only be made in connection with a change in circumstances that arises from a change in legal requirements, change in law, or change in the identity, nature, or status of the City, or type of business conducted;
- (ii) The undertaking, as amended, would have complied with the requirements of the rule at the time of the primary offering, after taking into account any amendments or interpretations of the rule, as well as any change in circumstances; and
- (iii) The amendment does not materially impair the interests of holders, as determined either by parties unaffiliated with the City (e.g., bond counsel or other counsel familiar with federal securities laws), or by approving vote of bondholders pursuant to the terms of the Bond Ordinance at the time of the amendment.

The City will give notice to the MSRB of the substance (or provide a copy) of any amendment to the CDA and a brief statement of the reasons for the amendment. If the amendment changes the type of annual financial information to be

provided, the annual financial information containing the amended information will include a narrative explanation of the effect of that change on the type of information to be provided.

*Termination of CDA.* The City's obligations under the CDA will terminate upon the legal defeasance, prior repayment, or payment in full of all of the then outstanding Bonds. In addition, the City's obligations under the CDA will terminate if those provisions of Rule 15c2-12 that require the City to comply with the CDA become legally inapplicable in respect of the Bonds for any reason, as confirmed by an opinion of nationally recognized bond counsel or other counsel familiar with federal securities laws delivered to the City, and the City provides timely notice of such termination to the MSRB.

*Remedy for Failure to Comply with CDA.* The City has agreed to proceed with due diligence to cause any failure to comply with the CDA to be corrected as soon as practicable after the City learns of that failure. No failure by the City or any other obligated person to comply with the CDA will constitute a default in respect of the Bonds. The sole remedy of any Owner of a Bond will be to take such actions as that Owner deems necessary, including seeking an order of specific performance from an appropriate court, to compel the City or other obligated person to comply with the CDA.

*Compliance with Continuing Disclosure Undertakings of the City.* The City has entered into undertakings to provide annual information and the notice of the occurrence of certain events with respect to all bonds issued by the City subject to Rule 15c2-12. The City's review of its compliance during the past five years did not reveal any failure to comply, in a material respect, with any undertakings in effect during this time.

## **OTHER BOND INFORMATION**

### **Ratings on the Bonds**

The Bonds have been rated "Aaa" and "AA+" by Moody's Investors Service, Inc. and S&P Global Ratings, respectively. In general, rating agencies base their ratings on rating materials furnished to them, which may include information provided by the City that is not included in this Official Statement, and on the rating agency's own investigations, studies, and assumptions. The ratings reflect only the views of the rating agencies, and an explanation of the significance of the ratings may be obtained from each rating agency. No application was made to any other rating agency for the purpose of obtaining an additional rating on the Bonds. There is no assurance that the ratings will be retained for any given period of time or that the ratings will not be revised downward, suspended, or withdrawn entirely by the rating agencies if, in their judgment, circumstances so warrant. Any such downward revision, suspension, or withdrawal of the ratings will be likely to have an adverse effect on the market price of the Bonds.

### **Municipal Advisor**

The City has retained Piper Sandler & Co., Seattle, Washington, as municipal advisor (the "Municipal Advisor") in connection with the preparation of the City's financing plans and with respect to the authorization and issuance of the Bonds. The Municipal Advisor is not obligated to undertake and has not undertaken to make any independent verification or to assume responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or fairness of the information contained in this Official Statement. The Municipal Advisor is a full service investment banking firm that provides financial advisory and underwriting services to state and local governmental entities. While under contract to the City, the Municipal Advisor may not participate in the underwriting of any City debt.

### **Purchaser of the Bonds**

The Bonds are being purchased by \_\_\_\_\_ (the "Purchaser") at a price of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ and will be reoffered at a price of \$ \_\_\_\_\_. The Purchaser may offer and sell the Bonds to certain dealers (including dealers depositing the Bonds into investment trusts) and others at prices lower than the initial offering prices set forth on page i of this Official Statement, and such initial offering prices may be changed from time to time by the Purchaser. After the initial public offering, the public offering prices may be varied from time to time.

**Conflicts of Interest**

Some of the fees of the Municipal Advisor and Bond Counsel are contingent upon the sale of the Bonds. From time to time Bond Counsel serves as counsel to the Municipal Advisor and the Purchaser in matters unrelated to the Bonds. None of the members of the City Council or other officers of the City have any conflict of interest in the issuance of the Bonds that is prohibited by applicable law.

**Official Statement**

This Official Statement is not to be construed as a contract with the owners of any of the Bonds.

The City of Seattle

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Jamie L. Carnell  
Interim Director of Finance

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**APPENDIX A**  
**SUMMARY OF BOND ORDINANCE**

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## SUMMARY OF SELECTED PROVISIONS OF THE BOND ORDINANCE

*This Appendix contains a summary of certain definitions and other provisions of Ordinance 126716, as amended by Ordinance 126942 (as amended, the "Bond Ordinance"). Certain information and defined terms have been omitted for purposes of this summary, and the reader is directed to the Bond Ordinance to review the complete text and full definitions of any capitalized terms that are not defined below. A complete copy of the Bond Ordinance is available from the City Clerk and on the City's website.*

### DEFINITIONS

**Section 1** of the Bond Ordinance defines certain capitalized terms. Below are definitions of certain terms used in this Appendix and elsewhere in the Official Statement.

**"Accreted Value"** "Accreted Value" means, with respect to any Capital Appreciation Bond, (a) as of any Valuation Date, the amount determined for such Valuation Date in accordance with the applicable Parity Bond Documents, and (b) as of any date other than a Valuation Date, the sum of (i) the Accreted Value on the preceding Valuation Date and (ii) the product of (A) a fraction, the numerator of which is the number of days having elapsed from the preceding Valuation Date and the denominator of which is the number of days from such preceding Valuation Date to the next succeeding Valuation Date, calculated based on the assumption that Accreted Value accrues during any semiannual period in equal daily amounts on the basis of a year of twelve 30-day months, and (B) the difference between the Accreted Values for such Valuation Dates.

**"Adjusted Annual Debt Service"** for any fiscal year means Annual Debt Service minus (a) an amount equal to ULID Assessments due in that year and not delinquent, (b) an amount equal to earnings from investments in the Reserve Subaccount, and (c) Annual Debt Service provided for by Parity Bond proceeds.

**"Adjusted Gross Revenue"** means, for any period, Gross Revenue (a) plus withdrawals from the Rate Stabilization Account made during that period, and (b) minus ULID Assessments collected, earnings from investments in the Reserve Subaccount, and deposits into the Rate Stabilization Account made during that period.

**"Adjusted Net Revenue"** means Adjusted Gross Revenue less Operating and Maintenance Expense.

**"Annual Debt Service"** for any calendar year means the sum of the amounts required in such calendar year to pay the interest due in such calendar year on all Parity Bonds outstanding, excluding interest to be paid from the proceeds of the sale of Parity Bonds or other bonds; the principal of all outstanding Serial Bonds due in such calendar year; and the Sinking Fund Requirements, if any, for such calendar year. Additionally, for purposes of calculating and determining compliance with the Coverage Requirement, the Reserve Requirement and the conditions for the issuance of Future Parity Bonds and/or entering into Parity Payment Agreements, the following shall apply:

- (a) *Calculation of Interest Due – Generally.* Except as otherwise provided below, interest on any series of Parity Bonds shall be calculated based on the actual amount of accrued, accreted, or otherwise accumulated interest that is payable in respect of that series taken as a whole, at the rate or rates set forth in the applicable Parity Bond Documents.
- (b) *Capital Appreciation Bonds.* For purposes of this definition, the principal and interest portions of the Accreted Value of Capital Appreciation Bonds becoming due at maturity or by virtue of a Sinking Fund Requirement shall be included in the calculations of accrued and unpaid and accruing interest or principal in such manner and during such period of time as is specified in the Parity Bond Documents applicable to such Capital Appreciation Bonds.
- (c) *Variable Interest Rate Bonds.* The amount of interest deemed to be payable on any series of Variable Interest Rate Bonds shall be calculated on the assumption that the interest rate on those bonds would be equal to the rate that is 90 percent of the average RBI during the four calendar quarters preceding the quarter in which the calculation is made.
- (d) *Interest on Bonds with Respect to Which a Payment Agreement is in Force.* Debt service on Parity Bonds with respect to which a Payment Agreement is in force shall be based on the net economic effect on the City expected to be produced by the terms of the Parity Bonds and the terms of the Payment Agreement.

For example, if the net economic effect of the Payment Agreement and a series of Parity Bonds otherwise bearing interest at a variable rate is to produce an obligation bearing interest at a fixed interest rate, the relevant series of bonds shall be treated as fixed interest rate bonds. And if the net economic effect of the Payment Agreement and a series of Parity Bonds otherwise bearing interest at a fixed rate is to produce an obligation bearing interest at a variable interest rate, the relevant series of bonds shall be treated as Variable Interest Rate Bonds. Accordingly, the amount of interest deemed to be payable on any Parity Bonds with respect to which a Payment Agreement is in force shall be an amount equal to the amount of interest that would be payable at the rate or rates stated in or determined pursuant to the applicable Parity Bond Documents, plus Payment Agreement Payments, minus Payment Agreement Receipts. For the purposes of calculating as nearly as practicable Payment Agreement Receipts and Payment Agreement Payments under a Payment Agreement that includes a variable rate component determined by reference to a pricing mechanism or index that is not the same as the pricing mechanism or index used to determine the variable rate interest component on the Parity Bonds to which the Payment Agreement is related, it shall be assumed that the fixed rate used in calculating Payment Agreement Payments will be equal to 105 percent of the fixed rate specified by the Payment Agreement and that the pricing mechanism or index specified by the Payment Agreement is the same as the pricing mechanism or index specified by the applicable Parity Bond Documents. Notwithstanding the other provisions of this definition, the City shall not be required to (but may in its discretion) take into account in determining Annual Debt Service the effects of any Payment Agreement that has a term of ten years or less.

- (e) *Parity Payment Agreements.* For any period during which Payment Agreement Payments on a Parity Payment Agreement are taken into account in determining Annual Debt Service on related Parity Bonds under paragraph (d) of this definition, no additional debt service shall be taken into account with respect to that Parity Payment Agreement. However, for any Parity Payment Agreement during a period in which Payment Agreement Payments are not taken into account under paragraph (d) of this definition because the Parity Payment Agreement is not then related to any outstanding Parity Bonds, payments on that Parity Payment Agreement shall be taken into account as follows:
  - (i) *If City is Obligated to Make Payments Based on a Fixed Rate.* If the City is obligated to make Payment Agreement Payments based on a fixed rate and the Qualified Counterparty is obligated to make payments based on a variable rate index, it shall be assumed that payments by the City will be based on the assumed fixed payor rate, and that payments by the Qualified Counterparty will be based on a rate equal to the average rate determined by the variable rate index specified by the Parity Payment Agreement during the four calendar quarters preceding the quarter in which the calculation is made.
  - (ii) *If City is Obligated to Make Payments Based on a Variable Rate Index.* If the City is obligated to make Payment Agreement Payments based on a variable rate index and the Qualified Counterparty is obligated to make payments based on a fixed rate, it shall be assumed that payments by the City will be based on a rate equal to the average rate determined by the variable rate index specified by the Parity Payment Agreement during the four calendar quarters preceding the quarter in which the calculation is made, and that the Qualified Counterparty will make payments based on the fixed rate specified by the Parity Payment Agreement.
- (f) *Balloon Bonds.* For purposes of calculating debt service on any Balloon Bonds, it shall be assumed that the principal of those Balloon Bonds, together with interest thereon at a rate equal to the assumed RBI-based rate set forth in paragraph (c) of this definition, will be amortized in equal annual installments over a term of 30 years.
- (g) *Adjustments for Defeased Bonds.* For purposes of calculating and determining compliance with the Coverage Requirement, the Reserve Requirement, and the Parity Conditions, Annual Debt Service shall be adjusted as set forth in subsection 21(d) of the Bond Ordinance.

**“Authorized Denomination”** means \$5,000 or any integral multiple thereof within a maturity of a Series, or such other minimum authorized denominations as may be specified in the applicable Bond Documents.

**“Average Annual Debt Service”** means, at the time of calculation, the sum of the Annual Debt Service remaining to be paid to the last scheduled maturity of the applicable series of Parity Bonds divided by the number of years such bonds are scheduled to remain outstanding.

**“Balloon Bonds”** means any series of Parity Bonds, the aggregate principal amount (including Sinking Fund Requirements) of which becomes due and payable in any calendar year in an amount that constitutes 25 percent or more of the initial aggregate principal amount of such series of Parity Bonds.

**“Bond Documents”** means (a)(i) with respect to the Bonds, the Bond Ordinance, and (ii) with respect to a series of Parity Bonds other than the Bonds, the applicable Parity Bond Ordinance(s); (b) the authenticated bond form; and (c) the written agreement(s) setting forth the bond sale terms and additional terms, conditions, or covenants pursuant to which such bond was issued and sold, as set forth in any one or more of the following (if any): (i) a sale resolution, (ii) a bond purchase contract (as defined in the applicable authorizing ordinance), (iii) a bond indenture or a fiscal agent or paying agent agreement (other than the State fiscal agency contract), and (iv) a direct purchase or continuing covenant agreement.

**“Bond Owners’ Trustee”** means a bank or trust company organized under the laws of the State, or a national banking association, appointed in accordance with Section 24(e) of the Bond Ordinance to act as trustee on behalf of the owners, from time to time, of the outstanding Parity Bonds.

**“Bond Insurance”** means any municipal bond insurance policy, guaranty, surety bond, or similar credit enhancement device providing for or securing the payment of all or part of the principal of and interest on any Parity Bonds, issued by an insurance company licensed to conduct an insurance business in any state of the United States (or by a service corporation acting on behalf of one or more such insurance companies), or by any other financial institution qualified to provide such credit enhancement device.

**“Bond Sale Terms”** means the terms and conditions for the sale of a Series of the Bonds approved by the Director of Finance consistent with the parameters set forth in Section 5 of the Bond Ordinance, including the amount, date or dates, denominations, interest rate or rates (or mechanism for determining the interest rate or rates), payment dates, final maturity, redemption rights, price, and other terms, conditions, or covenants. In connection with a negotiated sale or private placement, the Bond Sale Terms shall be set forth in the Bond Purchase Contract; in connection with a competitive sale, the Bond Sale Terms shall be set forth in a Pricing Certificate.

**“Capital Improvement Program”** or **“CIP”** means those portions of the City’s “2022-2027 Capital Improvement Program” relating to the Municipal Water System, adopted by Ordinance 126490, together with any previously adopted capital improvement program. For purposes of the Bond Ordinance, the CIP includes all amendments, updates, supplements or replacements that may be adopted from time to time by ordinance.

**“Code”** means the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any successor thereto, as amended at any time, and regulations thereunder.

**“Contract Resource Obligation”** means an obligation of the City that is designated as a Contract Resource Obligation and is entered into in accordance with Section 20 of the Bond Ordinance.

**“Director of Finance”** or **“Director”** means the City’s Director of Finance or such other officer who succeeds to substantially all of the responsibilities of that office.

**“Event of Default”** has the meaning assigned to that term in subsection 25(a) of the Bond Ordinance.

**“Future Parity Bond Ordinance”** means any ordinance passed by the City Council providing for the issuance and sale of a series of Future Parity Bonds, and any other ordinance amending or supplementing the provisions of any such ordinance.

**“Future Parity Bonds”** means, with reference to any Series, all revenue bonds and obligations of the Municipal Water System (other than that Series and any other Parity Bonds then outstanding), issued or entered into after the Issue Date of such Series, the payment of which constitutes a charge and lien on Net Revenue equal in priority with the charge and lien upon such revenue for the payment of the amounts required to be paid into the Parity Bond Account in accordance with Section 15 of the Bond Ordinance. Future Parity Bonds may include Parity Payment Agreements and any other obligations issued in compliance with the Parity Conditions.

**“Government Obligations”** means, unless otherwise limited in the Bond Documents for a particular Series of the Bonds, any government obligation as that term is defined in RCW 39.53.010, as now in effect or as may later be amended.

**“Gross Revenue”** means (a) all income, revenues, receipts and profits derived by the City through the ownership and operation of the Municipal Water System; (b) the proceeds received by the City directly or indirectly from the

sale, lease or other disposition of any of the properties, rights or facilities of the Municipal Water System; (c) Payment Agreement Receipts, to the extent that such receipts are not offset by Payment Agreement Payments; and (d) the investment income earned on money held in any fund or account of the City, including any bond redemption funds and the accounts therein, in connection with the ownership and operation of the Municipal Water System. Gross Revenue does not include: (a) income derived from investments irrevocably pledged to the payment of any defeased bonds payable from Gross Revenue; (b) investment income set aside for or earned on money in any fund or account created or maintained solely for the purpose of complying with the arbitrage rebate provisions of the Code; (c) any gifts, grants, donations, or other funds received by the City from any State or federal agency or other person if such gifts, grants, donations or other funds are the subject of any limitation or reservation imposed by the donor or grantor or imposed by law or administrative regulation to which the donor or grantor is subject, limiting the application of such funds in a manner inconsistent with the application of Gross Revenue hereunder; (d) the proceeds of any borrowing for capital improvements (or the refinancing thereof); (e) the proceeds of any liability or other insurance, including but not limited to insurance proceeds compensating the City for the loss of a capital asset, but excluding business interruption insurance or other insurance of like nature insuring against the loss of revenues; (f) general ad valorem taxes, excise taxes and special assessments (other than ULID Assessments), including interest and penalties thereon; and (g) earnings of any separate utility system that may be created, acquired, or constructed by the City pursuant to Section 19 of the Bond Ordinance.

**“Independent Utility Consultant”** means an independent person or firm having a favorable reputation for skill and experience with municipal water systems of comparable size and character to the Municipal Water System in such areas as are relevant to the purpose for which they were retained.

**“Maximum Annual Debt Service”** means, at the time of calculation, the maximum amount of Annual Debt Service that shall become due in the current calendar year or in any future calendar year with respect to the Parity Bonds then outstanding.

**“Net Revenue”** for any period means Gross Revenue, less Operating and Maintenance Expense.

**“Operating and Maintenance Expense”** means all expenses incurred by the City in causing the Municipal Water System to be operated and maintained in good repair, working order and condition, including without limitation: (a) deposits, premiums, assessments or other payments for insurance, if any, on the Municipal Water System; (b) payments into pension funds; (c) State-imposed taxes; (d) amounts due under Contract Resource Obligations in accordance with Section 20 of the Bond Ordinance; (e) payments made to another person or entity for the receipt of water supply or transmission or other commodity or service; and (f) payments with respect to any other expenses of the Municipal Water System that are properly treated as Operating and Maintenance Expense under generally accepted accounting principles applicable to municipal corporations, including payments (other than payments out of proceeds of Parity Bonds or other obligations not issued to pay current expenses of the Municipal Water System) into reasonable reserves for items of operating or maintenance expense the payment of which is not immediately required. Operating and Maintenance Expense does not include: depreciation, amortization or other similar recognitions of non-cash expense items made for accounting purposes only including non-cash pension expense; taxes levied or imposed by the City or payments in lieu of City taxes; payments of claims or judgments; or capital additions or capital replacements of the Municipal Water System.

**“Parity Bond Account”** means the Water Revenue Parity Bond Account created by Ordinance 116705 in the Water Fund for the purpose of paying and securing payment of the principal of and interest on Parity Bonds.

**“Parity Bond Documents”** means those Bond Documents applicable to a series of Parity Bonds.

**“Parity Bonds”** means the Outstanding Parity Bonds, each Series of the Bonds, and any Future Parity Bonds then outstanding. Parity Bonds may include Parity Payment Agreements in accordance with Section 17 of the Bond Ordinance.

**“Parity Certificate”** means a certificate delivered pursuant to Section 17 of the Bond Ordinance for purposes of satisfying the Parity Conditions in connection with the issuance of Future Parity Bonds.

**“Parity Conditions”** means (a) for purposes of establishing that a Series of the Bonds may be issued on parity with the Parity Bonds outstanding as of the Issue Date of such Series, the conditions for issuing Future Parity Bonds set forth in the Parity Bond Ordinances relating to those Parity Bonds that are then outstanding; and (b) for purposes of issuing Future Parity Bonds on parity with a Series of the Bonds, the conditions described in subsection (a) of this definition, together with the conditions set forth in Section 17 of the Bond Ordinance.

**“Parity Payment Agreement”** means a Payment Agreement which is entered into in compliance with the Parity Conditions and under which the City’s payment obligations are expressly stated to constitute a charge and lien on Net Revenue equal in rank with the charge and lien upon such Net Revenue required to be paid into the Parity Bond Account to pay and secure the payment of interest on Parity Bonds. For purposes of determining percentages of ownership of Parity Bonds under the Bond Ordinance or under applicable Parity Bond Documents, Parity Payment Agreements shall be deemed to have no principal amount, and any notice, consent, or similar rights (if any) shall be determined only as set forth in the applicable Parity Payment Agreement.

**“Payment Agreement”** means a written agreement entered into by the City and a Qualified Counterparty, as authorized by any applicable laws of the State, for the purpose of managing or reducing the City’s exposure to fluctuations or levels of interest rates, or for other interest rate, investment, or asset or liability management purposes, and that provides for (i) an exchange of payments based on interest rates, or ceilings or floors on such payments; (ii) options on such payments; (iii) any combination of the foregoing; or (iv) any similar device. A Payment Agreement may be entered into on either a current or forward basis. A Payment Agreement must be entered into in connection with (or incidental to) the issuance, incurring, or carrying of particular bonds, notes, bond anticipation notes, commercial paper, or other obligations for borrowed money (which may include leases, installment purchase contracts, or other similar financing agreements or certificates of participation in any of the foregoing).

**“Payment Agreement Payments”** means the amounts periodically required to be paid by the City to a Qualified Counterparty pursuant to a Payment Agreement.

**“Payment Agreement Receipts”** means the amounts periodically required to be paid by a Qualified Counterparty to the City pursuant to a Payment Agreement.

**“Permitted Investments”** means any investments or investment agreements permitted for the investment of City funds under the laws of the State, as amended from time to time.

**“Plan of Additions”** means, together, the CIP and the Water System Plan, as modified at any time. The Plan of Additions includes (a) the purchase and installation of all materials, supplies, appliances, equipment and facilities; (b) the acquisition of all permits, franchises, property and property rights, and other capital assets; and (c) all engineering, consulting and other professional services and studies (whether performed by the City or by other public or private entities), each as necessary or convenient to carry out the Plan of Additions. The Plan of Additions includes all amendments, updates, supplements or replacements to the CIP or the Water System Plan, all of which automatically shall constitute amendments to the Plan of Additions. The Plan of Additions also may be modified to include other improvements, without amending the CIP or the Water System Plan, if the City determines by ordinance that those amendments or other improvements constitute a system or plan of additions to or betterments or extensions of the Municipal Water System.

**“Pricing Certificate”** means a certificate executed by the Director of Finance as of the pricing date confirming the Bond Sale Terms for the sale of a Series of Bonds to the Purchaser in a competitive sale, in accordance with the parameters set forth in Section 5 of the Bond Ordinance.

**“Principal and Interest Subaccount”** means the subaccount of that name created in the Parity Bond Account for the payment of the principal of and interest on Parity Bonds.

**“Qualified Counterparty”** means a party (other than the City or a party related to the City) who is the other party to a Payment Agreement, (a)(i) whose senior debt obligations are rated in one of the three highest rating categories of each Rating Agency (without regard to any gradations within a rating category), or (ii) whose obligations under the Payment Agreement are guaranteed for the entire term of the Payment Agreement by a bond insurer or other institution that has been assigned a credit rating in one of the two highest rating categories (without regard to any gradations within a rating category) of each Rating Agency; and (b) who is otherwise qualified to act as the other party to a Payment Agreement under any applicable laws of the State.

**“Qualified Insurance”** means any Bond Insurance that, as of the time of issuance of such credit enhancement device, is provided by an entity rated in one of the two highest rating categories (without regard to any gradations within a rating category) by at least two nationally recognized rating agencies.

**“Qualified Letter of Credit”** means any letter of credit, standby bond purchase agreement, or other liquidity facility issued by a financial institution for the account of the City in connection with the issuance of any Parity Bonds, which institution maintains an office, agency or branch in the United States and, as of the time of issuance of

such instrument, is rated in one of the two highest rating categories (without regard to any gradations within such rating categories) by at least two nationally recognized rating agencies.

“**RBI**” means The Bond Buyer Revenue Bond Index or comparable index, or, if no comparable index can be obtained, 80 percent of the interest rate for actively traded 30-year United States Treasury obligations.

“**Rate Stabilization Account**” means the account of that name created in the Water Fund pursuant to Ordinance 116705 and redesignated for accounting purposes as the Revenue Stabilization Subfund of the Water Fund pursuant to Ordinance 120875.

“**Reserve Covenant Date**” means the earlier of (a) the date on which the City has obtained consents of the requisite percentage of Registered Owners of the Parity Bonds then outstanding, in accordance with the provisions of the applicable Outstanding Parity Bond Documents; or (b) the date on which all of the following Outstanding Parity Bonds have been redeemed or defeased: Water System Revenue Bonds, 2010A (Taxable Build America Bonds – Direct Payment) and Water System Improvement and Refunding Revenue Bonds, 2015.

“**Reserve Fund Requirement**” means the lesser of (a) Maximum Annual Debt Service on all Parity Bonds outstanding at the time of calculation, or (b) 1.25 times Average Annual Debt Service on all Parity Bonds outstanding at the time of calculation. In no event shall the Reserve Requirement exceed 10 percent of the proceeds of each series of Parity Bonds then outstanding, determined as of the Issue Date of each such series. From and after the Reserve Covenant Date, the Reserve Requirement shall mean the lesser of (a) Maximum Annual Debt Service on all Covered Parity Bonds outstanding at the time of calculation, or (b) 1.25 times Average Annual Debt Service on all Covered Parity Bonds outstanding at the time of calculation. In no event shall the Reserve Requirement exceed the sum of 10 percent of the proceeds of each series of Covered Parity Bonds then outstanding, determined as of the Issue Date of each such series.

“**Reserve Security**” means any Qualified Insurance or Qualified Letter of Credit obtained by the City to satisfy part or all of the Reserve Requirement, and that is not cancelable on less than three years’ notice.

“**Reserve Subaccount**” means the subaccount of that name created in the Parity Bond Account for the purpose of securing the payment of the principal of and interest on Parity Bonds.

“**ULID**” means a utility local improvement district of the City created for the acquisition or construction of additions to and betterments and extensions of the Municipal Water System.

“**ULID Assessments**” means all assessments levied and collected in a ULID, if and only if those assessments are pledged to be paid into the Parity Bond Account, in which case they shall be included in Gross Revenue. ULID Assessments shall include all installments of principal, payments of interest, and penalties and interest on delinquencies, but shall not include any prepaid assessments paid into a construction fund or account.

“**Valuation Date**” means, with respect to any Capital Appreciation Bond, the date or dates, determined as set forth in the Parity Bond Documents relating to the relevant series of Parity Bonds, on which specific Accreted Values are assigned to that Capital Appreciation Bond.

“**Variable Interest Rate**” means any interest rate that fluctuates during the stated term of a Parity Bond (or during a stated period during which the Parity Bond is designated as a Variable Interest Rate Bond), whether due to a remarketing, a market index reset, or other mechanism set forth in the applicable Bond Documents. The Bond Documents for any Series of the Bonds bearing interest at a Variable Interest Rate shall set forth: (a) the available method(s) of computing interest (the “interest rate modes”); (b) the particular period or periods of time (or manner of determining such period or periods of time) for which each value of such Variable Interest Rate (or each interest rate mode) shall remain in effect; (c) provisions for conversion from one interest rate mode to another and for setting or resetting the interest rates; and (d) the time or times upon which any change in such Variable Interest Rate (or any conversion of interest rate modes) shall become effective.

“**Variable Interest Rate Bond**” means, for any period of time, any Parity Bond that bears interest at a Variable Interest Rate during that period. A Parity Bond shall not be treated as a Variable Interest Rate Bond if the net economic effect of: (a) interest rates on a particular series of Parity Bonds, as set forth in the applicable Bond Documents, and (b) either (i) interest rates on another series of Parity Bonds issued at substantially the same time, or (ii) a Payment Agreement related to that particular series of Parity Bonds, is to produce obligations that bear interest at a fixed rate. A Parity Bond with respect to which a Payment Agreement is in force shall be treated as a Variable



Interest Rate Bond if the net economic effect of the Payment Agreement is to produce an obligation that bears interest at a Variable Interest Rate.

“**Water Fund**” means the fund of that name into which is paid the Gross Revenue of the Municipal Water System.

“**Water System Plan**” means the long-range water system plan known as the 2013 Water System Plan adopted by the City in Ordinance 124071, as that plan may be amended, updated, supplemented, or replaced from time to time.

### **DELEGATION AND BOND SALE TERMS**

**Sections 2 and 3** of the Bond Ordinance concern certain findings with respect to adopting a Plan of Additions and authorizing the issuance of Bonds.

**Section 4** of the Bond Ordinance concerns the manner of sale of the Bonds.

**Section 5** of the Bond Ordinance provides:

- (a) **Designated Representative.** The Director of Finance is appointed to serve as the City’s designated representative in connection with the issuance and sale of the Bonds in accordance with RCW 39.46.040(2) and the Bond Ordinance.
- (b) **Parameters for Bond Sale Terms.** The Director of Finance is authorized to approve, on behalf of the City, Bond Sale Terms for the sale of the Bonds in one or more Series, and in connection with each such sale, to execute a Bond Purchase Contract (or, in the case of a competitive sale, a Pricing Certificate) confirming the Bond Sale Terms and such related agreements as may be necessary or desirable, consistent with parameters set forth in the Bond Ordinance concerning the maximum principal amount, issue date, denominations, interest rates, payment dates, final maturity, redemption prior to maturity, price and certain other terms and conditions.

**Sections 6 through 12** of the Bond Ordinance provide for matters relating to registration and transfer; payment and appointment of the paying agent; redemption and purchase; notice of redemption; failure to pay; form and execution of the Bonds; and provisions regarding the deposit and use of bond proceeds, which provisions are described in the Official Statement.

### **SECURITY FOR THE BONDS; FLOW OF FUNDS**

**Section 13** of the Bond Ordinance sets forth the pledge and security for the Bonds, as described under “SECURITY FOR THE BONDS” in the Official Statement.

**Section 14** of the Bond Ordinance sets forth the flow of funds and priority for expenditure of Gross Revenue deposited in the Water Fund. It provides that Gross Revenue shall be deposited as received in the Water Fund and used for the following purposes only, in the following order of priority:

- (a) To pay the Operating and Maintenance Expense;
- (b) To make all payments into the Principal and Interest Subaccount required to be made in order to pay the interest on and principal of all Parity Bonds (including all net payments under Parity Payment Agreements) when due, and to make payments due under any agreement with a provider of a Reserve Security which agreement requires those payments to be treated on a parity of lien with the Parity Bonds;
- (c) To make all payments required to be made (i) into the Reserve Subaccount with respect to Covered Parity Bonds, (ii) under any agreement with a provider of a Reserve Security, which agreement requires those payments to be treated on a parity of lien with the payments required to be made into the Reserve Subaccount, and (iii) until the Reserve Covenant Date, into a special account in the Water Fund in accordance with the second paragraph in subsection 15(a)(ii) of the Bond Ordinance;
- (d) To make all payments required to be made into any revenue bond, note, warrant or other revenue obligation redemption fund, debt service account, or reserve account created to pay and secure the payment of the principal of and interest on any revenue bonds or short-term obligations of the City having a charge and lien upon Net Revenue subordinate to the lien thereon for the payment of the principal of and interest on the Parity Bonds; and

- (e) Without priority, to any of the following purposes: to retire by redemption or purchase any outstanding revenue bonds or revenue obligations of the Municipal Water System; to make necessary additions, betterments, improvements, repairs to, extensions, and replacements of the Municipal Water System; to pay City taxes or other payments in lieu of taxes payable from Gross Revenue; to make deposits to the Rate Stabilization Account; or for any other lawful Municipal Water System purposes.

**Section 15** of the Bond Ordinance concerns the Parity Bond Account and Reserve Subaccount and is described in the Official Statement under “SECURITY FOR THE BONDS—Reserve Subaccount and Reserve Fund Requirement.”

## **BOND COVENANTS**

**Section 16** concerns certain Parity Bond Covenant, and provides that the City covenants with the Owner of each Bond at any time outstanding, as follows:

- (a) *Operation and Maintenance.* The City will pay all Operating and Maintenance Expense and otherwise meet the obligations of the City under the Bond Ordinance. It will at all times maintain and keep the Municipal Water System in good repair, working order and condition, and will make all necessary and proper additions, betterments, renewals and repairs thereto, and improvements, replacements and extensions thereof, so that at all times the business carried on in connection therewith will be properly and advantageously conducted, and will at all times operate or cause to be operated the Municipal Water System and the business in connection therewith in an efficient manner and at a reasonable cost.
- (b) *Establishment and Collection of Rates and Charges.* The City will establish, maintain, revise as necessary, and collect rates and charges for services and facilities provided by the Municipal Water System so that the Adjusted Net Revenue in each fiscal year will be at least equal to the Coverage Requirement. The failure of the City to comply with this covenant shall not be an Event of Default if the City promptly retains an Independent Utility Consultant to recommend to the City Council adjustments in the rates of the Municipal Water System necessary to meet the requirements of this covenant and if the City Council adopts the recommended modifications within 180 days of the date the failure became known to the City Council.
- (c) *Sale or Disposition of the Municipal Water System.* The City may sell, transfer, or otherwise dispose of any of the works, plant, properties, facilities or other part of the Municipal Water System or any real or personal property comprising a part of the Municipal Water System consistent only with one or more of the following:
  - (i) The City in its discretion may carry out such a sale, transfer, or disposition (each, a “transfer”) if the facilities or property transferred are not material to the operation of the Municipal Water System, or shall have become unserviceable, inadequate, obsolete, or unfit to be used in the operation of the Municipal Water System or are no longer necessary, material or useful to the operation of the Municipal Water System; or
  - (ii) The City in its discretion may carry out such a transfer if the aggregate depreciated cost value of the facilities or property being transferred under this subsection in any fiscal year comprises no more than 5 percent of the total assets of the Municipal Water System; or
  - (iii) The City in its discretion may carry out such a transfer if the proceeds from such transfer are used to acquire new useful operating facilities or properties of the Municipal Water System, or are used to retire outstanding Parity Bonds or other revenue obligations of the Municipal Water System, if, at the time of such transfer, the City has on file a certificate of both the Director of Finance and the Director of Seattle Public Utilities (or any officer who succeeds to substantially all of the responsibilities of either office) demonstrating that, in such officers’ opinions, upon such transfer and the use of proceeds of the transfer as proposed by the City, the remaining facilities of the Municipal Water System will retain their operational integrity and, based on the financial statements for the most recent fiscal year available, the proposed transfer would not prevent the Municipal Water System from complying with the Coverage Requirement during the five fiscal years following the fiscal year in which the transfer is to occur. The certificate shall take into account (A) the reduction in revenue and expenses, if any, resulting from the transfer; (B) the use of any proceeds of the transfer for the redemption of Parity Bonds, (C) the estimate of revenue from customers anticipated to be served by any additions to and betterments and extensions of the Municipal Water System financed in part by the proposed portion of

the proceeds of the transfer, and (D) any other adjustment permitted in the preparation of a certificate under subsection 17(a)(vi) of the Bond Ordinance. Before such a transfer, the City also must obtain confirmation from each of the Rating Agencies to the effect that the rating then in effect will not be reduced or withdrawn upon such transfer.

- (d) *Books and Records.* The City will keep proper books, records and accounts with respect to the operations, income, and expenditures of the Municipal Water System in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices relating to municipal utilities and any applicable rules and regulations prescribed by the State, and will cause those books, records and accounts to be audited on an annual basis by the State Auditor (or, if such audit is not made by the State Auditor within 270 days after the close of any fiscal year of the City, by a certified public accountant selected by the City). It will prepare annual financial and operating statements as soon as practicable after the close of each fiscal year showing in reasonable detail the financial condition of the Municipal Water System as of the close of the previous year and the income and expenses for such year, including the amounts paid into the Parity Bond Account and into any and all special funds or accounts created pursuant to the provisions of the Bond Ordinance, the status of all funds and accounts as of the end of such year, and the amounts expended for maintenance, renewals, replacements and capital additions to the Municipal Water System. Such statements shall be sent to the owner of any Parity Bond upon written request received by the City. The City may charge a reasonable cost for providing such financial statements.
- (e) *Liens Upon the Municipal Water System.* Except as otherwise provided in the Bond Ordinance, it will not at any time create or permit to accrue or to exist any lien or other encumbrance or indebtedness upon the Gross Revenue or any part thereof prior or superior to the lien thereon for the payment of the Parity Bonds, and will pay and discharge, or cause to be paid and discharged, any and all lawful claims for labor, materials or supplies that, if unpaid or not discharged, might become a lien or charge upon the Gross Revenue or any part thereof, prior or superior to, or on a parity with, the lien of the Parity Bonds, or which might impair the security of the Parity Bonds.
- (f) *Collection of Delinquent Accounts; No Free Service.* On at least an annual basis, the City will determine all accounts that are delinquent and will take such actions as the City determines are reasonably necessary to enforce payment of those delinquent accounts. Except to aid the poor or infirm and for fire-fighting purposes, it will not furnish or supply or permit the furnishing or supplying of any service or facility in connection with the operation of the Municipal Water System free of charge to any person, firm, or corporation, public or private.
- (g) *Maintenance of Insurance.* The City will at all times carry fire and extended coverage, public liability and property damage and such other forms of insurance with responsible insurers and with policies payable to the City on such of the buildings, equipment, works, plants, facilities, and properties of the Municipal Water System as are ordinarily carried by municipal or privately owned utilities engaged in the operation of like systems, and against such claims for damages as are ordinarily carried by municipal or privately owned utilities engaged in the operation of like systems, or it will self-insure or participate in an insurance pool or pools with reserves adequate, in the reasonable judgment of the City, to protect the Municipal Water System against loss.
- (h) *Condemnation Awards and Insurance Proceeds.* If the City receives any condemnation awards or proceeds of an insurance policy in connection with any loss of or damage to any property of the Municipal Water System, it shall apply the condemnation award or insurance proceeds, in the City's sole discretion, either (i) to the cost of replacing or repairing the lost or damaged properties, (ii) to the payment, purchase, or redemption of Parity Bonds, or (iii) to the cost of improvements to the Municipal Water System.

#### **FUTURE PARITY BONDS**

**Section 17** of the Bond Ordinance provides for the issuance of Future Parity Bonds, subject to meeting the Parity Conditions, which are described under "SECURITY FOR THE BONDS—Additional Obligations" in the Official Statement. The City has also reserved the right to issue revenue bonds or other obligations having a lien on Net Revenue subordinate to the lien of the Parity Bonds.

## **RATE STABILIZATION ACCOUNT**

**Section 18** of the Bond Ordinance provides that the City may at any time deposit in the Rate Stabilization Account Gross Revenue and any other money received by the Light System and available to be used therefor. Thereafter, the City may withdraw any or all of the money from the Rate Stabilization Account for inclusion in Adjusted Gross Revenue for any applicable year of the City. Such deposits or withdrawals may be made up to and including the date 90 days after the end of the applicable year for which the deposit or withdrawal will be included as Adjusted Gross Revenue.

## **SEPARATE UTILITY SYSTEMS**

**Section 19** of the Bond Ordinance provides that the City may create, acquire, construct, finance, own or operate one or more additional systems for water supply, transmission or other commodity or service relating to the Municipal Water System. The revenue of that separate utility system shall not be included in Gross Revenue and may be pledged to the payment of revenue obligations issued to purchase, construct, condemn or otherwise acquire or expand the separate utility system. Neither Gross Revenue nor Net Revenue shall be pledged by the City to the payment of any obligations of a separate utility system except (a) as a Contract Resource Obligation, upon compliance with Section 20 of the Bond Ordinance, or (b) with respect to Net Revenue, on a basis subordinate to the lien of the Parity Bonds on that Net Revenue.

## **CONTRACT RESOURCE OBLIGATIONS**

**Section 20** of the Bond Ordinance provides that the City may at any time enter into one or more Contract Resource Obligations for the acquisition, from facilities to be constructed, of water supply, transmission, or other commodity or service relating to the Municipal Water System, as follows:

- (a) The City may determine that, and may agree under a Contract Resource Obligation to provide that, all payments under that Contract Resource Obligation (including payments prior to the time that water supply or transmission or other commodity or service is being provided, or during a suspension or after termination of supply or service) shall be an Operating and Maintenance Expense if the following requirements are met at the time such a Contract Resource Obligation is entered into:
  - (i) No Event of Default has occurred and is continuing; and
  - (ii) There shall be on file a certificate of an Independent Utility Consultant stating that (A) the payments to be made by the City in connection with the Contract Resource Obligation are reasonable for the supply or transmission rendered; (B) the source of any new supply and any facilities to be constructed to provide the supply or transmission are sound from a water or other supply or transmission planning standpoint, are technically and economically feasible in accordance with prudent utility practice, and are likely to provide such supply or transmission no later than a date set forth in the Independent Utility Consultant's certification; and (C) the Adjusted Net Revenue (further adjusted by the Independent Utility Consultant's estimate of the payments to be made in accordance with the Contract Resource Obligation) for the five fiscal years following the year in which the Contract Resource Obligation is incurred, as such Adjusted Net Revenue is estimated by the Independent Utility Consultant in accordance with the provisions of and adjustments permitted in subsection 17(b)(ii) of the Bond Ordinance, will be at least equal to the Coverage Requirement.
- (b) Payments required to be made under Contract Resource Obligations shall not be subject to acceleration.
- (c) Nothing in this section shall be deemed to prevent the City from entering into other agreements for the acquisition of water supply, transmission or other commodity or service from existing facilities and from treating those payments as an Operating and Maintenance Expense. Nothing in this section shall be deemed to prevent the City from entering into other agreements for the acquisition of water supply, transmission, or other commodity or service from facilities to be constructed and from agreeing to make payments with respect thereto, such payments constituting a charge and lien on Net Revenue subordinate to that of the Parity Bonds.

## **REFUNDING OR DEFEASANCE OF THE BONDS**

In **Section 21** of the Bond Ordinance, the Bonds are designated as “Refundable Bonds” eligible to be refunded under the Omnibus Refunding Ordinance in the future and “Defeasible Bonds” eligible to be defeased under the Omnibus Defeasance Ordinance. The provisions regarding refunding and defeasance of the Bonds are described in the Official Statement under “DESCRIPTION OF THE BONDS—Refunding or Defeasance of Bonds.”

## **FEDERAL TAX AND SECURITIES LAW MATTERS**

**Section 22** of the Bond Ordinance covers Federal Tax Matters, which are described in the Official Statement under “LEGAL AND TAX INFORMATION—Tax Matters.”

**Section 23** of the Bond Ordinance covers preparation of a Preliminary Official Statement, a Final Official Statement, and Continuing Disclosure matters. The Continuing Disclosure Agreement is described in the Official Statement under “CONTINUING DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT.”

## **SUPPLEMENTAL OR AMENDATORY BOND DOCUMENTS**

**Section 24** of the Bond Ordinance provides that the Bond Ordinance and other Bond Documents may not be supplemented or amended in any respect subsequent to the Issue Date of the Bonds except in accordance with the following provisions:

- (a) *Amendments Without Bond Owners’ Consent.* From time to time and at any time, without the consent of or notice to any owners of Parity Bonds, the City may supplement or amend the Bond Documents applicable to any Series of the Bonds for any of the purposes set forth in this subsection (a). Any such supplement or amendment may be passed, adopted, or otherwise approved by the City, without requiring the consent of the registered owners of any Parity Bonds, but may become effective only upon receipt by the City of an opinion of Bond Counsel stating that such supplement or amendment is authorized or permitted by the Bond Ordinance and, upon the effective date thereof, will be valid and binding upon the City in accordance with its terms, and will not adversely affect the exclusion from gross income for federal income tax purposes of interest on the affected Series of the Bonds, if such Series was issued and sold as Tax-Exempt Bonds. The types of supplements and amendments permitted under this subsection (a) are as follows:
  - (i) To cure any formal defect, omission, inconsistency, or ambiguity in the Bond Documents for such Series in a manner not adverse to the owners of any Parity Bonds;
  - (ii) To impose upon the Bond Registrar (with its consent) for the benefit of the owners of Parity Bonds any additional rights, remedies, powers, authority, security, liabilities, or duties which may lawfully be granted, conferred, or imposed and which are not contrary to or inconsistent with such Bond Documents as theretofore in effect;
  - (iii) To add to the covenants and agreements of, and limitations and restrictions upon, the City in the Bond Documents, other covenants, agreements, limitations and restrictions to be observed by the City which are not contrary to or inconsistent with such Bond Documents as theretofore in effect;
  - (iv) To confirm, as further assurance, any pledge under (and the subjection to any claim, lien, or pledge created or to be created by) such Bond Documents on any other money, securities, or funds;
  - (v) To alter the Authorized Denominations of a Series of the Bonds and to make correlative amendments and modifications to the applicable Bond Documents regarding (A) exchangeability of such Bonds for Bonds of different authorized denominations, (B) redemptions of portions of Bonds of particular authorized denominations, and (C) similar amendments and modifications of a technical nature;
  - (vi) To comply with any future federal law or interpretation to preserve the exclusion of the interest on any Series of the Bonds issued and sold as Tax-Exempt Bonds from gross income for federal income tax purposes and the entitlement of the City to receive from the United States Treasury the applicable Tax Credit Subsidy Payments in respect of any Series of the Bonds issued and sold as Tax Credit Subsidy Bonds;
  - (vii) To modify, alter, amend, or supplement the Bond Documents in any other respect which is not materially adverse to the owners of the Parity Bonds and which does not involve a change described in subsection (c); and

- (viii) To add to the covenants and agreements of (or limitations and restrictions upon) the City set forth in any Bond Documents, such additional or alternative covenants, agreements, limitations, or restrictions to be observed by the City as the City may determine are necessary or convenient to accommodate a provider of Qualified Insurance or provider of a Reserve Security and are not materially adverse to the owners of the Parity Bonds.
- (b) *Amendments Permitted Upon Bond Owners' Consent.* With the consent of registered owners of not less than 60 percent in aggregate principal amount of the Parity Bonds then outstanding, the City may pass, adopt, or otherwise approve any supplement or amendment (other than amendments requiring unanimous consent as set forth in subsection (c)) to any Bond Document that is deemed necessary or desirable by the City for the purpose of modifying, altering, amending, supplementing, or rescinding, in any particular, any of the terms or provisions contained in such Bond Document other than those terms and provisions described in subsection (c).
- (c) *Amendments Prohibited Except Upon Unanimous Consent.* Unless approved in writing by or on behalf of the registered owner of each Parity Bond then outstanding, nothing contained in this section shall permit, or be construed as permitting (i) a change in the times, amounts, or currency of payment of the principal or of interest on any outstanding Parity Bond, (ii) a reduction in the principal amount or redemption price of any outstanding Parity Bond, (iii) a change in the method of determining the rate of interest thereon (other than a conversion to a new interest rate mode in accordance with the applicable Bond Documents), (iv) a preference or priority of any Parity Bond over any other Parity Bond, or (v) a reduction in the percentage of the aggregate principal amount of the then-outstanding Parity Bonds required to effect a change under subsection (b).
- (d) *Notice to Bond Owners.* If at any time the City passes, adopts, or otherwise approves a supplement or amendment for any of the purposes of subsection (b) or (c), the Bond Registrar shall cause notice of the proposed supplement or amendment to be given by first class mail (i) to all registered owners of the then outstanding Parity Bonds, (ii) to each provider of Bond Insurance or a Reserve Security, and (iii) to each Rating Agency. Such notice shall briefly set forth the nature of the proposed supplement or amendment and shall state that a copy is on file at the office of the City Clerk for inspection by all owners of the then outstanding Parity Bonds.
- (e) *Effective Date; Consents.* Any supplement or amendment, substantially as described in the notice mailed pursuant to subsection (d), may go into effect upon delivery to the Bond Registrar of (i) the required consents, in writing, of registered owners of the Parity Bonds, and (ii) an opinion of Bond Counsel stating that such supplement or amendment is authorized or permitted by the Bond Ordinance. Upon the effective date thereof, such supplement or amendment will be valid and binding upon the City in accordance with its terms and will not adversely affect the exclusion from gross income for federal income tax purposes of interest on any Tax-Exempt Bonds.

If registered owners of not less than the percentage of Parity Bonds required by this section shall have consented to and approved such a supplement or amendment, no owner of any Parity Bond shall have any right (i) to object to the passage, adoption, or approval of such supplement or amendment, (ii) to object to any of the terms and provisions contained therein or the operation thereof, (iii) in any manner to question the propriety of the passage, adoption, or approval thereof, (iv) to enjoin or restrain the City from passing, adopting, or otherwise approving the same, or (v) to enjoin or restrain the City, any authorized official thereof, or the Bond Registrar from taking any action pursuant to the provisions thereof. For purposes of determining whether consents representing the requisite percentage of principal amount of Parity Bonds have been obtained, the Accreted Value of Capital Appreciation Bonds shall be deemed to be the principal amount. It shall not be necessary to obtain approval of the particular form of any proposed supplement, but it shall be sufficient if the consent shall approve the substance thereof.

- (f) *Effect of Amendment.* Upon the effective date of any supplement or amendment, the Bond Ordinance (or the relevant Bond Document, if not set forth herein) shall be deemed to be modified and amended in accordance therewith, and the respective rights, duties and obligations of the City and all owners of Parity Bonds then outstanding shall thereafter be determined, exercised, and enforced in accordance with and subject in all respects to such modifications and amendments. All the terms and conditions of any such supplement or amendment shall be deemed to be a part of the Bond Ordinance and the Bond Documents for any and all purposes.

- (g) *Special Amendments.* If and to the extent that it is determined that the written consent of Registered Owners of the Bonds is required under subsection (b) or (c), the Registered Owners from time to time of the Bonds, by taking and holding the same, are hereby deemed to have consented to any supplement or amendment to the Bond Documents effecting any one or more of the following changes:
- (i) When calculating “Annual Debt Service” to permit or require Tax Credit Subsidy Payments expected to be received by the City in any period to be credited against amounts required to be paid in respect of interest on the Parity Bonds in that period or
  - (ii) To permit or require Tax Credit Subsidy Payments to be deposited into the Principal and Interest Subaccount and credited against the Net Revenue otherwise required to be deposited into the Principal and Interest Subaccount; and
  - (iii) To permit the reimbursement obligations of the City under any Qualified Letter of Credit or Qualified Insurance (other than a Qualified Letter of Credit or Qualified Insurance obtained to satisfy all or part of the Reserve Requirement) to be secured by a lien and charge on Net Revenue equal in rank with the lien and charge upon such Net Revenue required to be paid into the Parity Bond Account to pay and secure the payment of the principal of and interest on Parity Bonds.

### **DEFAULTS AND REMEDIES**

**Section 25** of the Bond Ordinance provides the following Events of Default:

- (a) *Events of Default.* Each of the following shall constitute an Event of Default with respect to the Bonds:
- (i) If a default is made in the payment of the principal of or interest on any of the Bonds when the same shall become due and payable; or
  - (ii) If the City defaults in the observance and performance of any other of the covenants, conditions and agreements on the part of the City set forth in the Bond Ordinance or the applicable Bond Documents (except as otherwise provided in the Bond Ordinance or in such Bond Documents) and such default or defaults have continued for a period of six months after the City has received from the Bond Owners’ Trustee (as defined in this section) or from the registered owners of not less than 25 percent in principal amount of the Parity Bonds a written notice specifying and demanding the cure of such default. However, if the default in the observance and performance of any other of the covenants, conditions and agreements is one which cannot be completely remedied within the six months after written notice has been given, it shall not be an Event of Default with respect to the Bonds as long as the City has taken active steps within the six months after written notice has been given to remedy the default and is diligently pursuing such remedy.

Notwithstanding anything in this section to the contrary, the failure of the City or any obligated person to comply with the Continuing Disclosure Agreement shall not constitute an Event of Default, and the sole remedy of any holder of a Bond shall be to seek an order of specific performance from an appropriate court to compel the City to comply with the Continuing Disclosure Agreement.

- (b) *Bond Owners’ Trustee.* So long as such Event of Default has not been remedied, a trustee (the “Bond Owners’ Trustee”) may be appointed by the registered owners of 25 percent in principal amount of the then outstanding Parity Bonds, by an instrument or concurrent instruments in writing signed and acknowledged by such registered owners of the Parity Bonds or by their attorneys-in-fact duly authorized and delivered to such Bond Owners’ Trustee, notification thereof being given to the City. That appointment shall become effective immediately upon acceptance thereof by the Bond Owners’ Trustee. Any Bond Owners’ Trustee appointed under the provisions of this subsection shall be a bank or trust company organized under the laws of the State of Washington or the State of New York or a national banking association. The bank or trust company acting as Bond Owners’ Trustee may be removed at any time, and a successor Bond Owners’ Trustee may be appointed, by the registered owners of a majority in principal amount of the Parity Bonds, by an instrument or concurrent instruments in writing signed and acknowledged by such registered owners of the Parity Bonds or by their attorneys-in-fact duly authorized. The Bond Owners’ Trustee may require such security and indemnity as may be reasonable against the costs, expenses, and liabilities that may be incurred in the performance of its duties.

In the event that any Event of Default in the sole judgment of the Bond Owners' Trustee is cured and the Bond Owners' Trustee furnishes to the City a certificate so stating, that Event of Default shall be conclusively deemed to be cured and the City, the Bond Owners' Trustee and the registered owners of the Parity Bonds shall be restored to the same rights and position which they would have held if no Event of Default had occurred.

The Bond Owners' Trustee appointed in the manner herein provided, and each successor thereto, is declared to be a trustee for the registered owners of all the Parity Bonds and is empowered to exercise all the rights and powers herein conferred on the Bond Owners' Trustee.

- (c) *Suits at Law or in Equity.* Upon the occurrence of an Event of Default and during the continuance thereof, the Bond Owners' Trustee may, and upon the written request of the registered owners of not less than 25 percent in principal amount of the Parity Bonds outstanding shall, take such steps and institute such suits, actions, or other proceedings, all as it may deem appropriate for the protection and enforcement of the rights of the registered owners of the Parity Bonds, to collect any amounts due and owing to or from the City, or to obtain other appropriate relief, and may enforce the specific performance of any covenant, agreement, or condition contained in the Bond Ordinance or set forth in any of the Parity Bond Documents.

Nothing contained in this section shall, in any event or under any circumstance, be deemed to authorize the acceleration of the maturity of principal on the Parity Bonds, and the remedy of acceleration is expressly denied to the registered owners of the Parity Bonds under any circumstances including, without limitation, upon the occurrence and continuance of an Event of Default.

Any action, suit or other proceeding instituted by the Bond Owners' Trustee hereunder shall be brought in its name as the Bond Owners' Trustee and all such rights of action upon or under any of the Parity Bonds or the provisions of the Bond Ordinance may be enforced by the Bond Owners' Trustee without the possession of any of those Parity Bonds and without the production of the same at any trial or proceedings relative thereto except where otherwise required by law. Any such suit, action, or proceeding instituted by the Bond Owners' Trustee shall be brought for the ratable benefit of all of the registered owners of those Parity Bonds, subject to the provisions of the Bond Ordinance. The respective registered owners of the Parity Bonds, by taking and holding the same, shall be conclusively deemed irrevocably to appoint the Bond Owners' Trustee the true and lawful trustee of the respective registered owners of those Parity Bonds, with authority to institute any such action, suit, or proceeding; to receive as trustee and deposit in trust any sums becoming distributable on account of those Parity Bonds; to execute any paper or documents for the receipt of money; and to do all acts with respect thereto that the registered owner himself or herself might have done in person. Nothing in the Bond Ordinance shall be deemed to authorize or empower the Bond Owners' Trustee to consent to accept or adopt, on behalf of any owner of the Parity Bonds, any plan of reorganization or adjustment affecting the Parity Bonds or any right of any registered owner thereof, or to authorize or empower the Bond Owners' Trustee to vote the claims of the registered owners thereof in any receivership, insolvency, liquidation, bankruptcy, reorganization, or other proceeding to which the City is a party.

- (d) *Application of Money Collected by Bond Owners' Trustee.* Any money collected by the Bond Owners' Trustee at any time pursuant to this section shall be applied in the following order of priority:
- (i) to the payment of the charges, expenses, advances, and compensation of the Bond Owners' Trustee and the charges, expenses, counsel fees, disbursements, and compensation of its agents and attorneys;
  - (ii) to the payment to the persons entitled thereto of all installments of interest then due on the Parity Bonds in the order of maturity of such installments and, if the amount available shall not be sufficient to pay in full any installment or installments maturing on the same date, then to the payment thereof ratably, according to the amounts due thereon to the persons entitled thereto, without any discrimination or preference; and
  - (iii) to the payment to the persons entitled thereto of the unpaid principal amounts of any Parity Bonds which shall have become due (other than Parity Bonds previously called for redemption for the payment of which money is held pursuant to the provisions of the applicable Bond Documents), whether at maturity or by proceedings for redemption or otherwise, in the order of their due dates and, if the amount available shall not be sufficient to pay in full the principal amounts due on the same date,



then to the payment thereof ratably, according to the principal amounts due thereon to the persons entitled thereto, without any discrimination or preference.

- (e) *Duties and Obligations of Bond Owners' Trustee.* The Bond Owners' Trustee shall not be liable except for the performance of such duties as are specifically set forth herein. During an Event of Default, the Bond Owners' Trustee shall exercise such of the rights and powers vested in it hereby, and shall use the same degree of care and skill in its exercise, as a prudent person would exercise or use under the circumstances in the conduct of that person's own affairs. The Bond Owners' Trustee shall have no liability for any act or omission to act hereunder except for the Bond Owners' Trustee's own negligent action, its own negligent failure to act or its own willful misconduct. The duties and obligations of the Bond Owners' Trustee shall be determined solely by the express provisions of the Bond Ordinance, and no implied powers, duties or obligations of the Bond Owners' Trustee shall be read into the Bond Ordinance.

The Bond Owners' Trustee shall not be required to expend or risk its own funds or otherwise incur individual liability in the performance of any of its duties or in the exercise of any of its rights or powers as the Bond Owners' Trustee, except as may result from its own negligent action, its own negligent failure to act or its own willful misconduct.

The Bond Owners' Trustee shall not be bound to recognize any person as a registered owner of any Parity Bond until registered ownership, if disputed, has been established to its reasonable satisfaction.

The Bond Owners' Trustee may consult with counsel and the opinion of such counsel shall be full and complete authorization and protection in respect of any action taken or suffered by it hereunder in good faith and in accordance with the opinion of such counsel. The Bond Owners' Trustee shall not be answerable for any neglect or default of any person, firm or corporation employed and selected by it with reasonable care.

- (f) *Suits by Individual Parity Bond Owners Restricted.* No owner of any one or more Parity Bonds shall have any right to institute any action, suit or proceeding at law or in equity for the enforcement of same unless:
- (i) an Event of Default has happened and is continuing; and
  - (ii) a Bond Owners' Trustee has been appointed; and
  - (iii) such owner previously shall have given to the Bond Owners' Trustee written notice of the Event of Default on account of which such suit, action or proceeding is to be instituted; and
  - (iv) the registered owners of 25 percent in principal amount of the Parity Bonds, after the occurrence of such Event of Default, have made written request of the Bond Owners' Trustee and have afforded the Bond Owners' Trustee a reasonable opportunity to institute such suit, action or proceeding; and
  - (v) there have been offered to the Bond Owners' Trustee security and indemnity satisfactory to it against the costs, expenses, and liabilities to be incurred therein or thereby; and
  - (vi) the Bond Owners' Trustee has refused or neglected to comply with such request within a reasonable time.
  - (vii) No owner of any Parity Bond shall have any right in any manner whatever by action to affect or impair the obligation of the City to pay from Net Revenue the principal of and interest on such Parity Bonds to the respective registered owners thereof when due.

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**APPENDIX B**  
**FORM OF BOND COUNSEL OPINION**

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[Date of Approving Opinion]

The City of Seattle, Washington

Re: The City of Seattle, Washington  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Water System Improvement Revenue Bonds, 2024

We have served as bond counsel to The City of Seattle, Washington (the “City”), in connection with the issuance of the above referenced bonds (the “Bonds”). In our capacity as bond counsel, we have examined such law and such certified proceedings and other documents as we have deemed necessary to render this opinion. As to matters of fact material to this opinion, we have relied upon representations contained in the certified proceedings and other certifications of public officials furnished to us.

The Bonds are issued by the City pursuant to Ordinance 126716, as amended by Ordinance 126942 (as amended, the “Bond Ordinance”) to provide funds (i) to pay for part of the costs of various projects of the Municipal Water System, (ii) to make a deposit into the Reserve Subaccount, if necessary, and (iii) to pay the costs of issuing the Bonds, all as set forth in the Bond Documents (as that term is defined in the Bond Ordinance).

Reference is made to the Bond Ordinance for the definitions of capitalized terms used and not otherwise defined herein.

Under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”), the City is required to comply with certain requirements after the date of issuance of the Bonds in order to maintain the exclusion of the interest on the Bonds from gross income for federal income tax purposes, including, without limitation, requirements concerning the qualified use of Bond proceeds and the facilities financed or refinanced with Bond proceeds, limitations on investing gross proceeds of the Bonds in higher yielding investments in certain circumstances and the arbitrage rebate requirement to the extent applicable to the Bonds. The City has covenanted in the Bond Ordinance to comply with those requirements, but if the City fails to comply with those requirements, interest on the Bonds could become taxable retroactive to the date of issuance of the Bonds. We have not undertaken and do not undertake to monitor the City’s compliance with such requirements.

As of the date of initial delivery of the Bonds to the purchaser thereof and full payment therefor, it is our opinion that under existing law:

1. The City is a duly organized and legally existing first class city under the laws of the State of Washington.

2. The City has duly authorized and approved the Bond Ordinance, and the Bonds are issued in full compliance with the provisions of the Constitution and laws of the State of Washington, the Bond Ordinance and other ordinances and resolutions of the City relating thereto.

3. The Bonds constitute valid obligations of the City payable solely out of the Net Revenue of the Municipal Water System and money in the Water Revenue Parity Bond Account and the subaccounts therein (including the Reserve Subaccount, but only until such time as the Bonds are no longer “Covered Parity Bonds” under the Bond Documents), except only to the extent that enforcement of payment may be limited by bankruptcy, insolvency or other laws affecting creditors’ rights and by principles of equity if equitable remedies are sought.

4. The Bonds are not general obligations of the City.

5. Assuming compliance by the City after the date of issuance of the Bonds with applicable requirements of the Code, under existing statutes, regulations, rulings and judicial decisions, the interest on the Bonds is excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes and is not an item of tax preference for purposes of calculating the federal alternative minimum tax imposed on individuals.

This opinion is given as of the date hereof, and we assume no obligation to revise or supplement this opinion to reflect any facts or circumstances that may hereafter come to our attention, or any changes in law that may hereafter occur.

We express no opinion herein concerning the completeness or accuracy of any official statement, offering circular or other sales or disclosure material relating to the issuance of the Bonds or otherwise used in connection with the Bonds. We bring to your attention the fact that the foregoing opinions are expressions of our professional judgment on the matters expressly addressed and do not constitute guarantees of result.

Respectfully submitted,

**APPENDIX C**  
**2023 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE WATER FUND**

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Report of Independent Auditors and Financial  
Statements with Required Supplementary  
Information and Other Information

**Seattle Public Utilities – Water Fund  
(An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle)**

December 31, 2023 and 2022

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## Report of Independent Auditors

To the Director of Seattle Public Utilities  
Water Fund  
Seattle, Washington

### Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

#### *Opinion*

We have audited the financial statements of Seattle Public Utilities – Water Fund (the Fund), which comprise the statements of net position as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the related statements of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position, and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Fund as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the changes in its net position and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

#### *Basis for Opinion*

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Fund and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

#### *Emphasis of Matter*

As discussed in Note 1 to the financial statements, the Fund adopted the provisions of Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 96, *Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements*, effective January 1, 2022. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

#### *Financial Reporting Entity*

As discussed in Note 1, the financial statements present only the Fund and do not purport to, and do not, present fairly the financial position of City of Seattle, Washington, as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the related changes in its financial position, or, where applicable, its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

### ***Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements***

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### ***Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements***

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, we

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fund's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

### ***Required Supplementary Information***

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis, schedule of Seattle Public Utilities' proportionate share of the net pension liability, schedule of Seattle Public Utilities' contributions, and the schedule of Seattle Public Utilities' proportionate share of the OPEB liability and related ratios (collectively, required supplementary information) be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the GASB who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

### ***Other Information***

Management is responsible for the other information as listed in the table of contents. The other information comprises the water fund debt service coverage calculation, water system operating statistics, major retail water customers, and water rates but does not include the basic financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the basic financial statements does not cover the other information, and we do not express an opinion or any form of assurance thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the financial statements, or the other information otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work performed, we conclude that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, we are required to describe it in our report.

### ***Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards***

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated April 26, 2024, on our consideration of the Fund's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fund's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Fund's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Seattle, Washington  
April 26, 2024

## **Management's Discussion and Analysis**

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# Seattle Public Utilities – Water Fund (An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle) Management’s Discussion and Analysis

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As management of Seattle Public Utilities (SPU), a department of the City of Seattle (the City), we offer readers of SPU’s financial statements this narrative overview and analysis of the financial activities of the Water Fund (the Fund) for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022. The revenues, expenses, assets, deferred outflows and inflows of resources, and liabilities of Seattle’s water system are recorded in the Fund, the functions of which are primarily supported by user fees and charges to customers. The financial situation of other aspects of Seattle City government, including other utility services and general government operations, are reported elsewhere.

## Overview of the Financial Statements

This discussion and analysis is intended to serve as an introduction to the Fund’s financial statements. The financial statements include Management’s Discussion and Analysis and basic financial statements with accompanying notes.

**Basic financial statements** – The basic financial statements of the Fund report information like the presentation used by private sector companies. These statements offer short-term and long-term financial information about its activities. The basic financial statements begin on page 14 of this report and are comprised of three components: (1) statements of net position, (2) statements of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position, and (3) statements of cash flows.

The statements of net position present information, as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, on all the Fund’s assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities and deferred inflows of resources. The difference between assets combined with deferred outflows of resources and liabilities combined with deferred inflows of resources is reported as net position. They also provide information about the nature and amounts of investments in resources (assets and deferred outflows of resources), obligations to the Fund’s creditors (liabilities and deferred inflows of resources) and provide the basis for assessing the liquidity and financial flexibility of the Fund.

The statements of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position present changes in the Fund’s net position for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022. All changes in net position are reported when the underlying event giving rise to the change occurs, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. These statements reflect the results of the Fund’s operations for the years identified to provide information about the Fund’s credit worthiness and its ability to successfully recover all its costs through service fees and other charges.

The statements of cash flows are required to provide information about the Fund’s cash receipts and cash payments during the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, and to provide answers to questions about sources, uses, and impacts to cash. These statements report cash receipts, cash payments, and net changes in cash resulting from operations, investing and financing activities for the reporting period.

**Notes to the financial statements** – The notes are an integral part of the financial statements. They provide additional disclosures that are essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the financial statements, such as for certain estimates and financing details. The notes to the financial statements begin on page 19 of this report.

**Seattle Public Utilities – Water Fund**  
**(An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle)**  
**Management’s Discussion and Analysis**

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**Financial Analysis**

Increases or decreases in net position may serve over time as a useful indicator of whether the Fund’s financial position is improving or deteriorating. At December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Fund’s assets and deferred outflows of resources exceeded liabilities and deferred inflows of resources, resulting in surpluses in total net position of \$820.8 million and \$771.3 million, respectively. In 2023, the Fund’s change in net position was an increase of \$49.5 million (6.4%) as compared to 2022, which increased \$57.3 million (8.0%). The following summary statement of net position presents the assets and deferred outflows of resources of the Fund and shows the mix of liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, and net position used to acquire these assets:

**Summary Statements of Net Position**

	2023	2022	2021
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Current assets	\$ 160,766,155	\$ 145,922,174	\$ 154,864,335
Capital assets, net	1,390,326,431	1,369,256,870	1,342,711,176
Other	144,663,677	180,177,364	152,086,836
Total assets	1,695,756,263	1,695,356,408	1,649,662,347
<b>DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>	40,818,824	30,200,083	28,252,378
Total assets and deferred outflows of resources	\$ 1,736,575,087	\$ 1,725,556,491	\$ 1,677,914,725
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Current liabilities	\$ 83,414,972	\$ 91,639,327	\$ 86,708,929
Revenue bonds	639,046,937	688,052,014	703,243,284
Other	133,356,351	95,686,864	107,081,238
Total liabilities	855,818,260	875,378,205	897,033,451
<b>DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>			
Revenue stabilization fund	47,549,791	42,440,724	41,720,888
Deferred inflows - other	12,385,749	36,426,777	25,146,855
Total deferred inflows of resources	59,935,540	78,867,501	66,867,743
<b>NET POSITION</b>			
Net investment in capital assets	753,677,215	720,227,690	662,512,834
Restricted	20,943,954	18,290,404	16,440,207
Unrestricted	46,200,118	32,792,691	35,060,490
<b>TOTAL NET POSITION</b>	820,821,287	771,310,785	714,013,531
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources and net position	\$ 1,736,575,087	\$ 1,725,556,491	\$ 1,677,914,725



## Seattle Public Utilities – Water Fund (An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle) Management’s Discussion and Analysis

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### 2023 Compared to 2022

**Assets** – Current assets increased \$14.8 million (10.2%) from 2022. This is primarily due to an increase in operating cash of \$17.3 million, materials and supplies inventory of \$1.8 million, and due from other governments of \$0.9 million, offset by a decrease in accounts receivable of \$5.0 million and unbilled revenue of \$0.4 million. The change in operating cash is primarily due to cash flow from operations and a decrease in accounts receivable.

Capital assets increased \$21.1 million (1.5%) from 2022 mainly due to current year capital spending (Note 3).

Other assets decreased \$35.5 million (-19.7%) from 2022. The largest portion of the change was due to a decrease in restricted cash and equity in pooled investments of \$41.2 million from the transfer of cash from restricted for construction to operating.

**Deferred outflows of resources** – Deferred outflows of resources increased by \$10.6 million (35.2%) from 2022. This change resulted mainly from assumptions related to pension accounting and differences in expected and actual experience in other post-employment benefits.

**Liabilities** – Current liabilities decreased \$8.2 million (-9.0%) from 2022. The change mostly resulted from decreases of \$6.7 million in revenue bonds due within one year, \$3.4 million in other, and \$3.2 million due to other funds. This was offset by an increase in accounts payable of \$5.2 million.

Noncurrent liabilities decreased \$11.3 million (-1.4%) over 2022. This is mainly from a decrease of \$49.0 million in revenue bonds and bond premiums, due to regular payments, which was offset by an increase of \$37.1 million of net pension liability.

**Deferred inflows of resources** – Deferred inflows of resources decreased by \$18.9 million (-24.0%) from 2022. This decrease is mainly due to a decrease of \$23.4 million in pension and other post-employment benefits (OPEB) which was offset by an increase in the rate stabilization account of \$5.1 million.

**Net position** – Net investment in capital assets was the largest portion of the Fund’s net position (\$753.7 million or 91.8%). This amount reflects the Fund’s investment in capital assets such as land, buildings, and equipment, less accumulated depreciation and any related outstanding debt used to acquire those assets. The Fund uses these assets to provide services to customers; consequently, these assets are not available for future spending. Although the Fund’s investment in its capital assets is reported net of related debt, the resources needed to repay the debt are provided by fees paid by customers for services provided by these assets. In 2023, net investment in capital assets increased \$33.4 million from 2022 primarily from an increase in utility plant and construction in progress. Other contributing factors are decreases in debt, debt related accounts, and decrease in construction cash of \$46.4 million as a result construction spending.

## **Seattle Public Utilities – Water Fund (An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle) Management’s Discussion and Analysis**

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The Fund’s restricted net position (\$20.9 million or 2.6%) represents resources that are subject to restrictions on how they may be used. Restricted net position increased by \$2.7 million.

The Fund’s unrestricted net position (\$46.2 million or 5.6%) represents resources that are not subject to external restrictions and may be used to meet the Fund’s obligations to creditors. This portion increased \$13.4 million in 2023 as compared to 2022 primarily as a result of operations.

### **2022 Compared to 2021**

**Assets** – Current assets decreased \$8.9 million (-5.8%) from 2021. This is primarily due to decreases in operating cash of \$14.0 million offset by increase in accounts receivable of \$2.5 million, unbilled revenue of \$0.6 million and materials and supplies inventory of \$1.7 million. The change in operating cash is primarily due to bond refunding and increased spending for capital assets, of which a certain portion of those costs are reimbursed to operating cash from the bond proceeds. The increase in accounts receivable is mostly due to slower than expected payments from customers due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Capital assets increased \$27.6 million (2.1%) from 2021 mainly due to closed projects transferred from construction in progress (Note 3).

Other assets increased \$26.9 million (17.6%) from 2021. The largest portion of the change was due to an increase in restricted cash and equity in pooled investments of \$26.8 million from proceeds of bonds.

**Deferred outflows of resources** – Deferred outflows of resources increased by \$1.9 million (6.9%) from 2021. This change resulted mainly from assumptions related to pension accounting and differences in expected and actual experience in other post-employment benefits.

**Liabilities** – Current liabilities increased \$4.9 million (5.7%) from 2021. This change mostly resulted from increases of \$1.5 million in accounts payable and \$3.4 million in revenue bonds due in one year.

Noncurrent liabilities decreased \$26.6 million (-3.3%) over 2021. This is mainly to decrease of \$15.2 million in revenue bonds due to refunding, defeasance and making regular payments, \$8.3 of net pension liability and \$2.0 of loans due to scheduled payments.

**Deferred inflows of resources** – Deferred inflows of resources increased by \$12.0 million (17.9%) from 2021. This increase is mainly due to an increase of \$6.6 million in pension and OPEB and increase of \$4.7 million of unamortized gain on advanced refunding on bond issuance.

**Seattle Public Utilities – Water Fund**  
**(An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle)**  
**Management’s Discussion and Analysis**

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**Net position** – Net investment in capital assets was the largest portion of the Fund’s net position (\$720.2 million or 93.4%). This amount reflects the Fund’s investment in capital assets such as land, buildings, and equipment, less accumulated depreciation and any related outstanding debt used to acquire those assets. The Fund uses these assets to provide services to customers; consequently, these assets are not available for future spending. Although the Fund’s investment in its capital assets is reported net of related debt, the resources needed to repay the debt are provided by fees paid by customers for services provided by these assets. In 2022, net investment in capital assets increased \$57.7 million from 2021 primarily from an increase in utility plant and construction in progress. Other contributing factors are decreases in debt and debt related accounts, offset by an increase in construction cash of \$26.8 million as a result of bond issuance.

The Fund’s restricted net position (\$18.3 million or 2.4%) represents resources that are subject to restrictions on how they may be used. Restricted net position increased slightly by \$1.9 million.

The Fund’s unrestricted net position (\$32.8 million or 4.3%) represents resources that are not subject to external restrictions and may be used to meet the Fund’s obligations to creditors. This portion decreased \$2.3 million in 2022 as compared to 2021 primarily as a result of a decrease in operating cash due to the defeasance of 2015 Bonds.

**Summary Statements of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position**

	2023	2022	2021
Operating revenues	\$ 301,496,010	\$ 290,868,791	\$ 303,499,096
Operating expenses	(257,879,079)	(224,994,613)	(222,136,902)
Operating income	43,616,931	65,874,178	81,362,194
Other expenses, net of other revenues	(3,926,795)	(27,201,562)	(18,652,713)
Fees, contributions, and grants	9,820,366	18,624,638	9,529,923
Change in net position	<u>\$ 49,510,502</u>	<u>\$ 57,297,254</u>	<u>\$ 72,239,404</u>

**2023 Compared to 2022**

Operating revenues increased approximately \$10.6 million (3.7%) from 2022. The change was mainly driven by increases in utility services revenue of \$5.0 million, wholesale commercial services of \$2.8 million and other operating revenue of \$2.8 million.

Operating expenses increased \$32.9 million (14.6%) from 2022. Notable factors affecting this change include increases of \$10.9 million in services, \$10.6 million in benefits, \$6.4 million in salaries, and \$3.2 million in other operating expenses. The increase in salaries is largely driven by an accrual for the tentative agreement between the unions and the City.

**Seattle Public Utilities – Water Fund**  
**(An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle)**  
**Management’s Discussion and Analysis**

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Other expenses, net of other revenues decreased by \$23.3 million (-85.6%) over 2022. The change was primarily due to an increase in investment income realized and unrealized of \$17.5 million, and other non-operating revenue of \$3.0 million, and a decrease in interest expense of \$2.8 million.

Capital fees, contributions and grants decreased by \$8.8 million (-47.3%) over 2022. The main factor for the change is an \$8.2 million decrease in donations.

**2022 Compared to 2021**

Operating revenues decreased approximately \$12.6 million (-4.2%) from 2021. The change was mainly driven by decreases in utility services revenue of \$10.9 million and wholesale and commercial services of \$1.1 million.

Operating expenses increased \$2.9 million (1.3%) from 2021. Notable factors affecting this change include increases of \$1.5 million in intergovernmental payments, \$0.8 million in services, \$0.3 million in supplies and \$0.7 million in depreciation. These increases are offset by decreases of \$1.1 million in amortization.

Other expenses, net of other revenues increased by \$8.5 million (45.8%) over 2021. The change was primarily due to a decrease in other non-operating revenue of \$6.5 million, investment losses realized and unrealized of \$5.0 million and interest and debt service expenses of \$3.0 million.

Capital fees, contributions and grants increased by \$9.1 million (95.4%) over 2021. The main factors for the increase are \$7.4 million increase in donations.

**Capital Assets**

The following table summarizes capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, by major asset category as of December 31, 2023, 2022, and 2021:

**Summary of Capital Assets, Net of Accumulated Depreciation and Amortization**

	December 31,		
	2023	2022	2021
Land and land rights	\$ 54,511,259	\$ 54,511,042	\$ 54,361,920
Buildings	120,732,870	125,995,394	131,209,658
Structures	889,663,148	831,320,552	825,180,582
Machinery and equipment	225,270,946	239,037,011	254,893,874
Computer systems	21,293,176	23,765,012	19,794,129
Construction in progress	75,185,261	91,176,276	53,698,154
Artwork	2,357,342	2,165,809	2,150,701
Intangible right-to-use	1,037,917	1,011,262	1,147,646
Property held for future use	274,512	274,512	274,512
Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation and amortization	<u>\$ 1,390,326,431</u>	<u>\$ 1,369,256,870</u>	<u>\$ 1,342,711,176</u>

## **Seattle Public Utilities – Water Fund (An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle) Management’s Discussion and Analysis**

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Additional information about the Fund’s capital assets can be found in Note 3 of this report.

### **2023 Compared to 2022**

The Fund’s investment in capital assets for the year ended December 31, 2023, was \$1.4 billion, net of accumulated depreciation. This represents an increase of \$21.0 million (1.5%) compared to 2022.

Addition of capital assets was offset by increased depreciation and disposals. Highlights of the Fund’s major capital assets placed in service during 2023 include the following:

- \$71.4 million for Water infrastructure improvements and rehabilitation
- \$6.8 million for Tolt & Cedar infrastructure and facility improvements
- \$3.2 million for heavy equipment
- \$2.5 million for Cedar Falls power service upgrade.

As of December 31, 2023, the Fund had \$75.2 million in construction in progress. Major projects under construction are the following:

- \$39.3 million for Water system improvements and rehabilitation
- \$12.9 million for Cedar and Tolt infrastructure and facility improvements
- \$3.4 million for pump station improvements
- \$3.0 million for Bitter Lake reservoir covering
- \$2.1 million watershed protection information management system
- \$2.0 million for South Fork Tolt dam relicensing.

### **2022 Compared to 2021**

The Fund’s investment in capital assets for the year ended December 31, 2022, was \$1.4 billion, net of accumulated depreciation. This represents an increase of \$26.5 million (2.0%) compared to 2021.

Addition of capital assets was offset by increased depreciation and disposals. Highlights of the Fund’s major capital assets placed in service during 2022 include the following:

- \$16.1 million for Water infrastructure improvements and rehabilitation
- \$8.3 million for technology
- \$2.6 million for heavy equipment
- \$2.5 million for Cedar Falls power service upgrade
- \$1.3 million reservoir coverings.

## **Seattle Public Utilities – Water Fund (An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle) Management’s Discussion and Analysis**

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As of December 31, 2022, the Fund had \$91.2 million in construction in progress. Major projects under construction are the following:

- \$30.5 million for Water infrastructure improvements and rehabilitation
- \$9.6 million for Cedar and Tolt infrastructure and facility improvements
- \$3.4 million for heavy equipment
- \$3.0 million for Cedar Falls power service upgrade
- \$1.3 million for reservoir covering and security improvement.

### **Debt Administration**

The Fund’s debt primarily consists of bonded debt and loans. Bonded debt is secured solely by water system revenues and provides financing for capital improvements. Loans issued by the Washington State Agencies for certain capital improvements are unsecured. The Fund’s credit ratings on its bonds were AAA and AA+/stable by Moody’s Investors Service Inc. and Standard & Poor’s Rating Services, respectively. Additional details about the Fund’s revenue bonds and loans are in Notes 4 and 9 of this report.

### **2023 Compared to 2022**

At December 31, 2023, the Fund had \$604.5 million in bonded debt and \$18.6 million in loans, as compared to \$655.2 million and \$20.7 million, respectively, at December 31, 2022. Bonded debt decreased a net \$50.8 million, attributed to scheduled payments of debt principal on existing bonds. Loans also decreased \$2.0 million due to scheduled principal payments on existing loans.

### **2022 Compared to 2021**

At December 31, 2022, the Fund had \$655.2 million in bonded debt and \$20.7 million in loans, as compared to \$664.5 million and \$22.7 million, respectively, at December 31, 2021. Bonded debt decreased a net \$9.2 million, attributed to scheduled payments of debt principal on existing bonds, issuance of a new revenue and refunding bonds and defeasance of old bonds. Loans also decreased \$2.0 million due to scheduled principal payments on existing loans.

### **Requests for Information**

The Fund’s financial statements are designed to provide a general overview of the Fund’s finances, as well as to demonstrate the Fund’s accountability to its customers, investors, creditors, and other interested parties. Questions concerning any of the information provided in this report or requests for additional financial information should be addressed to Seattle Public Utilities, Finance and Administration Branch, Accounting Division, PO Box 34018, Seattle, WA 98124-4018, telephone (206) 684-3000.

## **Financial Statements**

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**Seattle Public Utilities – Water Fund**  
**(An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle)**  
**Statements of Net Position**  
**December 31, 2023 and 2022**

	2023	2022
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Operating cash and equity in pooled investments	\$ 106,296,593	\$ 88,984,265
Receivables		
Accounts, net of allowance	21,837,112	26,845,923
Interest and dividends	777,230	808,874
Unbilled revenues	16,971,551	17,351,536
Due from other funds	841,833	575,031
Due from other governments	2,641,512	1,714,026
Materials and supplies inventory	11,328,731	9,570,926
Prepayments and other current assets	71,593	71,593
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>160,766,155</b>	<b>145,922,174</b>
<b>NONCURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Restricted cash and equity in pooled investments	98,740,641	139,954,210
Prepayments long-term	589,039	660,632
Conservation costs	27,418,831	23,571,297
Regulatory assets	4,866,702	5,119,908
Other charges	13,048,464	10,871,317
Capital assets		
Land and land rights	54,511,259	54,511,042
Plant in service, excluding land	2,293,489,071	2,205,137,765
Less accumulated depreciation and amortization	(1,035,491,014)	(984,008,534)
Construction in progress	75,185,261	91,176,276
Other property, net	2,631,854	2,440,321
<b>Total noncurrent assets</b>	<b>1,534,990,108</b>	<b>1,549,434,234</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>1,695,756,263</b>	<b>1,695,356,408</b>
<b>DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>		
Unamortized loss on advanced refunding	10,810,552	11,824,457
Pension and OPEB contributions and changes in assumptions	30,008,272	18,375,626
<b>Total deferred outflow of resources</b>	<b>40,818,824</b>	<b>30,200,083</b>
<b>Total assets and deferred outflows of resources</b>	<b>\$ 1,736,575,087</b>	<b>\$ 1,725,556,491</b>

See accompanying notes.



**Seattle Public Utilities – Water Fund**  
**(An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle)**  
**Statements of Net Position**  
**December 31, 2023 and 2022**

	2023	2022
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable	\$ 15,922,016	\$ 10,739,276
Salaries, benefits, and payroll taxes payable	2,299,879	2,211,346
Compensated absences payable	286,310	292,107
Due to other funds	-	3,220,611
Due to other governments	132,765	-
Interest payable	9,437,929	10,181,478
Taxes payable	887,939	884,235
Revenue bonds, due within one year	44,025,000	50,760,000
Claims payable	1,708,658	1,327,286
Habitat conservation program liability	553,240	555,873
Loans payable, due within one year	2,049,935	2,049,935
Lease liabilities, due within one year	234,741	149,537
Other	5,876,560	9,267,643
Total current liabilities	<u>83,414,972</u>	<u>91,639,327</u>
<b>NONCURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Compensated absences payable	5,439,887	5,550,029
Claims payable	5,105,089	3,758,339
Habitat conservation program liability	7,930,457	6,242,636
Loans payable, net of current portion	16,576,949	18,626,884
Total OPEB liability	2,435,671	2,728,014
Net pension liability	94,174,854	57,103,351
Lease liabilities, net of current portion	875,873	888,380
Other noncurrent liabilities	817,571	789,231
Revenue bonds	560,460,000	604,485,000
Bond premiums	78,586,937	83,567,014
Total noncurrent liabilities	<u>772,403,288</u>	<u>783,738,878</u>
Total liabilities	<u>855,818,260</u>	<u>875,378,205</u>
<b>DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>		
Unamortized gain on advanced refunding	7,961,748	8,602,110
Rate stabilization account	47,549,791	42,440,724
Deferred inflows-pension and OPEB	4,424,001	27,824,667
Total deferred inflows of resources	<u>59,935,540</u>	<u>78,867,501</u>
<b>NET POSITION</b>		
Net investment in capital assets	753,677,215	720,227,690
Restricted for		
Other charges	10,497,931	9,243,040
Conservation costs	3,236,842	3,496,151
Habitat conservation program	7,209,181	5,551,213
Unrestricted	46,200,118	32,792,691
Total net position	<u>820,821,287</u>	<u>771,310,785</u>
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources and net position	<u>\$ 1,736,575,087</u>	<u>\$ 1,725,556,491</u>

See accompanying notes.

**Seattle Public Utilities – Water Fund**  
**(An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle)**  
**Statements of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position**  
**Years Ended December 31, 2023 and 2022**

	2023	2022
OPERATING REVENUES		
Charges for services and other revenues	\$ 301,496,010	\$ 290,868,791
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Salaries, wages and personnel benefits	74,909,944	57,920,657
Supplies	8,144,229	6,225,434
Services	58,623,899	47,728,833
Intergovernmental payments	50,872,429	49,264,112
Depreciation	55,355,175	52,547,624
Amortization	3,079,273	2,972,828
Other operating expenses	6,894,130	8,335,125
Total operating expenses	257,879,079	224,994,613
OPERATING INCOME	43,616,931	65,874,178
NONOPERATING REVENUES (EXPENSES)		
Investment income (loss)	11,593,278	(5,856,775)
Interest expense	(22,061,543)	(24,908,884)
Other, net	6,541,470	3,564,097
Total nonoperating expenses	(3,926,795)	(27,201,562)
INCOME BEFORE CAPITAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND GRANTS	39,690,136	38,672,616
CAPITAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND GRANTS	9,820,366	18,624,638
CHANGE IN NET POSITION	49,510,502	57,297,254
NET POSITION		
Beginning of year	771,310,785	714,013,531
End of year	\$ 820,821,287	\$ 771,310,785

See accompanying notes.

**Seattle Public Utilities – Water Fund**  
**(An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle)**  
**Statements of Cash Flows**  
**Years Ended December 31, 2023 and 2022**

	2023	2022
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Cash received from customers	\$ 311,893,349	\$ 295,306,731
Cash paid to suppliers	(72,597,160)	(68,557,742)
Cash paid to employees	(73,448,795)	(67,223,804)
Cash paid for taxes	(47,719,231)	(47,266,633)
	<b>118,128,163</b>	<b>112,258,552</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM NONCAPITAL FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Noncapital grants received	845,803	10,776,767
Payment for environmental liabilities	551	-
Net cash flows from noncapital financing activities	<b>846,354</b>	<b>10,776,767</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM CAPITAL AND RELATED FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Proceeds from the sales of bonds and other long-term debt	-	104,310,712
Principal payments on long-term debt	(52,288,721)	(104,519,935)
Capital expenditures and other charges paid	(78,178,294)	(80,805,724)
Interest paid on long-term debt	(30,821,592)	(31,404,466)
Build America Bonds Federal Interest Subsidy	1,764,952	1,826,551
Capital fees and grants received	6,563,173	7,847,871
Proceeds from the sales of capital assets	256,398	157,407
Net cash used in capital and related financing activities	<b>(152,704,084)</b>	<b>(102,587,584)</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Net change on investments held	<b>9,828,326</b>	<b>(7,712,079)</b>
<b>NET (DECREASE) INCREASE IN CASH AND EQUITY IN POOLED INVESTMENTS</b>	<b>(23,901,241)</b>	<b>12,735,656</b>
<b>CASH AND EQUITY IN POOLED INVESTMENTS</b>		
Beginning of year	<b>228,938,475</b>	<b>216,202,819</b>
End of year	<b>\$ 205,037,234</b>	<b>\$ 228,938,475</b>
<b>CASH AT THE END OF THE YEAR CONSISTS OF</b>		
Operating cash and equity in pooled investments	\$ 106,296,593	\$ 88,984,265
Noncurrent restricted cash and equity in pooled investments	<b>98,740,641</b>	<b>139,954,210</b>
Total cash at the end of the year	<b>\$ 205,037,234</b>	<b>\$ 228,938,475</b>

See accompanying notes.

**Seattle Public Utilities – Water Fund**  
**(An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle)**  
**Statements of Cash Flows**  
**Years Ended December 31, 2023 and 2022**

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
RECONCILIATION OF OPERATING INCOME TO		
NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Operating income	<u>\$ 43,616,931</u>	<u>\$ 65,874,178</u>
Adjustments to reconcile operating income to net cash provided by operating activities		
Adjustment for net pension liability	2,038,191	(7,470,382)
Depreciation and amortization	58,434,448	55,520,452
Other cash receipts	6,277,002	1,923,147
Changes in operating assets and liabilities		
Accounts receivable	5,008,811	(2,545,922)
Unbilled revenues	379,985	(574,756)
Due from other funds	(266,802)	(352,331)
Due from other governments	(927,486)	146,123
Materials and supplies inventory	(1,757,805)	(1,737,500)
Other assets	71,593	207,975
Accounts payable	5,182,740	1,472,403
Salaries, benefits, and payroll taxes payable	88,533	(865,964)
Compensated absences payable	(115,939)	25,590
Due to other funds	(3,220,611)	21,723
Due to other governments	132,765	-
Claims payable	1,728,122	(353,749)
Taxes payable	3,704	(3,577)
Regulatory liability - revenue stabilization account	5,109,067	719,836
Credits and other	<u>(3,655,086)</u>	<u>251,306</u>
Total adjustments	<u>74,511,232</u>	<u>46,384,374</u>
NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES	<u>\$ 118,128,163</u>	<u>\$ 112,258,552</u>
NONCASH TRANSACTIONS		
Contributed infrastructure	<u>\$ 2,411,390</u>	<u>\$ 10,649,716</u>

See accompanying notes.

## **Seattle Public Utilities – Water Fund (An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle) Notes to Financial Statements**

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### **Note 1 – Operations and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

**Operations** – The City of Seattle, Seattle Public Utilities – Water Fund (the Fund) is a public utility enterprise fund of the City of Seattle (the City). The Fund was established to account for activities of the water system operated by Seattle Public Utilities (SPU). The water system, established in 1890, provides water to the greater Seattle area through direct service to customers and through purveyors, such as suburban water districts and municipalities. The activities of the water system include protection of available water supply, transmission of water to customers, development of water conservation programs, evaluation of new water sources, and management of the City's water system assets, which include the Tolt and Cedar River Watersheds, water pipes, pumping stations, and treatment plants.

On January 1, 1997, the City created SPU, which brought together under one administrative umbrella the water, solid waste, and drainage and wastewater functions of the City. The Fund (as well as SPU's other funds) remains separate for accounting purposes.

SPU receives certain services from other departments and agencies of the City, including information technology and some that are normally considered to be general and administrative. The Fund is charged a share of these costs and during 2023 and 2022, paid \$26,282,348 and \$22,092,298, respectively, to the City for its share of these services. Additionally, the Fund pays a business and occupation utility tax to the City's General Fund. The Fund paid \$37,259,299 and \$36,215,378 for these taxes in 2023 and 2022, respectively.

The utility billing function is co-managed by SPU, Seattle City Light (SCL), and the Seattle Information Technology Department (ITD). SPU provides customer service through the call center and walk-in center. ITD maintains the Customer Information System (CIS). SPU and SCL bill and reimburse each other for these services. SPU reimburses ITD for the information technologies services mentioned above. Within SPU, the costs and reimbursements were shared among its three utility funds (Water, Drainage and Wastewater, and Solid Waste). The Fund received reimbursements related to the call center and walk-in center of \$2,280,537 and \$2,229,900 in 2023 and 2022, respectively. The Fund paid \$72,805 and \$82,644 for the utility billing services in 2023 and 2022, respectively.

Water services provided to other City departments and agencies are billed at rates prescribed by City ordinances. The Fund collected \$4,641,107 and \$3,961,983 in 2023 and 2022, respectively, from the City for water services provided.

The Fund is subject to regulation by the City and the State of Washington. Service rates are authorized by ordinances passed by the Seattle City Council (City Council). Financial reporting is reviewed by the Washington State Auditor's Office and conforms to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP) as applied to governmental units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles.

## **Seattle Public Utilities – Water Fund** **(An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle)** **Notes to Financial Statements**

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**Basis of accounting** – The Fund is accounted for on a flow of economic resources measurement focus. Its financial statements are prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America as applied to governmental units using the accrual basis of accounting. With the flow of economic resources measurement focus, all assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources associated with the Fund's operations are included on the statements of net position. The operating statements present increases (revenues) and decreases (expenses) in total net position.

**Cash and equity in pooled investments** – Cash resources of the Fund are combined with cash resources of the City in a pooled investment portfolio that is managed by the City's Finance and Administration Services Department. The City's investment portfolio consists of fixed income securities authorized by the Revised Code of Washington and other applicable law. The pool operates like a demand deposit account in that all City departments may deposit cash at any time and withdraw cash out of the pool without prior notice or penalty. Interest earned on the pooled investments is prorated to individual funds at the end of each month on the basis of their average daily cash balances during the month when interest was earned. Cash and equity in pooled investments are reported at fair market value in accordance with GASB Statement No. 31, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Certain Investments and for External Investment Pools*, and GASB Statement No. 72, *Fair Value Measurement and Application*. The Fund's share of the pool is included in the accompanying statement of net position under the caption "cash and equity in pooled investments." Accordingly, the statements of cash flows reconcile to cash and equity in pooled investments. The restricted cash and equity in pooled investments are comprised of unexpended bond proceeds, bond reserve account and a revenue stabilization account.

**Receivables and unbilled revenues** – Customer accounts receivable consist of amounts owed by private individuals, organizations and other city departments for goods delivered or services rendered in the regular course of business operations. Accounts receivable is shown net of allowances for doubtful accounts. The Fund also accrues an estimated amount for services that have been provided but not billed. Notes and contracts receivable arise from written agreements or contracts with public organizations and private individuals.

**Due from/to other funds and governments** – Activity between other funds and governments that is outstanding at the end of the year, not related to the provision of utility services, is reported as due from or due to other funds and governments.

**Allowance for doubtful accounts** – A reserve has been established for uncollectible accounts receivable based on actual historical write-off trends and knowledge of specific circumstances that indicate collection of an account may be unlikely. As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Fund's allowance for doubtful accounts was \$1,219,116 and \$875,337, respectively.

**Materials and supplies inventory** – The Fund values its inventory based on a moving average method. The most recent total cost of an inventory item is divided by the total units of the item that remain in inventory to determine the moving average cost of the item. The moving average cost is then applied to all the units of the inventory item.

## **Seattle Public Utilities – Water Fund** **(An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle)** **Notes to Financial Statements**

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**Regulatory assets** – GASB Statement No. 62, *Codification of Accounting and Financial Reporting Guidance Contained in Pre-November 30, 1989 FASB and AICPA Pronouncements*, allows for certain costs to be capitalized as a regulatory asset instead of charged to expense. A regulatory asset is recorded when it is probable that future revenue in an amount at least equal to the capitalized costs will be recovered through customer rates over some future period. The Fund uses regulatory accounting for debt issuance costs because these costs are included in the rate structure and, as such, will continue to be amortized over the life of the associated bond and loan issues. GASB Statement No. 65, *Items Previously Reported as Assets and Liabilities*, would have required these costs to be expensed in the period incurred if the Fund had not utilized regulatory accounting for these costs. The Fund uses regulatory accounting for interest costs incurred during the construction of capital assets because these costs are included in the rate structure and, as such, will continue to be amortized over the life of the associated capital assets. GASB Statement No. 89, *Accounting for Interest Cost Incurred before the End of a Construction Period*, would have required these costs to be recognized as an expense in the period incurred if the Fund had not utilized regulatory accounting for these costs.

**Revenue Stabilization Account** – The Revenue Stabilization Account (RSA) was established by City Ordinance 122841 to reduce year-to-year variation in rates. Amounts deposited into the RSA are excluded from the statements of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position and treated as a credit in accordance with GASB Statement No. 62. The RSA is included in the “Revenue Stabilization Account” identified in the Fund’s bond covenants. These covenants provide that withdrawals and deposits from the “Revenue Stabilization Account” shall augment or reduce adjusted net revenue available for the payment of debt service. In 2023, \$3.7 million was deposited into the RSA.

**BPA account** – In 2003, the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) purchased an easement in the amount of \$6.0 million from the Fund to construct a power transmission line through the Cedar River Watershed. This \$6.0 million, together with \$657,149 in timber sales related to the easement, were deposited into the BPA account and classified as restricted assets. At December 31, 2023 and 2022, the cash balance in the BPA account was \$463,021 and \$511,323, respectively. Monies in the BPA account are considered a portion of the “Revenue Stabilization Account” described in bond covenants, and therefore shall augment or reduce adjusted net revenue available for the payment of debt service. The Fund will recognize the revenues deposited in the BPA account in the calculation of adjusted net revenues available for the payment of debt service as they are withdrawn to fund certain activities in the Cedar River Watershed.

**Conservation costs** – Conservation program costs that result in long-term benefits and reduce or postpone other capital expenditures or have a legal requirement are included in noncurrent assets and amortized over their expected useful lives, commencing when each program is in place. The conservation program costs are amortized over their expected useful lives of ten years. Certain costs related to the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) are included in the noncurrent assets and amortized through 2050, the year in which the plan expires. An incidental take permit was issued to the City by the federal government approving the HCP for 50 years. Costs of administering the conservation and HCP programs are expensed as incurred.

**Other charges** – Other charges include costs such as the Water System Plan, leasehold improvements, and the Tolt Levee modification. The Fund amortizes these charges over a 2- to 33-year period.

**Seattle Public Utilities – Water Fund  
(An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle)  
Notes to Financial Statements**

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**Capital assets** – Capital assets are stated at cost or, if contributed, at acquisition value at the date of contribution. Costs include direct material, labor, and indirect costs such as engineering, supervision, payroll taxes, pension benefits, and interest relating to the financing of projects under construction. The cost of current repairs and maintenance is charged to expense, while the cost of additions and improvements is capitalized. SPU’s policy is to capitalize assets with a cost of \$5,000 or more. The Fund receives donated assets such as water mains from developers and other governmental agencies. These donated assets are treated as capital contributions and grants in the statements of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position.

**Construction in progress** – Capitalizable costs incurred on projects which are not in service or ready for use are held in construction in progress. When the asset is ready for service, related costs are transferred to capital assets. Upon determining that a project will be abandoned, the related costs are charged to expense.

**Other property** – Other property is stated at cost, or if contributed, the acquisition value at the date of contribution. Other property includes artwork and property held for future use. The artwork is acquired through the City’s “One Percent for Art” program, which supports the City ordinance established to direct the inclusion of works of art in public spaces within the City.

**Depreciation** – Capital assets in service are depreciated on the straight-line method over estimated useful lives as follows:

Buildings and fixtures	10 to 50 years
Earthen source of supply developments	100 years
Transmission and distribution pipelines, reservoirs, and tanks	15 to 100 years
Water mains	33 to 57 years
Pumps, wells, and treatment equipment	10 to 50 years
Machinery and equipment	3 to 20 years
Computer systems	3 to 11 years

Asset depreciation begins in the month the asset is placed in service.

**Deferred outflows/inflows of resources** – In addition to assets, the statements of net position, when applicable, will report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. It represents a consumption of net position that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense) until then. The fund has deferred loss on refunding debt which qualifies for reporting in this category. A deferred loss on refunding bonds results from the difference in the carrying value of refunded debt and its reacquisition price. This amount is deferred and amortized over the shorter of the life of the refunded or refunding debt. The Fund has also recorded deferred outflows of resources for certain pension and OPEB activities including, the difference between projected and actual experience, the difference between projected and actual earnings on investments, and contributions made subsequent to the measurement date (Notes 5 and 8).



## **Seattle Public Utilities – Water Fund** **(An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle)** **Notes to Financial Statements**

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In addition to liabilities, the statements of net position, when applicable, will report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. It represents an acquisition of net position that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until then. The Fund has also recorded deferred inflows of resources for changes in proportion and differences between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions and unamortized gain on refunding. The Fund has a revenue stabilization account which qualifies for reporting in this category.

**Compensated absences** – Employees earn vacation based upon their date of hire and years of service and may accumulate earned vacation up to a maximum of 480 hours. Unused vacation at retirement or normal termination is considered vested and payable to the employee. Earned but unused vacation is accrued as a liability of the Fund. Employees also earn up to 12 days of sick leave per year and may accumulate sick leave balances without limit.

Employees who submit the required documentation when represented by the Coalition of City Unions are paid 35% of the value of unused sick leave upon retirement as part of the Health Reimbursement Arrangement – Voluntary Employees’ Beneficiary Association (HRA-VEBA) program. If the employee fails to submit the required documentation by their last working day of employment, their sick leave balance is forfeited.

Retiring employees who are not eligible to participate in the HRA-VEBA program may elect to receive 25% of the value of unused sick leave upon retirement or defer receipt of 35% of the value of their sick leave balance to the City’s 457 Plan and Trust, subject to the year-to-date or life-to-date limitations on deferrals and contributions. If the 35% value of the sick leave balance exceeds the maximum amount deferred to the City’s 457 Plan and Trust, the employee shall receive a taxable cash payment equal to the amount by which the 25% value of the sick leave balance exceeds the 35% that was allowed to be deferred. The Fund records a liability for estimated sick leave payments.

**Pensions** – For purposes of measuring the net pension liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions, and pension expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the Seattle City Employees’ Retirement System (SCERS) are reported on the same basis as reported by SCERS. For this purpose, benefit payments are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. Investments are reported at fair value.

**Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions (OPEB)** – For purposes of measuring the OPEB liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB, and OPEB expense, information about the benefit have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by the City. For this purpose, benefit payments are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms.

**Operating revenues** – The Fund provides water service to wholesale and retail customers and recognizes revenue when such service is provided. Wholesale customers (Purveyors) are under contract with the Fund, and rates are set based on cost allocation criteria stipulated in the contracts.

## **Seattle Public Utilities – Water Fund** **(An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle)** **Notes to Financial Statements**

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Service rates for all customers are authorized by ordinances passed by the City Council. Service revenues are recorded through cycle billings rendered to customers monthly or bimonthly. The Fund accrues and records unbilled water service revenues in the financial statements for services provided from the date of the last billing to year end.

**Operating expenses** – The Fund's operating expenses include the cost of sales and services, administrative expenses, depreciation on capital assets and amortization of deferred assets.

**Taxes** – The Fund is charged a public utility tax by the City at a rate of 15.54% of Fund revenues, net of certain credits and certain revenues. In addition, the Fund paid a 5.03% public utility tax to the state on a certain portion of revenues identified as utility revenues. The Fund also paid business and occupation tax to the City at the rate of 0.22% and to the state at the rate of 1.75% for certain other non-utility revenues.

**Nonoperating revenues and expenses** – The Fund's non-operating revenues and expenses arise from transactions not related directly to the major income-earning operations of the utility and are of a recurring nature. Major items are investment and interest income, interest expense, gains or losses on the sale of assets, and amortization of debt expenses.

**Net position** – The statements of net position report all financial and capital resources. Assets and deferred outflows of resources minus liabilities and deferred inflows of resources is net position. There are three components of net position: net investment in capital assets, restricted, and unrestricted.

Net investment in capital assets, consists of capital assets, less accumulated depreciation, reduced by the outstanding balances of any bonds, mortgages, notes, or other borrowings that are attributable to the acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets.

Net position is restricted when constraints placed on net position use are either (1) externally imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments, or (2) imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation. The Fund's restricted net position as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, are mainly related to conservation costs, HCP and certain other charges.

Unrestricted net positions are those that are not "net investment in capital assets" or "restricted."

**Arbitrage rebate requirement** – The Fund is subject to the Internal Revenue Code (IRC), Section 148(f), related to its tax-exempt revenue bond. The IRC requires that earnings on gross proceeds of any revenue bonds that are more than the amount prescribed will be surrendered to the Internal Revenue Service. As such, the Fund would record such a rebate as a liability. The Fund had no arbitrage liability as of December 31, 2023 and 2022.

**Accounting standard changes** – In May 2020, GASB issued Statement No. 96 (GASB 96), *Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements (SBITA)*, and it was effective for the Fund for reporting periods beginning after June 15, 2022. Under this standard, software subscriptions are treated as right-to-use subscription assets, as intangible assets, with a corresponding subscription liability. The Fund adopted the provisions of this statement retroactively during 2023; as the impact to 2022 financial statements was immaterial, the prior year financial statements were not restated. The adoption of this standard increased lease liabilities by \$283,611 and right to use assets by \$359,282 in 2023.

## **Seattle Public Utilities – Water Fund (An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle) Notes to Financial Statements**

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In March 2020, GASB issued Statement No. 94 (GASB 94), *Public-Private and Public-Public Partnerships and Availability Payment Arrangements*, and it was effective for the Fund for reporting periods beginning after June 15, 2022. This standard provides accounting and financial reporting guidance related to a wide variety of arrangements between a government(s) and another party that are engaged in providing services to a government's constituents as well as guidance on accounting and financial reporting for availability payment arrangements. In 2023, Seattle Public Utilities has no arrangements that fall under this standard.

**Use of estimates** – The preparation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect amounts reported in the financial statements. Estimates and assumptions are used to record unbilled revenues, allowance for doubtful accounts, fair market value of cash and equity in pooled investments, accrued sick leave, capitalized interest, depreciation, risk liabilities, post-retirement benefits, pension liability, and other contingencies. Changes in these estimates and assumptions may have a material impact on the financial statements.

**Significant risks and uncertainties** – The Fund is subject to certain business risks that could have a material impact on future operations and financial performance. These risks include, but are not limited to, water conditions, weather and natural disaster-related disruptions, collective bargaining labor disputes, fish and other endangered species act issues, Environmental Protection Agency regulations, federal government regulations or orders concerning the operation, maintenance, and licensing of facilities.

**Reclassifications** – Certain reclassifications have been made to the financial statements and related footnote presentations. These reclassifications had no effect on the operating results of the Fund.

### **Note 2 – Cash and Equity in Pooled Investments**

Per Seattle Municipal Code, SMC 5.06.010 Investment Authority, the City's Director of Finance and Administrative Services (FAS) is authorized to invest all moneys in the City Treasury. Cash resources of the Department are combined with cash resources of the City to form a pool of cash that is managed by the City's Department of FAS. Under the City's investment policy, all temporary cash surpluses in the pool are invested. The Fund's share of the pool is included on the balance sheets as Cash and Equity in Pooled Investments or as restricted assets. The pool operates like a demand deposit account in that all departments, including the Fund may deposit cash at any time and can also withdraw cash, out of the pool, up to the amount of the Fund's balance, without prior notice or penalty. Accordingly, the statements of cash flows reconcile to cash and equity in pooled investments.

**Custodial credit risk – deposits** – Custodial credit risk of deposits is the risk that in the event of bank failure for one of the City's depository institutions, the City's deposits or related collateral securities may not be returned in a timely manner.

## **Seattle Public Utilities – Water Fund (An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle) Notes to Financial Statements**

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As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the City did not have custodial credit risk. The City's deposits are covered by insurance provided by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) and the National Credit Union Association (NCUA) as well as protection provided by the Washington State Public Deposit Protection Commission (PDPC) as established in RCW 39.58. The PDPC makes and enforces regulations and administers a program to ensure public funds deposited in banks and thrifts are protected if a financial institution becomes insolvent. The PDPC approves which banks, credit unions, and thrifts can hold state and local government deposits and monitors collateral pledged to secure uninsured public deposits. This secures public treasurers' deposits when they exceed the amount insured by the FDIC or NCUA by requiring banks, credit unions, and thrifts to pledge securities as collateral.

As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the City held sufficient cash in its vault for operations. Additional small amounts of cash were held in departmental revolving fund accounts with the City's various custodial banks, all of which fell within the NCUA/FDIC's \$250,000 standard maximum deposit insurance amount. Any of the City's cash not held in its vault, or a local depository, was held in the City's Consolidated Cash Pooled Investment Portfolio (investment pool), and at the close of every business day, any cash remaining in the operating fund is swept into an overnight repurchase agreement that matures the next day.

**Custodial credit risk – investments** – Custodial credit risk for investments is the risk that, in the event of failure of the counterparty, the City will not have access to, or be able to recover, its investments or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. The City mitigates custodial credit risk for its investments by having its investment securities held by the City's contractual custodial agent. The City maintains a custody relationship with Principal Custody Solutions under the State of Washington's statewide custody provider program arranged by the State Treasurer's Office. The City mitigates counterparty risk by settling trades through its custodian on a delivery-versus-payment method.

By investment policy, the City maintains a list of approved securities dealers for transacting business. The City also conducts its own due diligence as to the financial wherewithal of its counterparties.

**Credit risk** – Credit risk is the risk that an issuer or other counterparty to an investment will not fulfill its obligations. Some of the City's pooled investments have credit risk from holdings in commercial paper, corporate notes, and taxable municipal bonds. The City may not hold more than 50% of the Pool's total assets in these credit sensitive sectors.

State statute defines the investments in commercial paper and corporate notes as a "credit portfolio." The credit portfolio may not exceed 25 percent of the Pool's market value. Credit investments must be diversified by sector and industry. No single issuer shall exceed 3 percent of the Pool's market value.

Commercial Paper investments may not have maturities exceeding 270 days and must hold the highest short-term credit rating by all the major credit rating agencies that rate the issuer at the time of purchase.

Corporate notes must mature within 5.5 years from the time of purchase and must be rated at least weak single-A or better by all the major rating agencies that rate the note at the time of purchase. No single issuer rated AA or better may exceed 3 percent of the Pool's market value. No single issuer rated in the single-A category may exceed 2 percent of the Pool's market value.

## **Seattle Public Utilities – Water Fund (An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle) Notes to Financial Statements**

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Municipal bonds must have a credit rating of weak single-A or better by all the major rating agencies that rate the issuer at the time of purchase. No single issuer may exceed 5 percent of the Pool's market value.

**Interest rate risk** – Interest rate risk is the risk that changes in interest rates over time will adversely affect the fair value of an investment. To mitigate interest rate risk, the City intentionally immunizes its known and expected cash flow needs. To best accomplish meeting its investment objectives, the City has divided the Pool into two separate portfolios: Operating and Strategic.

The Operating Portfolio is invested to meet reasonably expected liquidity needs over a period of twelve to eighteen months. This portfolio has low duration and high liquidity. Consistent with this profile, and for the purpose of comparing earnings yield, its benchmark is the net earnings rate of the State of Washington's Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP).

The Strategic Portfolio consists of cash that is in excess of known and expected liquidity needs. Accordingly, this portfolio is invested in debt securities with longer maturities than the Operating Portfolio, which over a market cycle, is expected to provide a higher return and greater investment income.

Consistent with this profile, and for the purpose of comparing duration, yield and total return, the benchmark for the Strategic portfolio is the Barclays U.S. Government 1–7 year index. The duration of the Strategic Portfolio is targeted between 75% and 125% of the benchmark.

To further mitigate interest rate risk a minimum of 60% of the Operating Portfolio and 30% of the Strategic Portfolio must be invested in asset types with high liquidity, specifically U.S. Government obligations, U.S. Government Agency obligations, LGIP, Demand Accounts, Repo, Sweep, and Commercial Paper.

**Investments** – The Fund's cash resources may be invested by FAS separate from the cash and investments pool. Investments are managed in accordance with the City's Statement of Investment Policy, with limits and restrictions applied at the City-wide level rather than to specific investments of the Fund. As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Fund did not have any dedicated investments. The City's Statement of Investment Policy was modified on January 1, 2018, with an effective date of March 8, 2018. There have been no subsequent changes to the policy.

The City of Seattle has three objectives in managing its investments that define its risk profile and guide implementation of its investment strategy. In order of importance, they are Safety of Principal, Maintenance of Liquidity, and Return on Investment.

The City follows a set of Standards of Care when it comes to its investments that include the following:

- **Social Policies:** A City social policy shall take precedence over furthering the City's financial objectives when expressly authorized by City Council resolution, except where otherwise provided by law or trust principles.
- **Ethics and Conflict of Interest:** Investment officers shall comply with the City's Ethics Code (SMC 4.16.080) and annually submit a Financial Interest Statement to the City's Ethics & Elections Commission that identifies any potential financial interest that could be related to the performance of the City's investment portfolio.

## **Seattle Public Utilities – Water Fund (An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle) Notes to Financial Statements**

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**Delegation of authority** – The Director of Finance and Administrative Services has delegated management responsibility for the City’s investment program to the Director of Finance who has designated day to day management responsibility to investment officers under the supervision of the City’s Treasury Services Director. No persons may engage in an investment transaction except as provided under the terms of the City Statement of Investment Policy and the procedures established therein.

**Fair value of pooled investments** – The City reports investments at fair value and categorizes its fair value measurements within the fair value hierarchy established by GASB Statement No. 72, *Fair Value Measurement and Application*. Fair value of the City’s pooled investments fluctuates with changes in interest rates and the underlying size of the pooled investment portfolio. To mitigate interest rate risk in the City’s pooled investment portfolio, the City typically holds its investments to maturity and manages its maturities to ensure sufficient monthly cash flow to meet its liquidity requirements.

As of December 31, 2023, the City held \$406.4 million on deposit in the Washington State LGIP managed by the Office of the Washington State Treasurer. The City’s investments in the LGIP are reported at amortized cost which approximates fair value. It is overseen by the Office of the State Treasurer, the State Finance Committee, the Local Government Investment Pool Advisory Committee, and the Washington State Auditor’s Office.

The City reports its investments at fair value and categorizes its fair value measurements within the fair value hierarchy established by U.S. GAAP. Fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction amongst market participants at the measurement date (an exit price). Fair value is a market-based measurement for a particular asset or liability based on assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability. Such assumptions include observable and unobservable inputs of market data, as well as assumptions about risk and the risk inherent in the inputs to the valuation technique.

Valuation techniques to determine fair value should be consistent with one or more of three approaches: the market approach, cost approach, and income approach. The City uses a combination of the market and cost approach for the valuation of pooled investments.

The City’s overnight repurchase agreement with Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. and investment in the State of Washington LGIP are accounted for at cost. The LGIP is an external investment pool and is measured at a net asset value (NAV) per share of \$1. The remainder of the City’s investments are purchased in the over-the-counter U.S. bond market and accounted for at market.

The City uses market pricing for its over-the-counter investments as provided by its contractual custodial agent, Principal Custody Solutions.

**Seattle Public Utilities – Water Fund**  
**(An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle)**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**

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As a basis for considering market participant assumptions in fair value measurements, GASB Statement No. 72 establishes a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value into three broad levels as follows:

**Level 1** – Inputs are quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the Fund can access at the measurement date.

**Level 2** – Inputs are inputs other than quoted prices included in Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly.

**Level 3** – Inputs are unobservable inputs for the asset or liability. Valuation adjustments such as for nonperformance risk or inactive markets could cause an instrument to be classified as Level 3 that would otherwise be classified as Level 1 or Level 2.

The City’s investments in US Treasuries are valued as Level 1. The City’s remaining investments are valued as Level 2 or measured at amortized cost. The City does not invest in securities that require Level 3 inputs.

As of December 31, 2023, the City’s pooled investments were categorized within the fair value hierarchy as follows (in thousands):

Investments	Fair Value as of December 31, 2023	Fair Value Measurements Using			Weighted Average Maturity (Days)
		Level 1 Inputs	Level 2 Inputs	Level 3 Inputs	
U.S. Government Agency Securities	\$ 1,417,009	\$ -	\$ 1,417,009	\$ -	404
U.S. Treasury and U.S. Government-Backed Securities	1,240,539	1,240,539	-	-	679
Local Government Investment Pool	406,431	406,431	-	-	-
U.S. Government Agency Mortgage-Backed Securities	312,777	-	312,777	-	1,754
Municipal Bonds	150,811	-	150,811	-	772
Corporate Bonds	67,267	-	67,267	-	537
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development Repurchase Agreements	48,924 17,297	- 17,297	48,924 -	- -	247 9,497
	<u>\$ 3,661,055</u>	<u>\$ 1,664,267</u>	<u>\$ 1,996,788</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	

Weighted Average Maturity of the City’s Pooled Investments 626

**Seattle Public Utilities – Water Fund**  
**(An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle)**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**

As of December 31, 2022, the City's pooled investments were categorized within the fair value hierarchy as follows (in thousands):

Investments	Fair Value as of December 31, 2022	Fair Value Measurements Using			Weighted Average Maturity (Days)
		Level 1 Inputs	Level 2 Inputs	Level 3 Inputs	
U.S. Government Agency Securities	\$ 1,204,123	\$ -	\$ 1,204,123	\$ -	662
U.S. Treasury and U.S. Government-Backed Securities	1,182,412	1,182,412	-	-	765
Local Government Investment Pool	415,588	415,588	-	-	-
U.S. Government Agency Mortgage-Backed Securities	274,968	-	274,968	-	2,126
Municipal Bonds	164,470	-	164,470	-	840
Commercial Paper	78,983	-	78,983	-	16
Corporate Bonds	72,116	-	72,116	-	810
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development	47,993	-	47,993	-	1,165
Repurchase Agreements	46,391	46,391	-	-	-
	<u>\$3,487,044</u>	<u>\$ 1,644,391</u>	<u>\$ 1,842,653</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	

Weighted Average Maturity of the City's Pooled Investments 729

The Fund's share of the City pool was as follows as of December 31:

	2023	2022
Cash and equity in pooled investments	\$ 106,296,593	\$ 88,984,265
Restricted cash and equity in pooled investments	98,740,641	139,954,210
 Total	 <u>\$ 205,037,234</u>	 <u>\$ 228,938,475</u>
 Balance as a percentage of City Pool cash and investments	 5.6%	 6.6%

**Concentration of credit risk** – Concentration risk is the risk of loss attributed to the magnitude of investments in a single issuer. The City manages concentration risk by limiting its investments in any one issuer in accordance with the City's investment policy and state statutes. The policy limits vary for each investment category. State statute and the City's Statement of Investment Policy do not stipulate concentration limits for holdings of U.S. Government or U.S. Government Agency Obligations. However, as noted under credit risk, the City's Statement of Investment Policy outlines maximum percentage allocations for municipal securities, commercial paper as well as bank notes and corporate notes.



**Seattle Public Utilities – Water Fund**  
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**Notes to Financial Statements**

The City's investments in which five percent or more is invested in any single issuer, as of December 31 are as follows (in thousands):

Issuer	2023		2022	
	Fair Value	Percent of Total Investments	Fair Value	Percent of Total Investments
United States Government	\$ 1,240,539	34%	\$ 1,182,412	34%
Federal Home Loan Bank	572,730	16%	355,558	10%
Local Government Investment Pool	406,431	11%	415,588	12%
Federal National Mortgage Association	293,713	8%	331,923	10%
Federal Farm Credit Bank	291,404	8%	299,433	9%
Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp	287,136	8%	191,788	6%
Federal Agriculture Mortgage Corp	248,019	7%	263,760	8%

**Note 3 – Capital Assets**

Capital asset activity consisted of the following for the year ended December 31, 2023:

	Beginning Balance	Additions and Transfers In	Retirements and Transfers Out	Ending Balance
Buildings	\$ 213,597,058	\$ 166	\$ -	\$ 213,597,224
Structures	1,298,352,324	85,254,414	(4,677,736)	1,378,929,002
Machinery and equipment	593,012,891	4,894,636	(966,574)	596,940,953
Computer systems	98,857,778	3,568,596	(78,004)	102,348,370
Intangible right-to-use	1,317,714	359,282	(3,474)	1,673,522
Total capital assets - excluding land	2,205,137,765	94,077,094	(5,725,788)	2,293,489,071
Less accumulated depreciation and amortization	(984,008,534)	(55,687,801)	4,205,321	(1,035,491,014)
	1,221,129,231	38,389,293	(1,520,467)	1,257,998,057
Construction in progress	91,176,276	80,685,857	(96,676,872)	75,185,261
Land and land rights	54,511,042	388	(171)	54,511,259
Artwork	2,165,809	191,533	-	2,357,342
Property held for future use	274,512	-	-	274,512
Capital assets, net	\$ 1,369,256,870	\$ 119,267,071	\$ (98,197,510)	\$ 1,390,326,431

**Seattle Public Utilities – Water Fund**  
**(An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle)**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**

Capital asset activity consisted of the following for the year ended December 31, 2022:

	Beginning Balance	Additions and Transfers In	Retirements and Transfers Out	Ending Balance
Buildings	\$ 213,549,267	\$ 147,791	\$ (100,000)	\$ 213,597,058
Structures	1,273,226,621	48,503,661	(23,377,958)	1,298,352,324
Machinery and equipment	595,155,828	3,705,810	(5,848,747)	593,012,891
Computer systems	101,985,591	9,310,796	(12,438,609)	98,857,778
Intangible right-to-use, net	1,297,220	20,494	-	1,317,714
Total capital assets - excluding land	2,185,214,527	61,688,552	(41,765,314)	2,205,137,765
Less accumulated depreciation and amortization	(952,988,638)	(52,704,500)	21,684,604	(984,008,534)
	1,232,225,889	8,984,052	(20,080,710)	1,221,129,231
Construction in progress	53,698,154	76,623,875	(39,145,753)	91,176,276
Land and land rights	54,361,920	149,122	-	54,511,042
Artwork	2,150,701	15,108	-	2,165,809
Property held for future use	274,512	-	-	274,512
Capital assets, net	<u>\$ 1,342,711,176</u>	<u>\$ 85,772,157</u>	<u>\$ (59,226,463)</u>	<u>\$ 1,369,256,870</u>

During 2023 and 2022, the Fund capitalized interest costs as a regulatory asset relating to construction of \$3,289,927 and \$2,519,976, respectively.

The Fund, as lessee, has entered into various leases for building and equipment with lease terms expiring between 2025 and 2034. Leases that have a maximum possible lease term that are non-cancelable by both lessee and lessor, have a term of more than 12 months, and a present value greater than \$5,000 are considered to be "right to use" assets. Unless explicitly stated in the lease agreement, the discount rate used to calculate lease right-of-use assets and liabilities in which the Fund acts as lessee is the City's incremental borrowing rate based on the expiring date. The discount rate used for leases during the years ending December 31, 2023 and 2022 was 0.38%

Effective January 1, 2022 SPU adopted GASB 96 as discussed in more detail in Note 1. The Fund has one software agreement with the term ending in 2026. Any software agreement that is negotiated by Seattle IT that is for the benefit of multiple departments, will be accounted for at the City level by Seattle IT and is excluded by the Fund. The discount rate used for the software agreement during the year ending December 31, 2023 was 2.70%.

**Seattle Public Utilities – Water Fund**  
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**Notes to Financial Statements**

Minimum payments under the leases are as follows:

Years Ending December 31,	Principal	Interest	Total
2024	\$ 234,741	\$ 7,675	242,416
2025	232,967	2,798	235,765
2026	216,318	2,060	218,378
2027	139,938	1,381	141,319
2028	139,093	859	139,952
2029 - 2030	147,557	334	147,891
	<u>\$ 1,110,614</u>	<u>\$ 15,107</u>	<u>\$ 1,125,721</u>

**Note 4 – Revenue Bonds**

The Fund issues bonds to provide financing for capital improvements. Payment of debt service on the bonds is derived solely from the revenues generated by the Fund. The Fund has set aside \$20,884,236 in a debt service reserve account and has obtained reserve insurance policies to meet the remainder of its reserve requirements. The total bonds outstanding as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, were \$604,485,000 and \$655,245,000, respectively.

Revenue bonds outstanding as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, consisted of the following Municipal Water bonds:

Name of Issue	Issuance Date	Maturity Years	Interest Rates	Original Issue Amount	Bonds Outstanding	
					2023	2022
2010 Improvement, Series A (Taxable)	1/21/10	2019-2040	4.67-5.89%	\$ 109,080,000	\$ 91,170,000	\$ 94,985,000
2012 Refunding	5/30/12	2012-2034	2.0-5.0%	238,770,000	10,750,000	10,750,000
2015 Improvement and Refunding	6/10/15	2015-2045	2.0-5.0%	340,840,000	189,435,000	209,450,000
2017 Improvement and Refunding	1/25/17	2017-2046	4.0-5.0%	194,685,000	161,480,000	167,710,000
2021 Improvement and Refunding	6/14/21	2022-2034	4.0-5.0%	82,220,000	76,595,000	79,990,000
2022 Improvement and Refunding	7/28/22	2022-2052	5.0%	93,260,000	75,055,000	92,360,000
				<u>\$ 1,058,855,000</u>	<u>\$ 604,485,000</u>	<u>\$ 655,245,000</u>

**Seattle Public Utilities – Water Fund**  
**(An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle)**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**

Minimum debt service requirements to maturity on revenue bonds are as follows:

Years Ending December 31,	Principal	Interest	Total
2024	\$ 44,025,000	\$ 27,962,999	\$ 71,987,999
2025	46,170,000	25,722,859	71,892,859
2026	44,140,000	23,446,577	67,586,577
2027	42,405,000	21,286,301	63,691,301
2028	40,505,000	19,122,918	59,627,918
2029 - 2033	170,380,000	70,253,265	240,633,265
2034 - 2038	118,385,000	37,444,326	155,829,326
2039 - 2043	57,130,000	15,789,939	72,919,939
2044 - 2048	31,735,000	5,462,350	37,197,350
2049 - 2053	9,610,000	1,230,500	10,840,500
	<u>\$ 604,485,000</u>	<u>\$ 247,722,034</u>	<u>\$ 852,207,034</u>

The following table shows the revenue bond activity during the year ended December 31, 2023:

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Reductions	Ending Balance	Due Within One Year
Bonds payable					
Revenue bonds	\$ 655,245,000	\$ -	\$ (50,760,000)	\$ 604,485,000	\$ 44,025,000
Add (deduct) deferred amounts					
Issuance premiums	83,567,014	-	(4,980,077)	78,586,937	-
Total bonds payable	<u>\$ 738,812,014</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (55,740,077)</u>	<u>\$ 683,071,937</u>	<u>\$ 44,025,000</u>

The following table shows the revenue bond activity during the year ended December 31, 2022:

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Reductions	Ending Balance	Due Within One Year
Bonds payable					
Revenue bonds	\$ 664,455,000	\$ 93,260,000	\$ (102,470,000)	\$ 655,245,000	\$ 50,760,000
Add (deduct) deferred amounts					
Issuance premiums	86,133,284	11,697,513	(14,263,783)	83,567,014	-
Total bonds payable	<u>\$ 750,588,284</u>	<u>\$ 104,957,513</u>	<u>\$ (116,733,783)</u>	<u>\$ 738,812,014</u>	<u>\$ 50,760,000</u>

**Seattle Public Utilities – Water Fund**  
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**Defeasance of debt** – The Fund defeased certain obligations in 2022 by placing the proceeds of new bonds and a certain amount of operating cash in an irrevocable trust to provide for all future debt service payments on the old bonds. As a result, the old bonds are considered defeased, and the corresponding liabilities and trust account assets are not included in the statements of net position. As of December 2023, the defeased bonds outstanding were as shown below:

Name of Issue	Amount Outstanding at December 31, 2022	Additions	Redemptions	Amount Outstanding at December 31, 2023
2015 Improvement and Refunding	\$ 18,750,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,750,000
	<u>\$ 18,750,000</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 18,750,000</u>

In July 2022, the Fund used operating cash to partially defease the 2015 bonds, reducing the principal amount owned by \$18.8 million.

**Financial covenants** – The revenue bonds contain certain financial covenants, the most significant of which requires the Fund to maintain Reserve Subaccount at the least of (i) Maximum Annual Debt Service on all parity bonds outstanding at the time of calculation, (ii) 1.25 times adjusted annual debt service on all parity bonds outstanding at the calculation, or (iii) the sum of 10% of the proceeds of each series of parity bonds then outstanding. Management believes the Fund was in compliance with all debt covenants as of December 31, 2023. For more information, see Other Information (page 52).

**Note 5 – Postemployment Benefit Plans**

**Deferred compensation** – The City offers all of its employees a deferred compensation plan (the Plan) created in accordance with IRC Section 457. The Plan permits employees to defer a portion of their salaries until future years. The deferred compensation is paid to employees upon termination, retirement, death, or unforeseen emergency.

The Plan is an eligible deferred compensation plan under Section 457 of the IRC of 1986, as amended, and a trust exempt from tax under IRC Sections 457(g) and 501(a). The Plan is operated for the exclusive benefit of participants and their beneficiaries. No part of the corpus or income of the Plan shall revert to the City or be used for, or diverted to, purposes other than the exclusive benefit of participants and their beneficiaries. The Plan is not reported in the financial statements of the City or the Fund.

It is the opinion of the City’s legal counsel that the City has no liability for investment losses under the Plan. Under the Plan, participants select investments from alternatives offered by the Plan Administrator, who is under contract with the City to manage the Plan. Investment selection by a participant may be changed from time to time. The City does not manage any of the investment selections. By making the selection, participants accept and assume all risks inherent in the Plan and its administration.

**Other postemployment benefits plan description** – Health care plans for active and retired employees are administered by the City of Seattle as single-employer defined benefit public employee health care plans.

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Employees retiring under the City may continue their health insurance coverage under the City’s health insurance plans for active employees. When a retired participant dies, the spouse remains fully covered until age 65 and covered by the Medicare supplement plan thereafter. Employees that retire with disability retirement under the City may continue their health coverage through the City with same coverage provisions as other retirees. Eligible retirees self-pay 100 percent of the premium based on blended rates which were established by including the experience of retirees with the experience of active employees for underwriting purposes. The postemployment benefit provisions are established and may be amended by ordinance of the Seattle City Council and as provided in Seattle Municipal Code 4.50.020. The City provides an implicit subsidy of the post-retirement health insurance costs and funds the subsidy on a pay-as-you-go basis.

Actuarial valuations involve estimates of the value of reported amounts and assumptions about the probability of events far into the future. Actuarially determined amounts are subject to continual revision as actual results are compared to past expectations and new estimates are made about the future. Calculations are based on the types of benefits provided under the terms of the substantive plan at the time of each valuation and on the pattern of sharing of costs between the employer and plan members to that point. The projection of benefits for financial reporting purposes does not explicitly incorporate the potential effects of legal or contractual funding limitations on the pattern of cost sharing between the employer and plan members in the future. Actuarial calculations reflect a long-term perspective. Consistent with that perspective, actuarial methods and assumptions used include techniques that are designed to reduce short-term volatility in actuarial accrued liabilities and the actuarial value of assets.

Based on the latest biennial actuarial valuation date, the significant methods and assumptions are as follows:

**Actuarial data and assumptions** – The demographic assumptions of mortality, termination, retirement, and disability are set equal to the assumptions used for City pension actuarial valuations based on a Seattle City Employees’ Retirement System Experience Report for the period 2018–2021.

<b>Actuarial data and assumptions</b>	<b>2023</b>
Valuation and measurement date	January 1, 2023
Actuarial cost method	Entry age normal
Amortization method	Level dollar
Discount rate	3.72%
Health care cost trend rates – medical	6.75% in 2023, increasing to 6.47% in 2024, and decreasing by varying amounts until 2030 thereafter
Health care cost trend rates – Rx	8.00% in 2023 and 7.56% in 2024, and decreasing by varying amounts until 2030 thereafter
Participation	25% of active employees who retire participate

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**Mortality**

General Service (Actives)

PubG-2010 Employee Table multiplied by 95%

Rates are projected generationally using Scale MP-2021 ultimate rates

General Service (Retirees)

PubG-2010 Retired Mortality Table multiplied by 95%

Rates are projected generationally using Scale MP-2021 ultimate rates

**Marital status** – 25% of members electing coverage: married or have a registered domestic partner. Male spouses two years older than their female spouses.

**Health care claims development** – The sample per capita claim cost assumptions shown below by age, benefit, and plan represent the true underlying baseline experience estimated for the City of Seattle’s sponsored postretirement benefits and costs.

Age	Pre-65 Medical, RX, and Admin Combined			
	Aetna Preventive Plan	Aetna Traditional	Kaiser Standard	Kaiser Deductible
	50	\$ 14,137	\$ 12,657	\$ 8,212
55	17,449	15,622	10,136	8,195
60	21,640	19,375	12,571	10,163

The average medical and prescription drug per capita claims costs were developed from 2023 calendar year self-funded premium rates. Premium-equivalent rates were provided by City of Seattle’s health pricing actuary. The average medical and prescription drug per capita “adult-equivalent” claims costs were based on the respective pre-65 enrollment weighted average of the 2023 four-tier rate structure including the add-on cost of dependent children and trended back from 2023 to 2022 to be centered at the mid-point of the annual period following the valuation date. Average medical/Rx per capita claims costs were then age-adjusted based on the demographics of the rating population, and the assumed health care aging factors shown in the table below.

Models are used to estimate underlying per capita medical and drug claims costs, subsequently utilized as assumption inputs for valuation models used to develop the liabilities for the 2022 and future valuations.

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**Morbidity factors** – The claim costs for medical and prescription drugs were assumed to increase with age according to the table below.

Age	Medical	Rx	Composite
40–44	3.0%	4.8%	3.3%
45–49	3.7%	4.7%	3.8%
50–54	4.2%	4.7%	4.3%
55–59	4.4%	4.6%	4.4%
60–64	3.7%	4.6%	3.8%

**Other considerations** – Active employees with current spouse and/or dependent coverage elect same plan and coverage. After retirement, it is assumed that children will have aged off coverage and will have \$0 liability.

**OPEB liability** – The Fund reported an OPEB liability of approximately \$2.4 million in 2023 and \$2.7 million in 2022. The Fund’s proportionate share of the change in the OPEB liability was 4.59% and 4.65% for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively. Based on the actuarial valuation date of January 1, 2023, details regarding the Fund’s Total OPEB Liability as of December 31, are shown below.

	Total OPEB Liability at December 31,	
	2023	2022
Changes recognized for the fiscal year:		
Service cost	\$ 163,623	\$ 209,836
Interest on the total OPEB liability	54,916	72,189
Differences between expected and actual experience	-	(744,918)
Changes of assumptions	(367,817)	(72,342)
Benefit payments	(111,872)	(141,290)
Contributions from the employer	-	-
Other changes	(31,193)	19,673
Net changes	(292,343)	(656,852)
Balance recognized at December 31, 2022	2,728,014	3,384,866
Balance recognized at December 31, 2023	\$ 2,435,671	\$ 2,728,014

The Fund recorded an expense for OPEB of \$42,021 in 2023 and \$144,357 in 2022. The Health Care Subfund of the General Fund is reported in The City of Seattle’s Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.



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**Discount rate and healthcare cost trend rates** – The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability is 3.72% for 2023 and 2.06% for 2022. The following tables present the sensitivity of OPEB liability calculation to a 1% increase and a 1% decrease in the discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability:

Discount Rate Sensitivity

	OPEB Liability at December 31,	
	2023	2022
Discount rate		
1% decrease	\$ 2,650,444	\$ 2,969,455
Current discount rate	2,435,671	2,728,014
1% increase	2,241,110	2,506,469

The following table presents the sensitivity of net Health Plan OPEB liability calculation to a 1% increase and a 1% decrease in the healthcare cost trend rates used to measure the total Health Plan OPEB liability:

Healthcare Cost Trend Rate Sensitivity

	OPEB Liability at December 31,	
	2023	2022
Discount rate		
1% decrease	\$ 2,168,061	\$ 2,428,495
Trend rate	2,435,671	2,728,014
1% increase	2,754,395	3,085,756

**Deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB** – The following table presents information about the OPEB-related deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources for the Fund at December 31, 2023.

	Deferred Outflows	Deferred Inflows
Difference between actual and expected experience	\$ 416,943	\$ 576,475
Assumption changes	116,711	1,061,460
Contributions made in 2023 after measurement date	112,733	-
Total	\$ 646,387	\$ 1,637,935

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The following table presents information about the OPEB-related deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources for the Fund at December 31, 2022.

	Deferred Outflows	Deferred Inflows
Difference between actual and expected experience	\$ 525,416	\$ 664,211
Assumption changes	136,679	921,717
Contributions made in 2022 after measurement date	113,236	-
	\$ 775,331	\$ 1,585,928

The Fund's contributions made in 2023 in the amount of \$112,733 are reported as deferred outflows of resources and will be recognized as a reduction of the net OPEB liability in the year ended December 31, 2024. These contributions will be recognized in the future as shown in the following table. Note that additional future deferred outflows and inflows of resources may impact these amounts.

Year Ending December 31,	Amortization
2024	\$ (180,315)
2025	(180,315)
2026	(180,315)
2027	(139,770)
2028	(121,190)
Thereafter	(302,376)
Total	\$ (1,104,281)

The Health Care Sub Fund of the General Fund is reported in the City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, which can be obtained by writing the Department of Finance, City of Seattle, PO Box 94747, Seattle, Washington 98124-4747 or [www.seattle.gov/financial-services/comprehensive-annual-financial-report](http://www.seattle.gov/financial-services/comprehensive-annual-financial-report).

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**Note 6 – Claims Payable**

The City and the Fund are self-insured for certain losses arising from personal and property damage claims by third parties and for casualty losses to the Fund's property. Liabilities for identified claims and claims incurred but not reported have been recorded by the Fund.

For 2023 and 2022, liabilities for workers' compensation claims, as well as other claims, are discounted over a 15-year period at the City's rate of return on investments of 3.12% and 1.725%, respectively. Claims expected to be paid within one year are \$1,708,658 and \$1,327,286 at December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively. The table below presents the changes in the liability for workers' compensation claims and other claims (risk-financing liabilities) as of December 31:

	2023	2022
Beginning liability, discounted	\$ 5,085,625	\$ 5,439,374
Payments	(2,562,054)	(1,889,280)
Incurred claims and changes in estimate	4,290,176	1,535,531
Ending liability, discounted	\$ 6,813,747	\$ 5,085,625

The Fund is involved in litigation from time to time as a result of operations.

**Note 7 – Compensated Absences**

The Fund has recorded a liability for earned but unused compensatory and vacation leave, as well as estimated sick leave payments calculated based on the termination payment method. The schedule below presents the compensated absences activity during the years ended December 31:

	2023	2022
Beginning liability	\$ 5,842,136	\$ 5,816,546
Additions	6,126,231	6,255,624
Reductions for time used	(6,242,170)	(6,230,034)
Ending liability	\$ 5,726,197	\$ 5,842,136

**Note 8 – Pension Benefit Plan**

**Plan description** – The Seattle City Employees' Retirement System (the System) is a cost-sharing multiple employer pension plan covering employee of the City of Seattle and is administered in accordance with Chapter 4.36 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

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The System is governed by the Retirement System Board of Administration (the Board). The Board consists of seven members including the Chair of the Finance Committee of the Seattle City Council, the City of Seattle Finance Director, the City of Seattle Personnel Director, two active members and one retired member of the System who are elected by other System members, and one outside board member who is appointed by the other six board members. Elected and appointed board members serve for three-year terms.

Beginning with employees with hire dates of January 1, 2017, or later, all new members are enrolled in SCERS Plan II, which has contribution and benefit calculation rates different than the original SCERS I Plan.

All permanent Fund employees are eligible to participate in the system.

**System benefits** –Service retirement benefits are calculated on the basis of age, salary, and service credit.

**SCERS I** – The System provides retirement, death, and disability benefits. Retirement benefits vest after five years of credited service, while death and disability benefits vest after ten years of service. Members are eligible for retirement benefits after 30 years of service; at age 52 after 20 years of service; at age 57 after ten years of service; and at age 62 after five years of service. Annual retirement benefits are calculated as 2% multiplied by years of creditable service, multiplied by average salary, based on the highest 24 consecutive months, excluding overtime. Members who retire before meeting the age and/or years of service requirement receive a 0.1% reduction for each year that retirement precedes the date of eligibility. Retirement benefits vest after 5 years of credited service.

**SCERS II** – Members are eligible for retirement benefits at age 55 after 20 years of service, at age 57 after 10 years of service, and at age 60 after 5 years of service. Annual retirement benefits are calculated as 1.75% multiplied by years of creditable service, multiplied by average salary, based on the highest 60 consecutive months, excluding overtime. Members who retire before meeting the age and/or years of service requirement receive a 0.1% reduction for each year that retirement precedes the date of eligibility. Retirement benefits vest after 5 years of credited service.

**Member and employer contributions** – Member and employer contributions are:

	YEAR	SCERS I	SCERS II
Member Contribution	2023	10.03%	7.00%
	2022	10.03%	7.00%
Employer Contribution	2023	15.91%	15.56%
	2022	16.20%	15.72%

Member and employer rates are established by the Seattle Municipal Code Chapter 4.36. The Fund's contributions to the System for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, were \$8,620,728 and \$8,574,551, respectively.

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The System issues stand-alone financial statements, which may be obtained by writing to the Seattle City Employees' Retirement System, 720 Third Avenue, Suite 900, Seattle, Washington, 98104, and telephone: (206) 386-1293, or email at [retirecity@seattle.gov](mailto:retirecity@seattle.gov) or <https://www.seattle.gov/retirement/forms-and-publications/publications>.

**Pension liabilities, pension expense, and deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions** – At December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Fund reported a liability of \$94,174,854 and \$57,103,351, respectively, its proportionate share of the Systems' net pension liability. The net pension liability was measured as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of these dates. The Fund's proportion of the net pension liability was based on a projection of the City's long-term share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the projected contributions of all participating parties, actuarially determined. At December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Fund's proportion was 5.68% and 5.90%, respectively.

For the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Fund recognized pension expense of approximately \$10,766,000 and \$913,000, respectively.

The Fund's deferred outflows and inflows of resources are as follows at December 31, 2023:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 126,577	\$ 1,219,947
Net difference between projected and actual earnings	15,017,140	-
Change of assumptions	5,597,440	-
Contributions made subsequent to measurement date	8,620,728	-
Changes in proportion and differences between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions	-	1,566,119
	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
Total	<u>\$ 29,361,885</u>	<u>\$ 2,786,066</u>

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The Fund's deferred outflows and inflows of resources are as follows at December 31, 2022:

	<u>Outflows of Resources</u>	<u>Deferred Inflows of Resources</u>
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 181,371	\$ 1,301,985
Change of assumptions	8,230,717	-
Net difference between projected and actual earnings	-	24,645,600
Contributions made subsequent to measurement date	8,574,551	-
Changes in proportion and differences between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions	<u>613,654</u>	<u>291,154</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$ 17,600,293</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 26,238,739</u></b>

Amounts currently reported as deferred outflows of resources relate to actual experience and difference in actual earnings on pension investments from projected earnings and will be recognized in pension expense as follows for years ending December 31:

2024	\$ 294,278
2025	3,095,419
2026	6,355,079
2027	8,557,563
2028	<u>(347,248)</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$ 17,955,091</u></b>

**Actuarial assumptions** – The total pension liability as of December 31, 2023, was determined using the following actuarial assumptions:

Valuation date	January 1, 2022
Measurement date	December 31, 2022
Actuarial cost method	Individual Entry Age Normal
Amortization method	Level Percent, Closed
Remaining amortization period	30 years as of January 1, 2013 valuation
Asset valuation method	5-Year Non-asymptotic
Inflation	2.60%
Investment rate of return	6.75% compounded annually, net of expenses
Discount rate	6.75%
Projected general wage inflation	2.6%
Postretirement benefit increases	1.5%
Mortality	Various rates based on PubG-2010 mortality tables and using generational projection of improvement using MP-2021 Ultimate projection scale. See 2022 Investigation of Experience report for details.

**Seattle Public Utilities – Water Fund**  
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The actuarial assumptions that determined the total pension liability as of the measurement date were based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period January 1, 2018, through December 31, 2021.

The discount rate used to measure the pension liability is based on a projection of cash flows assuming that plan member contributions will be made at the current contribution rate and that participating employers' contributions will be made at rates equal to the difference between actuarially determined contribution rates and the member rate. Based on those assumptions, the System's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods on projected benefit payment to determine total pension liability.

The long-term expected rate of return assumption was based on the System's investments using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation.

Best estimates of geometric real rates of return for each major asset class included in the System's target asset allocation as of December 31, 2022, are summarized in the following table:

Asset Class	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return
Equity: Public	4.90%
Equity: Private	7.50%
Fixed Income: Broad	2.10%
Fixed Income: Credit	5.30%
Real Assets: Real Estate	3.00%
Real Assets: Infrastructure	4.40%

**Sensitivity analysis** – The following presents the Fund's proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the discounted rate of 6.75%, as well as what the employer's proportionate share of the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1 percentage point lower (5.75%) or 1 percentage point higher (7.75%) than the current rate.

1% Decrease 5.75%	Current Discount Rate 6.75%	1% Increase 7.75%
\$ 134,494,642	\$ 94,174,854	\$ 60,454,011

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**Note 9 – Loans**

The Fund has various construction projects that are financed by low interest loans issued by the State. The loan agreements require that the Fund finance a portion of these projects from other sources. These loans have been used to enhance and protect the water system.

Loans outstanding as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, are as follows:

Description	Maturity Years	Interest Rate	Loan Amount	Loans Outstanding	
				2023	2022
Myrtle Reservoir	2008-2025	1.5%	\$ 4,040,000	\$ 448,889	\$ 673,333
Beacon Reservoir	2008-2026	1.5%	4,040,000	637,895	850,526
West Seattle Reservoir	2009-2027	1.5%	3,030,000	637,895	797,369
Maple Leaf	2011-2029	1.5%	3,030,000	968,099	1,129,449
Maple Leaf ARRA	2013-2031	1.0%	7,341,758	3,303,791	3,670,879
Morse Lake Pump Plant #1	2014-2037	1.5%	12,120,000	8,484,000	9,090,000
Morse Lake Pump Plant #2	2017-2036	1.5%	6,060,000	4,146,315	4,465,263
			<b>\$ 39,661,758</b>	<b>\$ 18,626,884</b>	<b>\$ 20,676,819</b>

Minimum debt service requirements to maturity on the loans are as follows:

Years Ending December 31,	Principal	Interest	Total
2024	\$ 2,049,935	\$ 262,884	\$ 2,312,819
2025	2,049,935	233,971	2,283,906
2026	1,825,490	205,057	2,030,547
2027	1,612,859	179,510	1,792,369
2028	1,453,385	157,153	1,610,538
2029 - 2033	6,254,438	500,805	6,755,243
2034 - 2037	3,380,842	119,605	3,500,447
	<b>\$ 18,626,884</b>	<b>\$ 1,658,985</b>	<b>\$ 20,285,869</b>

The table below summarizes the activity for the loans for the years ended December 31:

	2023	2022
Net loans, beginning of year	\$ 20,676,819	\$ 22,726,754
Loan proceeds	-	-
Principal payments	(2,049,935)	(2,049,935)
Net loans, end of year	<b>\$ 18,626,884</b>	<b>\$ 20,676,819</b>
Loans due within one year	<b>\$ 2,049,935</b>	<b>\$ 2,049,935</b>
Loans, noncurrent	<b>\$ 16,576,949</b>	<b>\$ 18,626,884</b>



**Seattle Public Utilities – Water Fund**  
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**Note 10 – Commitments**

The Fund is required by the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) to complete a program to cover its open, above-ground distribution system reservoirs. The total cost of burying six reservoirs is expected to be approximately \$221.6 million through the year 2025; costs beyond 2025 are not estimable as of the date of this report. As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, total cumulative costs incurred were \$181.6 million and \$179.8 million, respectively.

The City has wholesale contracts with Cascade Water Alliance (CWA) and nineteen individual water districts and municipalities. Sixteen wholesale customers have full and partial requirements contracts which obligate the City to meet the wholesale customers' demand that is not already met by their independent sources of supply. The full and partial requirements contracts include amendment periods where the parties may opt to review and change certain contract terms and conditions in 2022 and 2042. The City and the full and partial requirements Wholesale Customers began the review of certain contract terms in 2021 to determine if any amendments are desired in 2022 under the first amendment period. This review period has been extended by mutual agreement, with potential amendments becoming effective in 2025.

Two wholesale customers (including CWA) have block contracts which obligate the City to provide water up to a combined maximum of 41.85 MGD per year. Two other wholesale customers have emergency intertie agreements and do not purchase water from Seattle on a regular basis. The CWA contract expires in 2063 while other wholesale contracts expire in 2062. In 2020, CWA requested that the City consider selling it additional increments of surplus water that would extend the date at which CWA's block would begin to decline to sometime past 2039. The City's declining block contract does not obligate the City to sell any additional surplus water to CWA or any further extensions, unless by mutual agreement. The City began discussions with CWA in 2022.

The City also has a contract with the City of North Bend to provide untreated water supply up to an average annual amount of 1.1 MGD through 2066 for use in supplementing stream flows.

**Note 11 – Habitat Conservation Program Liability**

SPU has prepared a comprehensive environmental management plan for its Cedar River Watershed. The purpose of the HCP is to protect all species of concern that may be affected by the operations of SPU and SCL in the Cedar River Watershed, while allowing the City to continue to provide high quality drinking water to the region. The federal government has accepted the HCP. The total cost of implementing the HCP is expected to be \$117.8 million (in 2023 dollars) over a period of 50 years (from the year 2000 through the year 2050).

Expenditures are being funded from a combination of the Fund's operating revenues and issuance of revenue bonds. The total amount expended for the HCP through 2023 is \$106.0 million. The remaining \$11.7 million to complete the HCP is comprised of an \$8.5 million liability and an estimate of \$3.2 million for construction and operating commitments. The construction activities will add to the Fund's capital assets and the operating activities are mainly research, monitoring, and maintenance of the HCP Program that will be expensed as incurred.

## **Required Supplementary Information**

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**Seattle Public Utilities – Water Fund**  
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**Schedule of Seattle Public Utilities’ Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability**

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Employer’s proportion of the net pension liability	14.21%	14.76%	14.62%	14.33%	14.55%	14.73%	15.13%	16.37%	16.96%
Employer’s proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$214,988,644	\$122,309,887	\$143,163,797	\$180,105,232	\$221,049,893	\$163,086,154	\$197,454,529	\$212,671,200	\$187,919,945
Employer’s covered payroll	\$127,869,634	\$126,830,347	\$127,584,358	\$112,528,955	\$111,973,027	\$107,715,383	\$106,696,535	\$105,031,141	\$102,783,473
Employer’s proportionate share of the net pension liability as a percentage of its covered payroll	168.13%	96.44%	112.21%	160.05%	197.41%	151.40%	185.06%	202.48%	182.83%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	70.63%	83.31%	78.81%	71.48%	64.14%	72.04%	65.60%	64.03%	67.70%

**Schedule of Seattle Public Utilities’ Pension Contributions**

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Contractually required employer contribution	\$ 20,632,427	\$ 20,589,068	\$ 20,654,175	\$ 17,041,133	\$ 17,103,559	\$ 16,466,270	\$ 16,354,089	\$ 16,487,154	\$ 15,170,276
Contributions in relation to the contractually required employer contribution	(20,632,427)	(20,589,068)	(20,654,175)	(17,041,133)	(17,103,559)	(16,466,270)	(16,354,089)	(16,487,154)	(15,170,276)
Employer contribution deficiency (excess)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Employer’s covered payroll	\$ 127,869,634	\$ 126,830,347	\$ 127,584,358	\$ 112,528,955	\$ 111,973,027	\$ 107,715,383	\$ 106,696,535	\$ 105,031,141	\$ 102,783,473
Employer contributions as a percentile of covered payroll	16.14%	16.23%	16.19%	15.14%	15.27%	15.29%	15.33%	15.70%	14.76%

**Seattle Public Utilities – Water Fund**  
**(An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle)**  
**Required Supplementary Information**

**Schedule of Seattle Public Utilities’ OPEB Liability and Related Ratios**

	December 31, 2023	December 31, 2022	December 31, 2021	December 31, 2020	December 31, 2019	December 31, 2018
<b>Total OPEB Liability</b>						
Normal cost	\$ 3,563,210	\$ 4,514,549	\$ 4,015,249	\$ 3,378,925	\$ 3,842,152	\$ 3,821,876
Interest	1,195,910	1,553,119	1,813,401	2,586,942	2,195,238	2,583,105
Differences between expected and actual experience	-	(16,026,625)	-	6,956,579	-	13,491,865
Changes in assumptions	(8,009,946)	(1,556,412)	3,738,597	(7,760,776)	(3,886,702)	(22,126,128)
Benefit payment	(2,436,239)	(3,039,800)	(2,933,774)	(2,484,320)	(2,333,610)	(2,289,000)
Total OPEB liability – beginning of year	55,702,565	70,257,734	63,624,261	60,946,911	61,129,833	65,648,115
Total OPEB liability – end of year	<u>\$ 50,015,500</u>	<u>\$ 55,702,565</u>	<u>\$ 70,257,734</u>	<u>\$ 63,624,261</u>	<u>\$ 60,946,911</u>	<u>\$ 61,129,833</u>
Covered-employee payroll	\$ 1,145,862,502	\$ 1,145,862,502	\$ 1,124,692,046	\$ 1,124,692,046	\$ 1,015,097,334	\$ 1,015,097,334
Net OPEB liability as percentage of covered-employee payroll	4.36%	4.86%	6.25%	5.66%	6.00%	6.02%

**Other Information (Unaudited)**

**Seattle Public Utilities – Water Fund**  
**(An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle)**  
**Other Information (Unaudited)**

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**Water Fund Debt Service Coverage Calculation 2023**

<b>Operating Revenues</b>	
Utility Service	\$ 226,678,610
Wholesale/Commercial	59,042,670
Other	15,774,730
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>	<u>301,496,010</u>
<b>Operating Expense</b>	
Salaries and Wages	47,265,716
Personnel Benefits	27,644,227
Supplies	8,144,229
Services	58,623,899
Intergovernmental Payments	50,872,429
Other Operating Expense	6,894,130
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<u>199,444,630</u>
<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<u>102,051,380</u>
<b>Adjustments</b>	
Add: Capital Contributions Connection Charge	4,038,095
Add: City Taxes	37,259,300
Add: Investment Interest	5,347,651
Less: DSRF Earnings	(664,309)
Add: BAB's Subsidy	1,764,951
Add (Less): Net Other Nonoperating Revenues/(Expenses)	1,356,221
Add: Proceeds from Sale of Assets	119,748
<b>Total Adjustments</b>	<u>49,221,657</u>
<b>Net Revenue Available for Debt Service</b>	<u>\$ 151,273,037</u>
<i>w/o Credit for City Taxes</i>	<u>\$ 114,013,737</u>
<b>Annual Debt Service</b>	
Annual Debt Service	\$ 81,289,795
Less: DSRF Earnings	(664,309)
<b>Adjusted Annual Debt Service</b>	<u>\$ 80,625,486</u>
Coverage	1.88
Coverage without taxes	1.41

**Seattle Public Utilities – Water Fund**  
**(An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle)**  
**Other Information (Unaudited)**

**Water System Operating Statistics**

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Population Served					
Retail	806,000	820,000	**	**	843,000
Wholesale <sup>(1)</sup>	729,000	741,000	**	**	765,000
Total Population Served	<u>1,535,000</u>	<u>1,561,000</u>	<u>**</u>	<u>**</u>	<u>1,608,000</u>
Water Sales Revenues (\$000) <sup>(2)(3)</sup>					
Retail	\$ 210,994	\$ 207,590	\$ 213,552	\$ 221,695	\$ 230,721
Wholesale	56,985	56,782	57,362	56,242	59,043
Total Water Sales Revenues	<u>\$ 267,979</u>	<u>\$ 264,372</u>	<u>\$ 270,914</u>	<u>\$ 277,937</u>	<u>\$ 289,764</u>
Billed Water Consumption (MG) <sup>(3)</sup>					
Retail	19,889	18,882	19,522	19,560	19,914
Wholesale	22,128	21,849	23,328	22,747	23,368
Total Billed Water Use	<u>42,017</u>	<u>40,731</u>	<u>42,850</u>	<u>42,307</u>	<u>43,282</u>
Operating Costs (\$ per MG)	\$ 5,250	\$ 5,240	\$ 5,184	\$ 5,476	\$ 5,353
Gallons Used per Day per Capita <sup>(4)</sup>	75	71	75	74	74
Retail Meters in Use	197,747	198,726	200,152	200,706	201,847
Number of New Retail Meters	2,416	979	1,426	554	1,141
Total Water Diversions (MGD)	124.2	118.2	124.9	123.6	125.7
Non-Revenue	9.1	7.0	7.5	7.6	6.9
% Non-Revenue	7.3	5.9	6.0	6.2	5.5

\*\* 2021 and 2022 population served estimates are unchanged from 2020 estimates.

(1) This is the estimated total population served by SPU's water supply

(2) Revenues represent payments from customers for service provided at published rates in each year. Revenues shown do not include the impacts of transfers to/from the Revenue Stabilization Account.

(3) Per capita billed water consumption has been generally decreasing for the past 25 years. Variations in billed water

(4) Gallons used per Day per Capita in 2021 and 2022 use the population from 2020.

**Major Retail Water Customers**

During the year ended December 31, 2023, major retail water customers included the City of Seattle, University of Washington, Port of Seattle, Seattle Housing Authority, King County, Equity Residential, Marriot International Inc., Nucor Steel, Seattle Public Schools, Certainteed Gypsum. In aggregate, charges to these customers represented roughly 10% of the total billed direct service revenue for the year.

**Seattle Public Utilities – Water Fund**  
**(An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle)**  
**Other Information (Unaudited)**

**Water Rates – Effective January 1, 2024**

**Effective January 1, 2024**

	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(j)	(k)	(l)	(m)	(n)	(o)	(p)	(q)	(r)	(s)
	<b>Direct Service</b>																		
<b>RATE SCHEDULES</b>	<b>Inside City</b>				<b>Outside City</b>				<b>City of Shoreline / City of Lake Forest Park</b>				<b>Burien</b>				<b>Mercer Island</b>		
	Residential	MMRD*	Gen Svc	Fire Service	Residential	MMRD*	Gen Svc	Fire Service	Residential	MMRD*	Gen Svc	Fire Service	MMRD* w/PUT	Residential	MMRD*	Gen Svc	Fire Service	Gen Svc	
1	<b>Commodity Charge (\$/100 Cubic Feet)</b>																		
2																			
3	<b>Offpeak Usage (Sept 16-May 15)</b>	\$5.76	\$5.76	\$5.90		\$6.57	\$6.57	\$6.73		\$6.99	\$6.99	\$7.16		\$6.54	\$7.14	\$7.14	\$7.31		\$7.10
4	<b>Peak Usage (May 16-Sept 15)</b>																		
5	Up to 5 ccf**	\$5.92	\$5.92	\$7.50		\$6.75	\$6.75	\$8.55		\$7.18	\$7.18	\$9.10		\$6.72	\$7.34	\$7.34	\$9.29		\$9.03
6	Next 13 ccf**	\$7.32	\$7.32	\$7.50		\$8.34	\$8.34	\$8.55		\$8.88	\$8.88	\$9.10		\$8.31	\$9.07	\$9.07	\$9.29		\$9.03
7	Over 18 ccf**	\$11.80	\$11.80	\$7.50		\$13.45	\$13.45	\$8.55		\$14.31	\$14.31	\$9.10		\$13.39	\$14.62	\$14.62	\$9.29		\$9.03
8																			
9	<b>Usage over base allowance</b>							\$20.00											\$22.80
10																			\$24.30
11																			\$24.80
12	<b>Utility Credit (\$/month)</b>	\$24.33		\$13.73		\$24.33		\$13.73		\$24.33		\$13.73		\$24.33		\$13.73			\$13.73
13																			
14	<b>Base Service Charge (\$/month/meter)</b>																		
15																			
16	<b>3/4 inch and less</b>	\$19.60		\$21.90		\$22.35		\$24.95		\$23.75		\$26.55		\$24.30		\$27.15			
17	<b>1 inch</b>	\$20.20		\$22.60		\$23.05		\$25.75		\$24.50		\$27.40		\$25.05		\$28.00			
18	<b>1-1/2 inch</b>	\$31.15	\$31.15	\$34.80		\$35.50	\$35.50	\$39.65		\$37.80	\$37.80	\$42.20		\$35.40	\$38.60	\$38.60	\$43.10		
19	<b>2 inch</b>	\$34.50	\$34.50	\$38.55	\$17.75	\$39.35	\$39.35	\$43.95	\$20.00	\$41.85	\$41.85	\$46.75	\$22.00	\$39.15	\$42.75	\$42.75	\$47.75	\$22.00	
20	<b>3 inch</b>	\$127.80	\$127.80	\$143.00	\$23.00	\$145.70	\$145.70	\$163.00	\$26.00	\$155.00	\$155.00	\$173.45	\$28.00	\$145.05	\$158.35	\$158.35	\$177.20	\$29.00	
21	<b>4 inch</b>	\$183.05	\$183.05	\$205.00	\$43.00	\$208.70	\$208.70	\$233.70	\$49.00	\$222.00	\$222.00	\$248.60	\$52.00	\$207.75	\$226.80	\$226.80	\$254.00	\$53.00	
22	<b>6 inch</b>		\$225.00	\$252.00	\$73.00		\$257.00	\$287.00	\$83.00		\$273.00	\$306.00	\$89.00	\$255.50		\$279.00	\$312.00	\$90.00	
23	<b>8 inch</b>		\$265.00	\$296.00	\$115.00		\$302.00	\$337.00	\$131.00		\$321.00	\$359.00	\$139.00	\$300.00		\$328.00	\$367.00	\$143.00	\$356.00
24	<b>10 inch</b>		\$324.00	\$362.00	\$166.00		\$369.00	\$413.00	\$189.00		\$393.00	\$439.00	\$201.00	\$368.00		\$401.00	\$449.00	\$206.00	\$436.00
25	<b>12 inch</b>		\$437.00	\$489.00	\$242.00		\$498.00	\$557.00	\$276.00		\$530.00	\$593.00	\$293.00	\$496.00		\$542.00	\$606.00	\$300.00	
26	<b>16 inch</b>		\$491.00	\$549.00			\$560.00	\$626.00			\$595.00	\$666.00		\$557.00		\$608.00	\$680.00		
27	<b>20 inch</b>		\$614.00	\$627.00			\$700.00	\$715.00			\$745.00	\$760.00		\$697.00		\$761.00	\$777.00		
28	<b>24 inch</b>		\$771.00	\$771.00			\$879.00	\$879.00			\$935.00	\$935.00		\$875.00		\$955.00	\$955.00		

\* Master Metered Residential Development

\*\* per residence





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**APPENDIX D**  
**DEMOGRAPHIC AND ECONOMIC INFORMATION**

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## DEMOGRAPHIC AND ECONOMIC INFORMATION

Seattle is the largest city in the Pacific Northwest, serves as the County seat and is the center of the County’s economic activity. King County is the largest county in the State in population, number of cities and employment, and the twelfth most populous county in the United States. Of the State’s population, nearly 30% reside in the County, and of the County’s population, 33% live in the City of Seattle.

### Population

The most recently released historical and current population counts and estimates for the State of Washington, the County, and the City are given below.

<b>POPULATION</b>			
<b>Year</b>	<b>Washington</b>	<b>King County</b>	<b>Seattle</b>
2014 <sup>(1)</sup>	7,005,504	2,021,027	638,784
2015 <sup>(1)</sup>	7,106,989	2,061,981	660,908
2016 <sup>(1)</sup>	7,237,661	2,118,958	684,136
2017 <sup>(1)</sup>	7,344,589	2,149,910	694,513
2018 <sup>(1)</sup>	7,464,069	2,187,460	707,555
2019 <sup>(1)</sup>	7,582,481	2,227,755	724,144
2020 <sup>(2)</sup>	7,705,281	2,269,675	737,015
2021 <sup>(2)</sup>	7,766,975	2,287,050	742,400
2022 <sup>(2)</sup>	7,864,400	2,317,700	762,500
2023 <sup>(2)</sup>	7,951,150	2,347,800	779,200

(1) Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census.

(2) Source: State of Washington, Office of Financial Management (“OFM”).

### Per Capita Income

The following table presents per capita personal income for the Seattle Metropolitan Division, the County, the State, and the United States.

<b>PER CAPITA INCOME</b>					
	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
Seattle MD	\$ 78,993	\$ 84,170	\$ 89,596	\$ 99,417	\$ 101,703
King County	87,809	93,620	99,372	111,117	113,819
State of Washington	56,805	63,405	67,674	74,188	75,332
United States	51,004	55,547	59,153	64,430	65,470

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce

## Construction

The table below lists the value of housing construction for which building permits have been issued within the City. The value of public construction is not included in this table.

### CITY OF SEATTLE RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PERMIT VALUES

Year	New Single Family Units		New Multi-Family Units		Total Value(\$)
	Number	Value(\$)	Number	Value(\$)	
2019	507	139,195,045	10,277	1,554,462,494	1,693,657,539
2020	247	111,343,923	5,479	637,037,156	748,381,079
2021	264	78,231,798	11,716	1,849,751,186	1,927,982,984
2022	418	118,165,369	8,572	1,504,100,013	1,622,265,382
2023	473	140,275,496	4,826	787,765,782	928,041,278

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

## Retail Activity

The following tables present information on taxable retail sales in King County and the City.

### THE CITY OF SEATTLE AND KING COUNTY TAXABLE RETAIL SALES

Year	King County	City of Seattle
2019	\$72,785,180,223	\$29,953,200,188
2020	66,955,895,952	24,904,879,115
2021	78,440,949,141	30,047,705,303
2022	86,667,370,219	33,660,750,206
2023 <sup>(1)</sup>	65,725,607,667	25,939,776,993

(1) Through third quarter. Comparable results through third quarter of 2022 are \$63,911,188,938 for King County and \$24,761,766,724 for the City of Seattle.

Source: Quarterly Business Review, Washington State Department of Revenue

## Employment

The following table presents total employment in Washington State in 2023 for certain major employers in the Puget Sound area. This list of major employers in the Puget Sound region includes several high-technology sector employers, most notably Amazon, Microsoft, Meta (Facebook), and Google. In late 2022 and early 2023, some large-scale layoffs were announced in that sector across the global workforce and others are expected to occur. It is not clear when such reductions will occur or what impact any such actions might have on employment in the region.

### PUGET SOUND MAJOR EMPLOYERS<sup>(1)</sup>

<b>Employer</b>	<b>Employees</b>
Amazon.com	90,000
The Boeing Co.	60,200
Microsoft Corp.	58,400
Joint Base Lewis-McChord	55,000
University of Washington Seattle	51,800
Navy Region Northwest	33,800
Albertsons Cos.	24,500
Walmart Inc.	23,000
Providence Swedish	22,800
Kroger Co.	21,500
Costco Wholesale Corp.	21,000
MultiCare Health System	20,700
Virginia Mason Franciscan Health	18,000
King County Government <sup>(1)</sup>	16,300
City of Seattle <sup>(2)</sup>	15,367
Alaska Air Group Inc.	10,900
Starbucks Coffee Co.	10,700
Seattle Children's Foundation	9,400
Kaiser Permanente	8,100
Meta (Facebook)	8,000
T-Mobile US Inc.	7,600
Google Inc.	7,200

(1) Source: King County

(2) Source: City of Seattle

Source: *Puget Sound Business Journal*, Publication Date June 3, 2023

**KING COUNTY**  
**RESIDENT CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT**  
**AND NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT<sup>(1)</sup>**

	<b>Annual Average</b>				
	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Civilian Labor Force	1,288,392	1,284,318	1,279,639	1,319,911	1,352,598
Total Employment	1,253,834	1,184,949	1,226,665	1,281,609	1,308,158
Total Unemployment	34,558	99,369	52,974	38,302	44,440
Percent of Labor Force	2.7%	7.7%	4.1%	2.9%	3.3%
<b>NAICS INDUSTRY</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Total Nonfarm	1,467,983	1,383,750	1,411,692	1,479,592	1,497,700
Total Private	1,292,433	1,211,875	1,241,750	1,313,417	1,323,133
Goods Producing	186,058	172,467	169,067	173,125	175,117
Mining and Logging	500	475	433	425	483
Construction	79,533	76,675	79,467	80,575	79,958
Manufacturing	106,000	95,267	89,158	92,108	94,683
Service Providing	1,281,925	1,211,283	1,242,625	1,306,467	1,322,583
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	238,575	224,792	232,792	234,442	237,192
Information	121,633	127,817	134,250	140,683	136,875
Financial Activities	75,267	72,600	73,858	76,008	75,033
Professional and Business Services	281,367	286,650	297,142	326,300	317,917
Educational and Health Services	189,592	180,183	184,233	188,842	196,108
Leisure and Hospitality	31,033	27,817	29,425	31,800	34,025
Other Services	62,367	59,100	60,950	61,758	63,283
Government	32,142	29,750	29,583	29,500	30,900
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	20,092	18,992	17,925	17,625	18,892
	<b>Mar. 2024</b>				
Civilian Labor Force	1,337,624				
Total Employment	1,283,115				
Total Unemployment	54,509				
Percent of Labor Force	4.1%				

(1) Columns may not add to totals due to rounding.

Source: Washington State Employment Security Department.



**APPENDIX E**

**BOOK-ENTRY TRANSFER SYSTEM**

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## BOOK-ENTRY TRANSFER SYSTEM

*The following information has been provided by the Depository Trust Company (“DTC”). The City makes no representation as to the accuracy or completeness thereof. Purchasers of the Bonds (the “Beneficial Owners”) should confirm the following with DTC or its participants (the “Participants”).*

The Depository Trust Company (“DTC”), New York, NY, will act as securities depository for the Bonds. The Bonds will be issued as fully-registered securities registered in the name of Cede & Co. (DTC’s partnership nominee) or such other name as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. One fully-registered Bond certificate will be issued for each maturity of the Bonds, each in the aggregate principal amount of such maturity, and will be deposited with DTC.

DTC, the world’s largest securities depository, is a limited-purpose trust company organized under the New York Banking Law, a “banking organization” within the meaning of the New York Banking Law, a member of the Federal Reserve System, a “clearing corporation” within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code, and a “clearing agency” registered pursuant to the provisions of Section 17A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. DTC holds and provides asset servicing for over 3.5 million issues of U.S. and non-U.S. equity issues, corporate and municipal debt issues, and money market instruments (from over 100 countries) that DTC’s participants (“Direct Participants”) deposit with DTC. DTC also facilitates the post-trade settlement among Direct Participants of sales and other securities transactions in deposited securities, through electronic computerized book-entry transfers and pledges between Direct Participants’ accounts. This eliminates the need for physical movement of securities certificates. Direct Participants include both U.S. and non-U.S. securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations, and certain other organizations. DTC is a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Depository Trust & Clearing Corporation (“DTCC”). DTCC is the holding company for DTC, National Securities Clearing Corporation and Fixed Income Clearing Corporation, all of which are registered clearing agencies. DTCC is owned by the users of its regulated subsidiaries. Access to the DTC system is also available to others such as both U.S. and non-U.S. securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, and clearing corporations that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a Direct Participant, either directly or indirectly (“Indirect Participants”). DTC has an S&P rating of AA+. The DTC Rules applicable to its Participants are on file with the Securities and Exchange Commission. More information about DTC can be found at [www.dtcc.com](http://www.dtcc.com).

Purchases of Bonds under the DTC system must be made by or through Direct Participants, which will receive a credit for the Bonds on DTC’s records. The ownership interest of each actual purchaser of each Bond (“Beneficial Owner”) is in turn to be recorded on the Direct and Indirect Participants’ records. Beneficial Owners will not receive written confirmation from DTC of their purchase. Beneficial Owners are, however, expected to receive written confirmations providing details of the transaction, as well as periodic statements of their holdings, from the Direct or Indirect Participant through which the Beneficial Owner entered into the transaction. Transfers of ownership interests in the Bonds are to be accomplished by entries made on the books of Direct and Indirect Participants acting on behalf of Beneficial Owners. Beneficial Owners will not receive certificates representing their ownership interests in Bonds, except in the event that use of the book-entry system for the Bonds is discontinued.

To facilitate subsequent transfers, all Bonds deposited by Direct Participants with DTC are registered in the name of DTC’s partnership nominee, Cede & Co., or such other name as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. The deposit of Bonds with DTC and their registration in the name of Cede & Co. or such other DTC nominee do not effect any change in beneficial ownership. DTC has no knowledge of the actual Beneficial Owners of the Bonds; DTC’s records reflect only the identity of the Direct Participants to whose accounts such Bonds are credited, which may or may not be the Beneficial Owners. The Direct and Indirect Participants will remain responsible for keeping account of their holdings on behalf of their customers.

Conveyance of notices and other communications by DTC to Direct Participants, by Direct Participants to Indirect Participants, and by Direct Participants and Indirect Participants to Beneficial Owners will be governed by arrangements among them, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time. Beneficial Owners of Bonds may wish to take certain steps to augment the transmission to them of notices of significant events with respect to the Bonds, such as redemptions, tenders, defaults, and proposed amendments to the Bond documents. For example, Beneficial Owners of Bonds may wish to ascertain that the nominee holding the Bonds for their benefit has agreed to obtain and transmit notices to Beneficial Owners. In the alternative, Beneficial Owners

may wish to provide their names and addresses to the registrar and request that copies of notices be provided directly to them.

Redemption notices shall be sent to DTC. If less than all of the Bonds within a maturity are being redeemed, DTC's practice is to determine by lot the amount of the interest of each Direct Participant in such issue to be redeemed.

Neither DTC nor Cede & Co. will consent or vote with respect to Bonds unless authorized by a Direct Participant in accordance with DTC's MMI Procedures. Under its usual procedures, DTC mails an Omnibus Proxy to the City as soon as possible after the record date. The Omnibus Proxy assigns Cede & Co.'s consenting or voting rights to those Direct Participants to whose accounts Bonds are credited on the record date (identified in a listing attached to the Omnibus Proxy).

Payments on the Bonds will be made to Cede & Co., or such other nominee as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. DTC's practice is to credit Direct Participants' accounts upon DTC's receipt of funds and corresponding detail information from the City or Bond Registrar, on payable date in accordance with their respective holdings shown on DTC's records. Payments by Participants to Beneficial Owners will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices, as is the case with securities held for the accounts of customers in bearer form or registered in "street name," and will be the responsibility of such Participant and not of DTC, the Bond Registrar, or the City, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time. Payments to Cede & Co. (or such other nominee as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC) are the responsibility of the City or the Bond Registrar, disbursement of such payments to Direct Participants will be the responsibility of DTC, and disbursement of such payments to the Beneficial Owners will be the responsibility of Direct and Indirect Participants.

DTC may discontinue providing its services as depository with respect to the Bonds at any time by giving reasonable notice to the City or the Bond Registrar. Under such circumstances, in the event that a successor depository is not obtained, Bond certificates are required to be printed and delivered.

*The following information has been provided by the City.*

The City may decide to discontinue use of the system of book-entry-only transfers through DTC (or a successor securities depository). In that event, Bond certificates will be printed and delivered to DTC.

The information in this appendix concerning DTC and DTC's book-entry system has been obtained from sources the City believes to be reliable, but the City takes no responsibility for the accuracy thereof.

The Bond Registrar is not be obligated to exchange or transfer any Bond during the 15 days preceding any principal or interest payment or redemption date.

The City and the Bond Registrar may treat DTC (or its nominee) as the sole and exclusive Registered Owner of the Bonds registered in such name for the purposes of payment of the principal of, premium, if any, or interest with respect to those Bonds, selecting Bonds or portions thereof to be redeemed, giving any notice permitted or required to be given to Registered Owners of Bonds under the Bond Documents, registering the transfer of Bonds, obtaining any consent or other action to be taken by Registered Owners of Bonds, and for all other purposes whatsoever; and the City and the Bond Registrar shall not be affected by any notice to the contrary. The City and the Bond Registrar shall not have any responsibility or obligation to any direct or indirect DTC participant, any person claiming a beneficial ownership interest in the Bonds under or through DTC or any such participant, or any other person which is not shown on the Bond Register as being a Registered Owner of Bonds, with respect to: (i) the Bonds; (ii) any records maintained by DTC or any such participant; (iii) the payment by DTC or such participant of any amount in respect of the principal of, premium, if any, or interest with respect to the Bonds; (iv) any notice which is permitted or required to be given to Registered Owners of Bonds under the Bond Documents; (v) the selection by DTC or any such participant of any person to receive payment in the event of a partial redemption of the Bonds; or (vi) any consent given or other action taken by DTC as Registered Owner of the Bonds.