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DRAFT

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RE: Draft Climate Preparedness Strategy

Dear Tracy,

The Urban Forestry Commission appreciated the briefing on the City's Draft Climate Preparedness Strategy. Given that the most significant changes expected in Seattle will affect temperature, precipitation, and sea level, urban trees will most likely be heavily impacted. Below are recommendations the Commission would like to make.

- The draft Strategy mentions street trees as part of the most vulnerable transportation infrastructure that will be impacted by climate change. The Transportation Sector-specific Actions section (page 30) addresses potential climate change impacts on trees and their implications. The Commission would like to see language to address increase pest and disease damage to trees as part of the list of Implications for Operations and Maintenance. The same language would be appropriate for the Implications for Operations and Maintenance of the Parks Sector (page 43) for Trees and Vegetation.
- In the Transportation Sector Adaptation Strategies, Tree Actions section (page 32) add an action to encourage planting of diverse tree species to create a more pest/disease resilient urban forest. The same language would be appropriate for the Parks Sector Adaptation strategies, Trees and Vegetation section (page 46).
- In the Electricity System Section Adaptation Strategies, Implications for Operations and Maintenance (page 55) should consider the effects of increased tree failure.
- In the Community Preparedness section (page 61) adding tree planting as a strategy to combat extreme heat event impacts on vulnerable communities would present an opportunity to increase our canopy cover and educate the public on the many benefits of trees. This would provide a logical link to the tree planting recommendation in the What you can do Section (page 65).

Lastly, the Commission would encourage the City to scrutinize the current emphasis on native tree species, because with changing climate, the introduction and use of a diverse species that might not be native but might be more adaptable, would improve the resiliency of our urban forest.

Sincerely,