

BILL SUMMARY & FISCAL NOTE

Department:	Contact Person/Phone:	Executive Contact/Phone:
Seattle Department of Transportation - Office of the Waterfront	Michelle Chen/727-8480	Saroja Reddy/ 615-1232 Forrest Longman/ 684-0331

1. BILL SUMMARY

Legislation Title: A RESOLUTION relating to the Office of the Waterfront and the Department of Parks and Recreation; approving the Seattle Aquarium Society’s Master Plan for the purpose of allowing the advancement of the design of a potential on land Aquarium expansion, so that sufficient information is available for environmental review, and directing the Office and the Department to coordinate environmental review of the Aquarium expansion with the Seattle Aquarium Society (“SEAS”).

Summary and background of the Legislation: This legislation approves the Seattle Aquarium Society’s Master Plan, which is required under the 2010 Operations and Maintenance Agreement between the Parks Department and SEAS for the purpose of allowing the advancement of the design of a potential on land Aquarium expansion, so that sufficient information is available for environmental review. The Master Plan introduces a new potential location for an Aquarium expansion that is at the Overlook Walk Location, different from the direction set forth in the Memorandum of Understanding executed in 2013 (“MOU”), pursuant to Ordinance 124121. It is a planning document that explains why the Aquarium needs to physically expand to meet projected visitor capacity of 1.3 million per year consistent with the central waterfront development.

The Master Plan acknowledges the past considerations of over water expansion south of Pier 59 and north of Pier 60, and introduces a new direction to expand on land at the western terminus of Overlook Walk. By approving the Master Plan, the City Council is directing the Office of the Waterfront and Parks Department to advance the design and environmental review of the on land Aquarium expansion at the Overlook Walk Location.

In 2012, the City adopted Resolution 31399 relating to the Central Waterfront Concept Design and Framework Plan based on the citizen advisory Central Waterfront Committee’s Strategic Plan recommendation. The Strategic Plan recommendation included a major new Aquarium facility over water, renovation of Pier 60 and potential Aquarium use in Building C of Overlook Walk.

Subsequently, the City signed the MOU which appropriated \$1 million to the Aquarium for design and planning of an Aquarium expansion located over water to the south of Pier 59. The MOU directs the Office of Waterfront and Parks Department to coordinate design efforts with Aquarium, so that a potential expansion is consistent with the overall central waterfront design and vision. The MOU also has a section on funding that identifies a potential City contribution of up to \$45 million toward the partner project contingent on LID and/or city-wide property levy as

potential funding sources.

Last year, the City's contribution to the Aquarium expansion project was reduced to \$34 million memorialized in the adopted 2015-16 City budget and CIP.

2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

 This legislation creates, funds, or amends a CIP Project.

3. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

 X This legislation does not have direct financial implications.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- a) **Does the legislation have indirect or long-term financial impacts to the City of Seattle that are not reflected in the above?**

Yes, the City's 2015-2016 budget currently shows \$34 million toward an Aquarium expansion project in the Parks CIP. There is currently no funding source identified for this project, but pursuant to Ordinance 124121 the City entered into an MOU with the Seattle Aquarium Society directing the SDOT Director and Parks Superintendent to coordinate Aquarium expansion with the waterfront plans and enter into a project development agreement

- b) **Is there financial cost or other impacts of not implementing the legislation?**

No.

- c) **Does this legislation affect any departments besides the originating department?**

The Aquarium is a Department of Parks and Recreation asset. The Office of the Waterfront is working closely with Parks on this project. This legislation affects both SDOT, through its Office of the Waterfront, and the Department of Parks and Recreation, which have been working closely together on this legislation.

- d) **Is a public hearing required for this legislation?**

No.

- e) **Is publication of notice with *The Daily Journal of Commerce* and/or *The Seattle Times* required for this legislation?**

No.

- f) **Does this legislation affect a piece of property?**

No.

- g) **Please describe any perceived implication for the principles of the Race and Social Justice Initiative. Does this legislation impact vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities?**

The potential Aquarium expansion would have a positive impact on historically

disadvantaged communities because of the Aquarium's mission, *Inspiring Conservation of Our Marine Environment*, places a strong emphasis on education of children accompanied by outreach to these communities. The Aquarium established in 2012 the Community Engagement section in its Conservation and Education department to proactively engage underserved, underrepresented and special needs communities. The Aquarium also has a "Community Ticket Program" which offers complimentary admission tickets to low-income and special needs populations through social service agencies and the Parks Department.

- h) If this legislation includes a new initiative or a major programmatic expansion: What are the long-term and measurable goals of the program? Please describe how this legislation would help achieve the program's desired goals.**

N/A.

- i) Other Issues:**

None.