

## Saunders Property Deed Acceptance ORD

<b>Date of this Brief</b>	November 20, 2013		
<b>Supersedes</b>	n/a		
<b>Key Contacts</b>	<b>Name(s)</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Short Title</b>
	Michael Jones	684-4243	Officer, Power Supply and Environmental Affairs
	Lynn Best	386-4586	Director, Environmental Affairs and Real Estate (EA&RE)
	Ron Tressler	386-4506	Strategic Advisor 2, EA&RE
<b>Council Action Required?</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>If YES, within the next 3 months?</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>Public Hearing Required?</b>	<b>N</b>		
<b>Presenters (if applicable)</b>	Michael Jones, Power Supply & Environmental Affairs Officer Dave Barber, Real Estate Services Manager		

### Summary Statement

The ordinance will authorize acceptance of the Statutory Warranty Deed for the 31-acre Saunders Property and will place the property under the jurisdiction of City Light.

### Background

In 1991, following several years of negotiations, City Light and twelve other parties reached settlement on all environmental issues related to a new federal license for the Skagit River Hydroelectric Project. On April 22, 1991, the Seattle City Council adopted a resolution authorizing submittal to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) of Settlement Agreements in the areas of Fisheries, Wildlife, Recreation and Aesthetics, Erosion Control, Cultural Resources and Traditional Cultural Properties, together with an Offer of Settlement. On May 16, 1995, FERC issued a new 30-year operating license that incorporated most of the settlement agreements as license articles. An order on rehearing, issued on June 26, 1996, incorporated the remainder of the settlement agreements into the license.

Under the Wildlife Settlement Agreement, City Light agreed to make available \$17 million (1990 dollars) for the purposes of securing and preserving valuable wildlife habitat in the upper Skagit and Nooksack river basins. Decisions on land acquisition are made in collaboration with the stakeholders through the Wildlife Land Acquisition Group. Ordinance 11826 authorized the Superintendent of City Light to negotiate for and purchase parcels of land pursuant to the principles and procedures of the Wildlife Agreement.

As of November 2013, City Light manages approximately 10,300 acres of wildlife habitat under the Wildlife Settlement Agreement.

**Key Issues**

None.

**Next Steps**

City Light will hold this property for wildlife habitat conservation purposes. City Light Environmental Affairs and Real Estate Division will monitor the property and ensure that any maintenance activities are completed.