

## City of Shoreline Westminster Vegetation Management Project Briefing Document

### Project Background

- The proposed tree pruning work in the City of Shoreline Westminster neighborhood is normal and routine distribution work scheduled on a 4-year cycle.
- The project is part of the regular pruning of Feeder 2701, which runs 18.36 miles through the City of Shoreline.
- This work is being done on Seattle City Light owned property on the Interurban Trail.
- The project work will take place in early September and should wrap-up that same day.

### Project Support

- City Light has worked closely as partners with the City of Shoreline to develop this work plan
- The City of Shoreline City Manager and City Council have been briefed on the project. They have also shared the project details with their stakeholders.
  - In addition to the line clearance tree pruning, City Light is working collaboratively with the City of Shoreline to help address some of the public safety concerns along the Interurban Trail. The thick vegetation along the west side of the trail between N 145<sup>th</sup> and N 155<sup>th</sup> Streets has attracted encampments and caused complaints about illicit activity. This has been confirmed by Shoreline Police Department and documented by City Light security.
  - \*Contrary to some recent claims in writing (*see the Project Outreach section*), City Light is not violating the terms of the Franchise Agreement or the Letter of Understanding. As per the Franchise Agreement, City Light is not removing significant trees unless it has permission from the adjacent property owner.

### Project Details

- In the Franchise Agreement, City Light is bound to work with the definitions in the City of Shoreline Code, which defines significant trees as any healthy, wind-firm, and non-hazardous tree.
  - 8 inches or greater in diameter at breast height if it is a conifer and 12 inches or greater at breast height if deciduous. City of Shoreline has affirmed that these are the definitions that Seattle City Light must follow in relation to this project.
  - City Light's Vegetation Management Unit will be removing stems smaller than that threshold because it is normal and standard vegetation management work.
  - The bulk of the pruning work is normal utility crown reduction; tree pruning to achieve clearances needed for electrical safety and reliability, and to make sure branches grow away from the electrical wires.

## **Project Outreach**

- City Light sent out more than 300 project notifications to area customers and other stakeholders.
  - 285 general letters with project flyers to the surrounding area.
  - 15 targeted letters with project flyers to the directly affected (homeowners that have property abutting the Interurban Trail).
  - City Light arborists met directly with the affected homeowners on/after Aug. 18 to inform them of the work; City Light received signed approval cards from property owners to remove 15 significant trees.
    - One homeowner has decided to rescind their signed approval tree removal card after discussions with his neighbor
  - Tree removal signs are currently on the trees that have been dedicated for removal

## **Customer Complaint(s)**

- A homeowner that has property abutting the Interurban Trail has been opposed to the vegetation management work. He is making his presence known with the other affected homeowners, neighbors, residents, tree supporters and other contacts
  - As of Monday, Aug. 24, 2015 (and out of the 300 notified customers – 285 area residents; 15 affected homeowners):
    - City of Shoreline received seven complaint emails
    - Seattle City Light received seven complaint emails
      - One of those six complaints came from a homeowner that have property abutting the trail; the other residents who wrote in are asking City Light to not remove any trees
  - The concerned resident has corresponded with and written letters to the Seattle Mayor, Seattle City Council, Seattle City Light, Seattle Department of Transportation, City of Shoreline and other governing bodies