



Response to Request for a Bill Checkoff Program for Land Purchase

Background

- Several neighborhood groups have expressed interest now and in the past to purchase City property for open space/parks.
- Only one group to our knowledge has been successfully – the Delridge Neighborhoods Development Association (DNDA).
- The reasons for this success –
 - The property had a large wetland on it
 - This reduced the price (to \$80,000)
 - It also made it more attractive to grant funding organizations
 - They were also able to use the money that City Light spent on remediating the property as a match to grants.
 - They represented a diverse neighborhood which was also attractive to funding groups
 - The DNDA was also able to show a track record of being able to care for properties
- In contrast, other similar neighborhood efforts have failed. Similar properties without wetlands are worth \$600,000 to over \$1 million and have no unique habitat value such as a wetland.

Parks Department Surplus Property Engagement

- Whenever City Light sells property, it first goes to other Departments to see if they are interested. Parks has a formula for determining which properties to buy based on the amount of current park properties in each neighborhood.
- City Light is currently working with Parks on two potential transfers. One in Georgetown and another involving our ROW.
- Parks attends the public meetings that City Light has on properties to explain why they are or are not interested in certain properties.

City Light Bill Checkoff Options

Project Share

- City Light provides a check off for Project Share which provides emergency financial assistance to low income customers experiencing challenges with paying their electric bills and facing possible disconnection.
- The state constitution allows an exemption to the “gift of public funds” restriction for the “poor and infirm” which allow City Light to cover the administrative costs
- We collect only about \$150,000 annually.

Green Up

- This is a program that sells new renewable energy to those customers interested in such a purchase.
- Required by state law (RCW 19.29A)
- 13-14,000 customers enrolled

- Brings in \$1million annually
- Overhead is roughly 35%