

## **DRAFT**

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June 1, 2022

Seattle Public Utilities  
700 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 4900  
Seattle, WA 98104

### **RE: Urban Forestry Commission response to Ship Canal Water Quality Project progress update**

Dear friends at Seattle Public Utilities,

The Urban Forestry Commission (UFC) thanks Caitlin Rohan and Alan Lord for their May 18, 2022, presentation on the Ship Canal Water Quality Project.

The UFC is impressed by the scale of the project and commends Alan, Caitlyn, MudHoney the Tunnel Boring Machine, and the rest of the team at SPU and King County for the remarkable progress made to date.

The UFC was pleased to learn that no additional trees qualified for removal at final design relative to 60% design, and that there is opportunity to incorporate a greater number of trees into the design as onsite replacements.

The UFC recommends that SPU:

- Maintain replacement trees for five years to better ensure establishment and survival. The UFC heard SPU share a three-year maintenance plan. With the more intense heat and prolonged drought conditions Seattle is experiencing as the climate changes, three years may no longer be enough to help replacement trees thrive.

The UFC remains curious to know:

- What species specifically have been selected for the 153 trees that will be incorporated into the project design as on-site replacement? Could SPU share a list of the replacement trees?

The UFC will follow up with Seattle Department of Transportation to learn:

- How many trees were planted vs. improved as part of the off-site mitigation by SDOT Urban Forestry?
- What interventions does SDOT rely on to improve tree health for off-site mitigation? How are these interventions evaluated to ensure they are effective replacement mitigation?

Thanks again to Caitlyn, Alan, and the many others working to reduce combined sewer overflows in the Ship Canal.

Sincerely,

Julia Michalak, Ph.D., Co-chair

Joshua Morris, Co-chair

Cc: Shane Dewald, Senior Landscape Architect, SDOT