



**Office of the Washington State Auditor  
Pat McCarthy**

July 1, 2024

Mayor and City Council  
City of Seattle  
Seattle, Washington

**Contracted CPA Firm's Audit Report on Financial Statements**

We have reviewed the audit report issued by a certified public accounting (CPA) firm on the financial statements of the City of Seattle Drainage and Wastewater Enterprise Fund for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022. The City contracted with the CPA firm for this audit and requested that we accept it in lieu of performing our own audit.

Based on this review, we have accepted this report in lieu of the audit required by RCW 43.09.260. The Office of the Washington State Auditor did not audit the accompanying financial statements and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion on those financial statements.

This report is being published on the Office of the Washington State Auditor website as a matter of public record.

Sincerely,

Pat McCarthy, State Auditor  
Olympia, WA

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Report of Independent Auditors and Financial  
Statements with Required Supplementary  
Information and Other Information

**Seattle Public Utilities –  
Drainage and Wastewater Fund  
(An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle)**

December 31, 2023 and 2022

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## Report of Independent Auditors

To the Director of Seattle Public Utilities  
Drainage and Wastewater Fund  
Seattle, Washington

### Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

#### ***Opinion***

We have audited the financial statements of Seattle Public Utilities – Drainage and Wastewater Fund (the Fund), which comprise the statements of net position as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the related statements of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position, and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Fund as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the changes in its net position and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

#### ***Basis for Opinion***

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Fund and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

#### ***Emphasis of Matter***

As discussed in Note 1 to the financial statements, the Fund adopted the provisions of Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 96, *Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements*, effective January 1, 2022. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

#### ***Financial Reporting Entity***

As discussed in Note 1, the financial statements present only the Fund and do not purport to, and do not, present fairly the financial position of City of Seattle, Washington, as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the changes in its financial position, or, where applicable, its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

### ***Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements***

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### ***Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements***

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, we

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fund's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

### ***Required Supplementary Information***

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis, schedule of Seattle Public Utilities' proportionate share of the net pension liability, schedule of Seattle Public Utilities' contributions, and the schedule of Seattle Public Utilities' proportionate share of the OPEB liability and related ratios (collectively, required supplementary information) be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the financial statements, is required by the GASB who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

### ***Other Information***

Management is responsible for the other information as listed in the table of contents. The other information comprises the debt service coverage calculation, wastewater system operating statistics, accounts and billed revenues, major wastewater customers annual billed revenues and percentage of revenues, major drainage customers annual billed revenues and percentage of revenue, and wastewater and drainage rates but does not include the basic financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information, and we do not express an opinion or any form of assurance thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the financial statements, or the other information otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work performed, we conclude that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, we are required to describe it in our report.

### ***Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards***

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated April 26, 2024, on our consideration of the Fund's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fund's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Fund's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Seattle, Washington  
April 26, 2024

## **Management's Discussion and Analysis**

# Seattle Public Utilities – Drainage and Wastewater Fund

## (An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle)

### Management's Discussion and Analysis

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As management of Seattle Public Utilities (SPU), a department of the City of Seattle (the City), we offer readers of SPU's financial statements this narrative overview and analysis of the financial activities of the Drainage and Wastewater Fund (the Fund) for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022. The revenues, expenses, assets, deferred outflows and inflows of resources, and liabilities of the City of Seattle's drainage and wastewater system are recorded in the Fund, the functions of which are primarily supported by user fees and charges to customers. The financial situation of other aspects of Seattle City government, including other utility services and general government operations, are reported elsewhere.

#### Overview of the Financial Statements

This discussion and analysis is intended to serve as an introduction to the Fund's financial statements. The financial statements include Management's Discussion and Analysis and basic financial statements with accompanying notes.

**Basic financial statements** – The basic financial statements of the Fund report information similar to the presentation used by private sector companies. These statements offer short-term and long-term financial information about its activities. The basic financial statements begin on page 15 of this report and are comprised of three components: (1) statements of net position, (2) statements of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position, and (3) statements of cash flows.

The statements of net position present information, as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, on all of the Fund's assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources. The difference between assets combined with deferred outflows of resources and liabilities combined with deferred inflows of resources is reported as net position. They also provide information about the nature and amounts of investments in resources (assets and deferred outflows of resources), obligations to the Fund's creditors (liabilities and deferred inflows of resources), and provide the basis for assessing the liquidity and financial flexibility of the Fund.

The statements of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position present changes in the Fund's net position for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022. All changes in net position are reported when the underlying event giving rise to the change occurs, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. These statements reflect the results of the Fund's operations for the years identified to provide information about the Fund's credit worthiness and its ability to successfully recover all its costs through service fees and other charges.

The statements of cash flows are required to provide information about the Fund's cash receipts and cash payments during the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022. To provide answers to questions about sources, uses, and impacts to cash, these statements report cash receipts, cash payments, and net changes in cash resulting from operations, investing, and financing activities for the reporting period.

**Notes to the financial statements** – The notes are an integral part of the financial statements. They provide additional disclosures that are essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the financial statements, such as for certain estimates and financing details. The notes to the financial statements begin on page 20 of this report.



**Seattle Public Utilities – Drainage and Wastewater Fund**  
**(An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle)**  
**Management’s Discussion and Analysis**

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**Financial Analysis**

Increases or decreases in net position may serve over time as a useful indicator of whether the Fund’s financial position is improving or deteriorating. At December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Fund’s assets and deferred outflows of resources exceeded liabilities and deferred inflows of resources, resulting in a net position of \$772.6 million and \$736.1 million, respectively. In 2023, the Fund’s overall net position increased \$36.5 million (5.0%) as compared to an increase in net position of \$93.2 million (14.5%) in 2022. The following summary statements of net position present the assets and deferred outflows of resources of the Fund and show the mix of liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, and net position used to acquire these assets and deferred outflows of resources:

**Summary Statements of Net Position**

	2023	2022	2021
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Current assets	\$ 435,034,343	\$ 361,248,141	\$ 298,624,077
Capital assets, net	1,690,340,508	1,571,052,126	1,458,734,769
Other	203,379,794	127,761,219	169,476,374
Total assets	2,328,754,645	2,060,061,486	1,926,835,220
<b>DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>	37,955,552	24,412,378	18,797,831
Total assets and deferred outflows of resources	<u>\$ 2,366,710,197</u>	<u>\$ 2,084,473,864</u>	<u>\$ 1,945,633,051</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Current liabilities	\$ 107,718,459	\$ 98,003,503	\$ 86,423,844
Revenue bonds	860,313,974	788,031,573	836,446,999
Other	607,834,530	415,430,458	355,187,505
Total liabilities	1,575,866,963	1,301,465,534	1,278,058,348
<b>DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>	18,222,394	46,954,498	24,735,164
<b>NET POSITION</b>			
Net investment in capital assets	725,635,833	694,682,356	630,159,592
Restricted	20,013,475	21,340,558	22,186,974
Unrestricted	26,971,532	20,030,918	(9,507,027)
Total net position	772,620,840	736,053,832	642,839,539
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, and net position	<u>\$ 2,366,710,197</u>	<u>\$ 2,084,473,864</u>	<u>\$ 1,945,633,051</u>

# Seattle Public Utilities – Drainage and Wastewater Fund

## (An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle)

### Management's Discussion and Analysis

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#### 2023 Compared to 2022

**Assets** – Current assets increased \$73.8 million (20.4%) over the prior year primarily due to increases of \$76.5 million in operating cash and equity in pooled investments. This increase was offset by a decrease of \$2.7 million in due from other governments. The increase in operating cash and equity in pooled investments is primarily due to the lower percentage of capital projects funded with operating cash.

Capital assets increased \$119.3 million (7.6%) from 2022. Construction in progress and plant assets increased \$150.7 million, other property increased \$0.9 million and land and land rights increased \$0.8 million; the increase is mostly due to investments in infrastructure, rehabilitation, and improvements. The capital asset increase was offset by a \$33.3 million increase in accumulated depreciation (Note 3).

Other assets increased \$75.6 million (59.2%) from 2022. This is mostly attributable to a \$80.7 million increase in restricted cash and equity in pooled investment, due to the issuance of bonds for construction, and a \$3.6 million decrease in other charges. The decrease was offset by a \$0.4 million increase in environmental costs and recoveries.

**Deferred outflows of resources** – Deferred outflows of resources increased \$13.5 million (55.5%) from 2022. This increase is attributable to a \$13.8 million in pension contributions and changes in assumptions related to pension and other post-employment benefits (OPEB). The increase was offset by a \$0.2 million reduction in unamortized loss on refunded debt.

**Liabilities** – Current liabilities increased \$9.7 million (9.9%) from 2022. This is mostly attributable to a \$3.2 million increase in environmental liabilities, a \$1.6 million increase in accounts payable, a \$1.6 million increase in due to other governments. This increase was offset by a decrease of \$2.1 million in other current liability, and a decrease of \$0.5 million in due to other funds.

Noncurrent liabilities increased \$264.7 million (22.0%) from 2022. This increase is mostly attributable to a \$81.8 million increase in loans, a \$72.3 million increase in revenue bonds and related liabilities, a \$53.9 million increase in environmental liabilities, a \$45.4 million increase in net pension liabilities, a \$10.5 million increase in other noncurrent liabilities, and a \$0.9 million increase in claims payable. These increases were offset by a \$0.4 million decrease in unfunded other post-employment benefits. The environmental liability increase is mainly due from updated estimates.

**Deferred inflows of resources** – Deferred inflow of resources decreased \$28.7 million (-61.2%) from 2022. This decrease is mostly due to a \$27.9 million decrease in assumptions related to pension accounting and the difference between expected and actual expense in OPEB.

**Net position** – The largest portion of the Fund's net position (\$725.6 million or 93.9%) reflects the Fund's investment in capital assets such as land, buildings, and equipment, less accumulated depreciation and any related outstanding debt used to acquire those assets. The Fund uses these assets to provide services to customers; consequently, these assets are not available for future spending. Although the Fund's investment in its capital assets is reported net of related debt, the resources needed to repay the debt are provided by fees paid by customers for services provided by these assets. In 2023, net investment in capital assets increased \$31.0 million from 2022 due to an increase in capital assets placed in service, net of depreciation offset by the related debt.

## Seattle Public Utilities – Drainage and Wastewater Fund (An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle) Management's Discussion and Analysis

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The Fund's restricted net position (\$20.0 million or 2.6%) represents resources that are subject to restrictions on how they may be used. This portion of net position decreased \$1.3 million from 2022.

The remaining portion of the Fund's net position (\$27.0 million or 3.5%) represents resources that are unrestricted. The unrestricted portion of net position increased \$7.0 million from the prior year mainly due to a lower percentage of capital projects funded with operating cash compared to the prior year.

### 2022 Compared to 2021

**Assets** – Current assets increased \$62.6 million (21%) over the prior year primarily due to increases of \$51.2 million in operating cash and equity in pooled investments, and \$12.8 million in due from other governments. These increases were offset by a decrease of \$1.3 million in accounts receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts. The increase in operating cash and equity in pooled investments is primarily due to the lower percentage of capital projects funded with operating cash as compared to the prior year.

Capital assets increased \$112.7 million (7.7%) from 2021. Construction in progress and plant assets increased \$137.7 million and other property increased \$0.5 million; the increase is mostly due to investments in infrastructure, rehabilitation, and improvements. The capital asset increase was offset by a \$25.8 million increase in accumulated depreciation (Note 3).

Other assets decreased \$42.1 million (-24.8%) from 2021. This is mostly attributable to a \$38.4 million decrease in restricted cash and equity in pooled investment, and a \$3.9 million decrease in other charges. The decrease was offset by a \$0.6 million increase in environmental costs and recoveries. The decrease of restricted cash and equity in pooled investments mainly resulted from spending of bond proceeds on construction projects.

**Deferred outflows of resources** – Deferred outflows of resources increased \$5.6 million (29.9%) from 2021. This increase is attributable to a \$7.2 million in pension contributions and changes in assumptions related to pension and OPEB. The increase was offset by a \$1.6 million reduction in unamortized loss on refunded debt.

**Liabilities** – Current liabilities increased \$11.6 million (13.4%) from 2021. This is mostly attributable to a \$5.9 million increase in accounts payable, a \$4.9 million increase in other current liability, a \$0.8 million increase in due to other governments, and a \$0.5 million increase in due to other funds. This increase was offset by a decrease of \$0.6 million in salaries, benefits, and payroll taxes payable.

Noncurrent liabilities increased \$11.8 million (1.0%) from 2021. This increase is mostly attributable to a \$40.4 million increase in loans, a \$30.6 million increase in environmental liabilities, and a \$0.8 million increase in claims payable. These increases were offset by a \$48.4 million decrease in revenue bonds and related liabilities, a \$9.8 million decrease in net pension liability (Note 8), a \$0.9 million decrease in other noncurrent liabilities, and a \$0.8 million decrease in unfunded other post-employment benefits. The environmental liability increase is mainly due to the Fund's increased percentage of shared cleanup cost.

# Seattle Public Utilities – Drainage and Wastewater Fund

## (An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle)

### Management's Discussion and Analysis

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**Deferred inflows of resources** – Deferred inflow of resources increased \$22.2 million (89.8%) from 2021. This increase is mostly due to a \$14.0 million increase in unamortized gain advanced refunding related to bonds refunding and a \$8.2 million increase in assumptions related to pension accounting and the difference between expected and actual expense in OPEB.

**Net position** – The largest portion of the Fund's net position (\$694.7 million or 94.4%) reflects the Fund's investment in capital assets such as land, buildings, and equipment, less accumulated depreciation and any related outstanding debt used to acquire those assets. The Fund uses these assets to provide services to customers; consequently, these assets are not available for future spending. Although the Fund's investment in its capital assets is reported net of related debt, the resources needed to repay the debt are provided by fees paid by customers for services provided by these assets. In 2022, net investment in capital assets increased \$64.5 million from 2021 due to an increase in capital assets placed in service, net of depreciation offset by the related debt.

The Fund's restricted net position (\$21.3 million or 2.9%) represents resources that are subject to restrictions on how they may be used. This portion of net position decreased \$0.8 million from 2021.

The remaining portion of the Fund's net position (\$20.0 million or 2.7%) represents resources that are unrestricted. The unrestricted portion of net position increased \$29.5 million from the prior year mainly due to a lower percentage of capital projects funded with operating cash compared to the prior year.

#### Summary Statements of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position

	2023	2022	2021
Operating revenues	\$ 542,933,537	\$ 519,028,628	\$ 502,517,146
Operating expenses	<u>(462,989,467)</u>	<u>(392,181,826)</u>	<u>(387,228,841)</u>
Operating income	79,944,070	126,846,802	115,288,305
Non-operating revenues and expenses	5,184,034	(21,017,272)	(12,885,906)
Capital contributions, grants and environmental, net remediation	<u>(48,561,096)</u>	<u>(12,615,237)</u>	<u>4,740,518</u>
Change in net position	<u>\$ 36,567,008</u>	<u>\$ 93,214,293</u>	<u>\$ 107,142,917</u>

#### 2023 Compared to 2022

The current year operating revenues increased \$23.9 million (4.6%) from 2022. This is due to an average rate increase of 3.6% for wastewater and 6.4% for drainage, resulting in additional revenues of \$12.3 million and \$10.6 million, respectively. Other operating revenues increased \$0.7 million.

The current year operating expenses increased \$70.8 million (18.1%) from 2022. The increase can be attributed to a \$24.1 million increase in salaries, wages and personnel benefits, a \$20.5 million increase in intergovernmental payments, a \$15.3 million increase in services, a \$5.4 million increase in supplies, a \$3.2 million increase in other operating expenses, and a \$2.3 million increase in depreciation and amortization. The \$20.5 million increase in intergovernmental payments mainly is due to King County wastewater treatment fee increases and an increase in taxes. The increase in salaries is largely driven by an accrual for the tentative agreement between the unions and the City.

# Seattle Public Utilities – Drainage and Wastewater Fund

## (An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle)

### Management’s Discussion and Analysis

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Nonoperating revenues net of expenses in 2023 increased \$26.2 million compared to 2022. This increase is mostly due to a \$26.7 million increase in investment income. This was offset by a \$1.5 million decrease in interest expense and a \$1.9 million decrease in other revenue and expenses, net.

The Fund had environmental remediation expense of \$60.2 million in 2023 compared to \$32.9 million in 2022 (Note 9), mostly from updated estimates.

#### 2022 Compared to 2021

The current year operating revenues increased \$16.5 million (3.3%) from 2021. This is due to an average rate increase of 2.0% for wastewater and 6.0% for drainage, resulting in additional revenues of \$7.2 million and \$10.4 million, respectively. Other operating revenues decreased \$1.1 million.

The current year operating expenses increased \$5.0 million (1.3%) from 2021. The increase can be attributed to a \$10.2 million increase in intergovernmental payments, and a \$1.4 million increase in depreciation and amortization. These increases were offset by a \$5.5 million decrease in services expenses and a \$1.2 million decrease in other operating expenses. The \$10.2 million increase in intergovernmental payments mainly is due to King County wastewater treatment fee increases and an increase in taxes.

Nonoperating revenues net of expenses in 2022 decreased \$8.1 million compared to 2021. There was a \$9.5 million decrease in investment income, a \$2.7 million decrease in other, net. The decreases were offset by a \$3.9 million decrease in interest expense and a \$0.2 million increase in contributions and grants.

The Fund had environmental remediation expense of \$32.9 million in 2022 compared to \$6.8 million in 2021 (Note 9), mostly from a change in the percentage share between City entities for the Lower Duwamish Waterway superfund site.

#### Capital Assets

The following table summarizes capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, by major asset category:

#### Summary of Capital Assets, Net of Accumulated Depreciation and Amortization

	2023	2022	2021
Land and land rights	\$ 47,433,829	\$ 46,662,046	\$ 46,662,046
Buildings	11,834,651	12,828,618	13,827,790
Infrastructure	1,036,921,066	959,084,033	957,421,593
Machinery and equipment	54,433,503	55,965,163	59,128,903
Computer systems	20,163,663	22,850,501	19,898,976
Construction in progress	513,223,964	468,354,639	356,932,019
Artwork	5,806,464	4,945,548	4,439,956
Intangible right-to-use	523,368	361,578	423,486
Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation and amortization	<u>\$ 1,690,340,508</u>	<u>\$ 1,571,052,126</u>	<u>\$ 1,458,734,769</u>

Additional information about the Fund’s capital assets can be found in Note 3 of this report.

# **Seattle Public Utilities – Drainage and Wastewater Fund**

## **(An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle)**

### **Management’s Discussion and Analysis**

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#### **2023 Compared to 2022**

The Fund’s investment in capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, for the year ended December 31, 2023, was \$1.7 billion. This represented an increase of approximately \$119.3 million (7.6%) compared to 2022.

Highlights of the Fund’s major capital assets placed in service during 2023 include the following:

- \$68.4 million for drainage, sewer and combined pipe rehabilitation and improvements
- \$20.8 million for the South Park stormwater drainage conveyance system
- \$5.1 million for natural drainage systems
- \$4.7 million for heavy equipment
- \$1.3 million for private property rain water absorption and runoff reduction systems
- \$1.1 million for a land and real property rights information management system

Highlights of the Fund’s major construction projects in progress at the end of 2023 include the following:

- \$300.2 million for construction of a combined sewer overflow storage facility for the Ballard, Fremont, and Wallingford combined sewer overflow basins (Ship Canal Water Quality Project)
- \$49.1 million for pump station improvements
- \$41.7 million for sewer and storm water system improvements and rehabilitations
- \$28.2 million for controlling combined sewer overflow control
- \$27.4 million for natural drainage systems
- \$12.9 million for fish habitat restoration on Taylor Creek
- \$6.0 million for the South Park Stormwater Treatment Facility
- \$3.3 million for construction project artwork

#### **2022 Compared to 2021**

The Fund’s investment in capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, for the year ended December 31, 2022, was \$1.6 billion. This represented an increase of approximately \$112.4 million (7.7%) compared to 2021.

Highlights of the Fund’s major capital assets placed in service during 2022 include the following:

- \$13.4 million for pipe rehabilitation and improvement
- \$5.4 million for upgrading the core Oracle utilities applications
- \$3.4 million for controlling combined sewer overflow in Montlake

Highlights of the Fund’s major construction projects in progress at the end of 2022 include the following:

- \$230.1 million for construction of a combined sewer overflow storage facility for the Ballard, Fremont, and Wallingford combined sewer overflow basins (Ship Canal Water Quality Project)

## **Seattle Public Utilities – Drainage and Wastewater Fund** **(An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle)** **Management’s Discussion and Analysis**

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- \$60.5 million for sewer and storm water system improvements and rehabilitations
- \$32.2 million for building a pump station facility near 7th Street and Riverside in South Park
- \$25.7 million for controlling combined sewer overflow for Basins 168, 169 and Central Waterfront
- \$23.1 million for Natural Drainage Systems
- \$17.5 million for drainage infrastructure improvements in South Park
- \$11.6 million for fish habitat restoration on Taylor Creek
- \$4.7 million for the South Park Stormwater Treatment Facility
- \$3.4 million for replacing the 45th Ave SW culvert
- \$3.4 million for relocating existing drainage and sewer mains as necessary to accommodate SDOT's Waterfront Seattle Program
- \$3.2 million for construction project artwork
- \$2.9 million for demolition and replacement of all mechanical equipment at Airlift PS 38

### **Debt Administration**

The Fund's debt primarily consists of bonded debt and loans. Bonded debt is secured solely by drainage and wastewater revenues and provides financing for capital improvements. Loans issued by various Washington State Agencies for certain capital improvements are unsecured. The Fund's credit ratings on its bonds were Aa1 and AA+ by Moody's Investors Service Inc. and Standard & Poor's Rating Services, respectively. Additional details about the Fund's revenue bonds and loans are in Notes 4 and 10 of this report.

### **2023 Compared to 2022**

At the end of 2023, the Fund had \$799.4 million in bonded debt, as compared to \$730.7 million in 2022, all of which was secured solely by drainage and wastewater system revenues. This increase of \$68.7 million is attributed to the issuance of a new revenue and refunding bond (Note 4) and payment of debt principal.

At the end of 2023, the Fund had an outstanding loan balance of \$224.0 million compared to \$142.0 million in 2022. This increase is due to a total of \$86.3 million drawdowns from loans with the Washington State Department of Ecology. The increase was offset by a \$4.3 million payment of debt principal.

### **2022 Compared to 2021**

At the end of 2022, the Fund had \$730.7 million in bonded debt, as compared to \$769.9 million in 2021, all of which was secured solely by drainage and wastewater system revenues. This decrease of \$39.2 million is attributed to the issuance of a new revenue and refunding bond, defeasance of old bonds (Note 4) and payment of debt principal.

**Seattle Public Utilities – Drainage and Wastewater Fund**  
**(An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle)**  
**Management’s Discussion and Analysis**

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At the end of 2022, the Fund had an outstanding loan balance of \$142.0 million compared to \$101.3 million in 2021. This increase is due to a total of \$44.4 million drawdowns from loans with the Washington State Department of Ecology. The increase was offset by a \$3.7 million payment of debt principal.

**Requests for Information**

The Fund’s financial statements are designed to provide a general overview of the Fund’s finances, as well as to demonstrate the Fund’s accountability to its customers, investors, creditors, and other interested parties. Questions concerning any of the information provided in this report or requests for additional financial information should be addressed to Seattle Public Utilities, Finance and Administration Branch, Accounting Division, PO Box 34018, Seattle, Washington 98124-4018, telephone: (206) 684-3000.



## **Financial Statements**

**Seattle Public Utilities – Drainage and Wastewater Fund**  
**(An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle)**  
**Statements of Net Position**  
**December 31, 2023 and 2022**

	2023	2022
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Operating cash and equity in pooled investments	\$ 346,885,578	\$ 270,396,363
Receivables		
Accounts, net of allowance	35,612,678	35,154,344
Interest and dividends	997,512	266,322
Unbilled revenues	28,246,994	29,957,144
Due from other funds	1,818,175	1,157,578
Due from other governments	19,302,118	21,990,531
Materials and supplies inventory	2,136,773	2,291,344
Prepayments and other current assets	34,515	34,515
Total current assets	435,034,343	361,248,141
<b>NONCURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Restricted cash and equity in pooled investments	158,637,496	77,953,097
Prepayments long-term	380,471	414,986
Long-term receivable due from another city department	350,694	2,286,529
Environmental costs and recoveries	3,581,673	3,217,742
External infrastructure costs, net	16,692,410	16,985,260
Regulatory assets - bond issue costs	5,741,283	5,348,017
Other charges	17,995,767	21,555,588
Capital assets		
Land and land rights	47,433,829	46,662,046
Plant in service, excluding land	1,654,684,299	1,548,617,391
Less accumulated depreciation and amortization	(530,808,048)	(497,527,498)
Construction in progress	513,223,964	468,354,639
Other property, net	5,806,464	4,945,548
Total noncurrent assets	1,893,720,302	1,698,813,345
Total assets	2,328,754,645	2,060,061,486
<b>DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>		
Unamortized loss on refunded debt	3,638,127	3,888,144
Pension and OPEB contributions and changes in assumptions	34,317,425	20,524,234
Total deferred outflows of resources	37,955,552	24,412,378
Total assets and deferred outflow of resources	<u>\$ 2,366,710,197</u>	<u>\$ 2,084,473,864</u>

See accompanying notes.

**Seattle Public Utilities – Drainage and Wastewater Fund**  
**(An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle)**  
**Statements of Net Position**  
**December 31, 2023 and 2022**

	2023	2022
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable	\$ 23,974,579	\$ 22,378,674
Salaries, benefits, and payroll taxes payable	2,436,395	2,412,121
Compensated absences payable	350,730	343,225
Due to other funds	-	549,934
Due to other governments	15,967,432	14,387,797
Interest payable	14,383,828	11,396,919
Taxes payable	378,398	621,349
Revenue bonds, due within one year	32,100,000	29,225,000
Claims payable	2,907,466	2,843,964
Environmental liabilities	6,884,332	3,665,776
Loans payable, due within one year	4,482,740	4,342,952
Lease liabilities, due within one year	156,232	59,837
Other	3,696,327	5,775,955
Total current liabilities	<u>107,718,459</u>	<u>98,003,503</u>
<b>NONCURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Compensated absences payable	6,663,862	6,521,284
Claims payable	9,927,147	9,071,228
Environmental liabilities	265,845,403	211,938,239
Loans payable, net of current portion	219,468,791	137,667,930
Total OPEB liability	2,406,650	2,764,770
Net pension liability	90,297,842	44,885,251
Lease liabilities, net of current portion	427,099	311,321
Other noncurrent liabilities	12,797,736	2,270,435
Revenue bonds	799,425,000	730,710,000
Less bonds due within one year	(32,100,000)	(29,225,000)
Bond discount and premium, net	92,988,974	86,546,573
Total noncurrent liabilities	<u>1,468,148,504</u>	<u>1,203,462,031</u>
Total liabilities	<u>1,575,866,963</u>	<u>1,301,465,534</u>
<b>DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>		
Unamortized gain on advanced refunding	14,244,149	15,049,572
Deferred inflows - pension and OPEB	3,978,245	31,904,926
Total deferred inflows of resources	<u>18,222,394</u>	<u>46,954,498</u>
<b>NET POSITION</b>		
Net investment in capital assets	725,635,833	694,682,356
Restricted for		
External infrastructure costs	8,263,111	8,258,927
Other charges	11,750,364	13,081,631
Unrestricted	26,971,532	20,030,918
Total net position	<u>772,620,840</u>	<u>736,053,832</u>
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, and net position	<u><u>\$ 2,366,710,197</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 2,084,473,864</u></u>

See accompanying notes.

**Seattle Public Utilities – Drainage and Wastewater Fund**  
**(An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle)**  
**Statements of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position**  
**Years Ended December 31, 2023 and 2022**

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
OPERATING REVENUES		
Charges for services and other revenues	<u>\$ 542,933,537</u>	<u>\$ 519,028,628</u>
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Salaries, wages, and personnel benefits	75,685,986	51,582,130
Supplies	8,660,824	3,213,639
Services	62,620,610	47,323,529
Intergovernmental payments	262,402,745	241,853,099
Depreciation and amortization	45,003,944	42,741,275
Other operating expenses	<u>8,615,358</u>	<u>5,468,154</u>
Total operating expenses	<u>462,989,467</u>	<u>392,181,826</u>
OPERATING INCOME	<u>79,944,070</u>	<u>126,846,802</u>
NONOPERATING REVENUES (EXPENSES)		
Investment income (loss)	17,883,261	(8,803,452)
Interest expense	(13,260,919)	(14,753,811)
Contributions and grants	734,776	827,803
Other, net	<u>(173,084)</u>	<u>1,712,188</u>
Total nonoperating revenues (expenses)	<u>5,184,034</u>	<u>(21,017,272)</u>
INCOME BEFORE CAPITAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND GRANTS, AND SPECIAL ITEMS	85,128,104	105,829,530
CAPITAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND GRANTS	11,610,556	20,320,230
SPECIAL ITEM - ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION	<u>(60,171,652)</u>	<u>(32,935,467)</u>
CHANGE IN NET POSITION	36,567,008	93,214,293
NET POSITION		
Beginning of year	<u>736,053,832</u>	<u>642,839,539</u>
End of year	<u><u>\$ 772,620,840</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 736,053,832</u></u>

See accompanying notes.

**Seattle Public Utilities – Drainage and Wastewater Fund**  
**(An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle)**  
**Statements of Cash Flows**  
**Years Ended December 31, 2023 and 2022**

	2023	2022
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Cash received from customers	\$ 549,062,805	\$ 509,149,887
Cash paid to suppliers	(255,496,387)	(216,139,323)
Cash paid to employees	(73,844,849)	(63,081,551)
Cash paid for taxes	(72,349,424)	(68,917,899)
Net cash provided by operating activities	147,372,145	161,011,114
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM NONCAPITAL FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Noncapital grants received	734,776	3,032,572
Payments for environmental liabilities	(3,409,188)	(2,845,125)
Net cash provided by (used in) noncapital financing activities	(2,674,412)	187,447
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM CAPITAL AND RELATED FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Proceeds from long-term debt	194,027,320	171,715,769
Principal payments on long-term debt	(33,567,952)	(159,943,169)
Capital expenditures and other charges paid	(170,837,477)	(151,420,596)
Interest paid on long-term debt	(34,231,731)	(35,659,787)
Build America Bonds federal interest subsidy	1,476,901	1,532,321
Capital fees, reimbursements and grants	37,957,662	35,661,656
Proceeds from sale of capital assets	1,244,798	3,413
Net cash used in capital and related financing activities	(3,930,479)	(138,110,393)
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Net change on investments held	16,406,360	(10,334,265)
<b>NET CHANGE IN CASH AND EQUITY IN POOLED INVESTMENTS</b>	157,173,614	12,753,903
<b>CASH AND EQUITY IN POOLED INVESTMENTS</b>		
Beginning of year	348,349,460	335,595,557
End of year	\$ 505,523,074	\$ 348,349,460
<b>CASH AT THE END OF THE YEAR CONSISTS OF</b>		
Operating cash and equity in pooled investments	\$ 346,885,578	\$ 270,396,363
Noncurrent restricted cash and equity in pooled investments	158,637,496	77,953,097
Total cash at the end of the year	\$ 505,523,074	\$ 348,349,460

See accompanying notes.

**Seattle Public Utilities – Drainage and Wastewater Fund**  
**(An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle)**  
**Statements of Cash Flows**  
**Years Ended December 31, 2023 and 2022**

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
RECONCILIATION OF OPERATING INCOME TO NET CASH FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Operating income	<u>\$ 79,944,070</u>	<u>\$ 126,846,802</u>
Adjustments to reconcile operating income to net cash from operating activities		
Adjustment for net pension liability	3,692,719	(8,777,699)
Depreciation and amortization	45,003,944	42,741,275
Other cash (payments) receipts	2,492,062	365,061
Changes in operating assets and liabilities		
Accounts receivable	(458,334)	1,328,522
Unbilled revenues	1,710,150	934,956
Due from other funds	(660,597)	(540,585)
Due from other governments	2,688,413	(12,807,554)
Materials and supplies inventory	154,573	(379,172)
Other assets	1,239,160	96,423
Accounts payable	1,595,905	5,900,906
Salaries, benefits, and payroll taxes payable	24,274	(624,647)
Compensated absences payable	150,083	30,066
Due to other funds	(549,934)	498,531
Due to other governments	1,579,634	833,511
Claims payable	919,421	857,125
Taxes payable	(242,951)	67,407
Other liabilities	<u>8,089,553</u>	<u>3,640,186</u>
Total adjustments	<u>67,428,075</u>	<u>34,164,312</u>
Net cash from operating activities	<u><u>\$ 147,372,145</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 161,011,114</u></u>

See accompanying notes.

# Seattle Public Utilities – Drainage and Wastewater Fund

## (An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle)

### Notes to Financial Statements

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#### **Note 1 – Operations and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

**Operations** – The City of Seattle, Seattle Public Utilities – Drainage and Wastewater Fund (the Fund) is a public utility enterprise fund of the City of Seattle (the City). The Fund was established to account for the drainage and wastewater activities of Seattle Public Utilities (SPU). Drainage activities include regulating storm water runoff, alleviating flooding, mitigating water pollution caused by runoff, and responding to federal storm water regulations, in addition to managing drainage utility assets. Wastewater activities consist of managing the City's sewer system, including the operation of sewer utility facilities and pumping stations necessary to collect the sewage of the City and discharge it into the King County Department of Natural Resources Wastewater Treatment System for treatment and disposal.

On January 1, 1997, the City created SPU, which brought together under one administrative umbrella the water, solid waste, and drainage and wastewater functions of the City. The Fund (as well as SPU's other funds) remains separate for accounting purposes.

SPU receives certain services from other departments and agencies of the City, including information technology and others that are normally considered to be general and administrative. The Fund is charged a share of these costs and during 2023 and 2022, paid \$31,595,534 and \$25,498,571, respectively, to the City for its share of these services. Additionally, the Fund pays a business and occupation utility tax to the City's General Fund. The Fund paid \$64,158,046 and \$60,999,947 for these taxes in 2023 and 2022, respectively.

The utility billing function is co-managed by SPU, Seattle City Light (SCL), and the Seattle Information Technology Department (ITD). SPU provides customer service through the call center and walk-in center. ITD maintains the Customer Information System (CIS). SPU and SCL bill and reimburse each other for these services. SPU reimburses ITD for the information technologies services mentioned above. Within SPU, the costs and reimbursements were shared among its three utility funds (Water, Drainage and Wastewater, and Solid Waste). The Fund received reimbursements related to the call center and walk-in center of \$2,349,645 and \$2,297,473 in 2023 and 2022, respectively. The Fund paid \$75,012 and \$85,104 for the utility billing services in 2023 and 2022, respectively.

Wastewater disposal and drainage services provided to other City departments and agencies are billed at rates prescribed by City ordinances. The Fund collected \$4,499,245 in 2023 and \$4,554,276 in 2022 from the City for wastewater services provided. The Fund also collected \$12,220,585 in 2023 and \$11,553,874 in 2022 from the City for drainage services.

The Fund is subject to regulation by the City and the State of Washington. Service rates are authorized by ordinances passed by the City Council. Financial reporting is reviewed by the Washington State Auditor's Office and conforms to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP) as applied to governmental units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles.

# Seattle Public Utilities – Drainage and Wastewater Fund

## (An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle)

### Notes to Financial Statements

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**Basis of accounting** – The Fund is accounted for on a flow of economic resources measurement focus. Its financial statements are prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America as applied to governmental units using the accrual basis of accounting. With the flow of economic resources measurement focus, all assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources associated with the Fund's operations are included on the statements of net position. The operating statements present increases (revenues) and decreases (expenses) in total net position.

**Cash and equity in pooled investments** – Cash resources of the Fund are combined with cash resources of the City in a pooled investment portfolio that is managed by the City's Finance and Administration Services Department. The City's investment portfolio consists of fixed income securities authorized by the Revised Code of Washington and other applicable law. The pool operates like a demand deposit account in that all City departments may deposit cash at any time and withdraw cash out of the pool without prior notice or penalty. Interest earned on the pooled investments is prorated to individual funds at the end of each month on the basis of their average daily cash balances during the month when interest was earned. Cash and equity in pooled investments are reported at fair market value in accordance with GASB Statement No. 31, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Certain Investments and for External Investment Pools*, and GASB Statement No. 72, *Fair Value Measurement and Application*. The Fund's share of the pool is included in the accompanying statements of net position under the caption "cash and equity in pooled investments." Accordingly, the statements of cash flows reconcile to cash and equity in pooled investments. The restricted cash and equity in pooled investments consist of unexpended bond proceeds, bond reserve funds, and vendor's escrow deposits.

**Receivables and unbilled revenues** – Customer accounts receivable consist of amounts owed by private individuals and organizations for goods delivered or services rendered in the regular course of business operations. Receivables are shown net of allowances for doubtful accounts. The Fund also accrues an estimated amount for services that have been provided but not billed.

**Due from/to other funds and governments** – Activity between other funds and governments that is outstanding at the end of the year, not related to the provision of utility services, is reported as due from or due to other funds and governments.

**Allowance for doubtful accounts** – A reserve has been established for uncollectible accounts receivable based on actual historical write-off trends and knowledge of specific circumstances that indicate collection of an account may be unlikely. As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Fund's allowance for doubtful accounts was \$2,811,206 and \$2,159,826, respectively.

**Materials and supplies inventory** – The Fund values its inventory based on a moving average method. The most recent total cost of an inventory item is divided by the total units of the item that remain in inventory to determine the moving average cost of the item. The moving average cost is then applied to all the units of the inventory item.



# Seattle Public Utilities – Drainage and Wastewater Fund

## (An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle)

### Notes to Financial Statements

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**Environmental costs and recoveries** – The Fund is involved in several remediation efforts around the City (Note 9). When estimated remediation costs are approved to be recovered through rates, the costs, net of recoveries, associated with these efforts are deferred when accrued as a regulatory asset and are amortized over the rate recovery period. Certain environmental remediation costs that are infrequent in occurrence are treated as a special item in the statements of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position.

**External infrastructure costs** – The Fund has contributed \$21,963,686 to a joint project with King County to expand one of their transmission lines to help alleviate sewer overflows in the area. These costs represent the portion of the project that did not result in a capital asset for the Fund. The project was completed in 2005. The Fund has deferred these costs and began amortizing them in 2006 over a 75-year period.

**Regulatory assets** – GASB Statement No. 62, *Codification of Accounting and Financial Reporting Guidance Contained in Pre-November 30, 1989 FASB and AICPA Pronouncements*, allows for certain costs to be capitalized as a regulatory asset instead of charged to expense. A regulatory asset is recorded when it is probable that future revenue in an amount at least equal to the capitalized costs will be recovered through customer rates over some future period. The Fund uses regulatory accounting for debt issuance costs because these costs are included in the rate structure and, as such, will continue to be amortized over the life of the associated bond issues. GASB Statement No. 65, *Items Previously Reported as Assets and Liabilities*, would have required these costs to be expensed in the period incurred if the Fund had not utilized regulatory accounting for these costs. The Fund uses regulatory accounting for interest costs incurred during the construction of capital assets because these costs are included in the rate structure and, as such, will continue to be amortized over the life of the associated capital assets. GASB Statement No. 89, *Accounting for Interest Cost Incurred before the End of a Construction Period*, would have required these costs to be expensed in the period incurred if the Fund had not utilized regulatory accounting for these costs.

**Other charges** – Other charges primarily represent costs related to the long-term control plan, which direct the Fund's construction and monitoring of several combined sewer overflow projects. The Fund amortizes these charges over a 5 to 30-year period.

**Capital assets** – Capital assets are stated at cost or, if contributed, at acquisition value at the date of contribution. Costs include direct material, labor, and indirect costs such as engineering, supervision, payroll taxes, pension benefits, and interest relating to the financing of projects under construction. The cost of current repairs and maintenance is charged to expense, while the cost of additions and improvements is capitalized. SPU's policy is to generally capitalize assets with a cost of \$5,000 or more. The Fund received donated assets, such as sewer and drainage pipes, from developers and other government agencies. These donated assets are recorded under capital contributions and grants in the statements of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position.

**Construction in progress** – Capitalizable costs incurred on projects that are not in use or ready for use are held in construction in progress. When the asset is ready for use, related costs are transferred to capital assets. Upon determining that a project will be abandoned, the related costs are charged to expense.

**Seattle Public Utilities – Drainage and Wastewater Fund**  
**(An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle)**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**

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**Other property** – Other property is stated at cost, or if contributed, the acquisition value at the date of contribution. Other property includes artwork and property held for future use. The artwork is acquired through the City’s “One Percent for Art” program, which supports the City ordinance established to direct the inclusion of works of art in public spaces within the City.

**Depreciation** – Capital assets in service are depreciated on the straight-line method over estimated useful lives as follows:

Buildings and fixtures	10 to 50 years
Laterals, mains, and outfalls	75 years
Detention structures	75 years
Pumping stations, equipment, and overflow structures	10 to 50 years
Machinery and equipment	3 to 20 years
Computer systems	3 to 11 years

Asset depreciation begins in the month the asset is placed in service.

**Deferred outflows/inflows of resources** – In addition to assets, the statements of net position, when applicable, will report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. It represents a consumption of net position that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense) until then. The Fund has deferred loss on refunding debt that qualifies for reporting in this category. A deferred loss on refunding debt results from the difference in the carrying value of refunded debt and its reacquisition price. This amount is deferred and amortized over the shorter of the life of the refunded or refunding debt. The Fund has also recorded deferred outflows of resources for certain pension activities including the difference between projected and actual experience, the difference between projected and actual earnings on investments, and contributions made subsequent to the measurement date (Notes 5 and 8).

In addition to liabilities, the statements of net position, when applicable, will report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. It represents an acquisition of net position that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until then. The Fund has also recorded deferred inflows of resources for the difference between projected and actual experience, changes in proportion and differences between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions, and unamortized gain on advanced refunding (Notes 5 and 8).

## **Seattle Public Utilities – Drainage and Wastewater Fund** **(An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle)** **Notes to Financial Statements**

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**Environmental liabilities** – The Fund has accrued a liability for pollution remediation activities in accordance with GASB Statement No. 49 (GASB 49), *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pollution Remediation Obligations*. GASB 49 outlines five specific obligating events that give rise to estimating expected pollution remediation outlays. These outlays may be accrued as a liability and expensed, or if appropriate, capitalized. The Fund will accrue a liability if any of the following obligating events occurs:

- The Fund is compelled to take pollution remediation action because of an imminent endangerment.
- The Fund violates a pollution prevention-related permit or license.
- The Fund is named, or evidence indicates it will be named, by a regulator as a potentially responsible party (PRP) for remediation.
- The Fund is named, or evidence indicates that it will be named, in a lawsuit to compel participation in pollution remediation.
- The Fund commences or legally obligates itself to commence pollution remediation.

Most pollution remediation outlays do not qualify for capitalization and the Fund does not anticipate significant capitalized costs in the future. See Note 9 for site descriptions.

**Pensions** – For purposes of measuring the net pension liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions, and pension expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the Seattle City Employees' Retirement System (SCERS) are reported on the same basis as reported by SCERS. For this purpose, benefit payments are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. Investments are reported at fair value.

**Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions (OPEB)** – For purposes of measuring the net OPEB liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB, and OPEB expense, information about the benefit have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by the City. For this purpose, benefit payments are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms.

**Compensated absences** – Employees earn vacation based upon their date of hire and years of service and may accumulate earned vacation up to a maximum of 480 hours. Unused vacation at retirement or normal termination is considered vested and payable to the employee. Earned but unused vacation is accrued as a liability of the Fund. Employees also earn up to 12 days of sick leave per year and may accumulate sick leave balances without limit.

Employees who submit the required documentation when represented by the Coalition of City Unions are paid 35% of the value of unused sick leave upon retirement as part of the Health Reimbursement Arrangement – Voluntary Employees' Beneficiary Association (HRA-VEBA) program. If the employee fails to submit the required documentation by their last working day of employment, their sick leave balance is forfeited.

# Seattle Public Utilities – Drainage and Wastewater Fund

## (An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle)

### Notes to Financial Statements

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Retiring employees who are not eligible to participate in the HRA-VEBA program may elect to receive 25% of the value of unused sick leave upon retirement or defer receipt of 35% of the value of their sick leave balance to the City's 457 Plan and Trust, subject to the year-to-date or life-to-date limitations on deferrals and contributions. If the 35% value of the sick leave balance exceeds the maximum amount deferred to the City's 457 Plan and Trust, the employee shall receive a taxable cash payment equal to the amount by which the 25% value of the sick leave balance exceeds the 35% that was allowed to be deferred. The Fund records a liability for estimated sick leave payments.

**Operating revenues** – Wastewater service revenues are recorded through cycle billings rendered to customers monthly or bimonthly. The Fund accrues and records unbilled wastewater service revenues in the financial statements for services provided from the date of the last billing to year end.

Drainage service charges are billed to the City's drainage residential and nonresidential customers twice a year through the service of King County's property tax billing system. These charges fund operations and maintenance of, and improvements to, the City's system of storm and drainage facilities.

Other operating revenues include revenues generated from wastewater and sewer permits, and engineering services provided to other City funds.

**Operating expenses** – The Fund's operating expenses include the cost of sales and services, administrative expenses, depreciation on capital assets, and amortization of deferred assets.

**Taxes** – The Fund is charged a public utility tax by the City at a rate of 12.0% for wastewater revenues and 11.5% for drainage revenues, net of certain credits. In addition, the Fund paid a 3.85% public utility tax to the state on a certain portion of revenues identified as sewer collection revenues. The Fund also paid business and occupation tax to the state on certain drainage and other non-utility revenues at the rate of 1.75%.

**Nonoperating revenues and expenses** – This includes the nonoperating revenues and expenses that arise from transactions not related directly to the major income-earning operations of the utility and are of a recurring nature. Major items are the investment and interest income, interest expense, amortization of debt expenses, amortization of debt discounts, premiums and refunding losses, sale of capital assets, and rental income.

**Net position** – The statements of net position report all financial and capital resources. Assets and deferred outflows of resources minus liabilities and deferred inflows of resources is net position. There are three components of net position: net investment in capital assets, restricted, and unrestricted.

# Seattle Public Utilities – Drainage and Wastewater Fund

## (An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle)

### Notes to Financial Statements

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Net investment in capital assets consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, reduced by the outstanding balances of any bonds, mortgages, notes, or other borrowings that are attributable to the acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets. Net position is restricted when constraints placed on net position use are either (1) externally imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments, or (2) imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation. The Fund's restricted net position as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, is related to external infrastructure costs, certain other charges, and retainage. Unrestricted net position is the portion that is not "net investment in capital assets" or "restricted."

**Arbitrage rebate requirement** – The Fund is subject to the Internal Revenue Code (IRC), Section 148(f), related to its tax-exempt revenue bonds. The IRC requires that earnings on gross proceeds of any revenue bonds that are in excess of the amount prescribed be surrendered to the Internal Revenue Service. As such, the Fund would record such a rebate as a liability. The Fund had no liability for arbitrage as of December 31, 2023 and 2022.

**Accounting standard changes** – In May 2020, GASB issued Statement No. 96 (GASB 96), *Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements (SBITA)*, and it was effective for the Fund for reporting periods beginning after June 15, 2022. Under this standard, software subscriptions are treated as right-to-use subscription assets, as intangible assets, with a corresponding subscription liability. The Fund adopted the provisions of this statement retroactively during 2023; as the impact to the 2022 financial statements was immaterial, the prior year financial statements were not restated. Adoption of this standard increased lease liabilities by \$347,425 and right to use assets by \$331,910 in 2023.

In March 2020, GASB issued Statement No. 94 (GASB 94), *Public-Private and Public-Public Partnerships and Availability Payment Arrangements*, and it was effective for the Fund for reporting periods beginning after June 15, 2022. This standard provides accounting and financial reporting guidance related to a wide variety of arrangements between a government(s) and another party that are engaged in providing services to a government's constituents as well as guidance on accounting and financial reporting for availability payment arrangements. In 2023, Seattle Public Utilities has no arrangements that fall under this standard.

**Use of estimates** – The preparation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect amounts reported in the financial statements. Estimates and assumptions are used to record unbilled revenues, allowance for doubtful accounts, fair market value of cash and equity in pooled investments, accrued sick leave, capitalized interest, depreciation, environmental liabilities, risk liabilities, pension liability, and other contingencies. Changes in these estimates and assumptions may have a material impact on the financial statements.

**Significant risks and uncertainty** – The Fund is subject to certain business risks that could have a material impact on future operations and financial performance. These risks include, but are not limited to, weather and natural disaster-related disruptions, collective bargaining labor disputes, Environmental Protection Agency regulations, and federal government regulations or orders concerning the operation, maintenance, and licensing of facilities.

# Seattle Public Utilities – Drainage and Wastewater Fund

## (An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle)

### Notes to Financial Statements

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**Reclassifications** – Certain reclassifications have been made to the financial statements and related footnote presentations. These reclassifications had no effect on the operating results of the Fund.

#### **Note 2 – Cash and Equity in Pooled Investments**

Per Seattle Municipal Code, SMC 5.06.010 Investment Authority, the City's Director of Finance and Administrative Services (FAS) is authorized to invest all moneys in the City Treasury. Cash resources of the Department are combined with cash resources of the City to form a pool of cash that is managed by the City's Department of FAS. Under the City's investment policy, all temporary cash surpluses in the pool are invested. The Fund's share of the pool is included on the balance sheets as cash and equity in pooled investments or as restricted assets. The pool operates like a demand deposit account in that all departments, including the Fund, may deposit cash at any time and can also withdraw cash out of the pool, up to the amount of the Fund's fund balance, without prior notice or penalty. Accordingly, the statements of cash flows reconcile to cash and equity in pooled investments.

**Custodial credit risk – deposits** – Custodial credit risk of deposits is the risk that in the event of bank failure for one of the City's depository institutions, the City's deposits or related collateral securities may not be returned in a timely manner.

As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the City did not have custodial credit risk. The City's deposits are covered by insurance provided by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) and the National Credit Union Association (NCUA), as well as protection provided by the Washington State Public Deposit Protection Commission (PDPC) as established in RCW 39.58. The PDPC makes and enforces regulations and administers a program to ensure public funds deposited in banks and thrifts are protected if a financial institution becomes insolvent. The PDPC approves which banks, credit unions, and thrifts can hold state and local government deposits and monitors collateral pledged to secure uninsured public deposits. This secures public treasurers' deposits when they exceed the amount insured by the FDIC or NCUA by requiring banks, credit unions, and thrifts to pledge securities as collateral.

As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the City held sufficient cash in its vault for operations. Additional small amounts of cash were held in departmental revolving fund accounts with the City's various custodial banks, all of which fell within the NCUA/FDIC's \$250,000 standard maximum deposit insurance amount. Any of the City's cash not held in its vault or a local depository was held in the City's Consolidated Cash Pooled Investment Portfolio (investment pool), and at the close of every business day, any cash remaining in the operating fund is swept into an overnight repurchase agreement that matures the next day.

**Custodial credit risk – investments** – Custodial credit risk for investments is the risk that, in the event of failure of the counterparty, the City will not have access to, or be able to recover, its investments or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. The City mitigates custodial credit risk for its investments by having its investment securities held by the City's contractual custodial agent. The City maintains a custody relationship with Principal Custody Solutions under the state of Washington's statewide custody provider program arranged by the State Treasurer's Office. The City mitigates counterparty risk by settling trades through its custodian on a delivery-versus-payment method.

# Seattle Public Utilities – Drainage and Wastewater Fund

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### Notes to Financial Statements

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By investment policy, the City maintains a list of approved securities dealers for transacting business. The City also conducts its own due diligence as to the financial wherewithal of its counterparties.

**Credit risk** – Credit risk is the risk that an issuer or other counterparty to an investment will not fulfill its obligations. Some of the City's pooled investments have credit risk from holdings in commercial paper, corporate notes, and taxable municipal bonds. The City may not hold more than 50% of the Pool's total assets in these credit sensitive sectors.

State statute defines the investments in commercial paper and corporate notes as a "credit portfolio." The credit portfolio may not exceed 25% of the Pool's market value. Credit investments must be diversified by sector and industry. No single issuer shall exceed 3% of the Pool's market value.

Commercial paper investments may not have maturities exceeding 270 days and must hold the highest short-term credit rating by all the major credit rating agencies that rate the issuer at the time of purchase.

Corporate notes must mature within 5.5 years from the time of purchase and must be rated at least weak single-A or better by all the major rating agencies that rate the note at the time of purchase. No single issuer rated AA or better may exceed 3% of the Pool's market value. No single issuer rated in the single-A category may exceed 2% of the Pool's market value.

Municipal bonds must have a credit rating of weak single-A or better by all the major rating agencies that rate the issuer at the time of purchase. No single issuer may exceed 5% of the Pool's market value.

**Interest rate risk** – Interest rate risk is the risk that changes in interest rates over time will adversely affect the fair value of an investment. To mitigate interest rate risk, the City intentionally immunizes its known and expected cash flow needs. To best accomplish meeting its investment objectives, the City has divided the Pool into two separate portfolios: Operating and Strategic.

The Operating Portfolio is invested to meet reasonably expected liquidity needs over a period of 12 to 18 months. This portfolio has low duration and high liquidity. Consistent with this profile, and for the purpose of comparing earnings yield, its benchmark is the net earnings rate of the state of Washington's Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP).

The Strategic Portfolio consists of cash that is in excess of known and expected liquidity needs. Accordingly, this portfolio is invested in debt securities with longer maturities than the Operating Portfolio, which over a market cycle, is expected to provide a higher return and greater investment income. Consistent with this profile, and for the purpose of comparing duration, yield and total return, the benchmark for the Strategic portfolio is the Barclays U.S. Government 1-7 year index. The duration of the Strategic Portfolio is targeted between 75% and 125% of the benchmark.

To further mitigate interest rate risk, a minimum of 60% of the Operating Portfolio and 30% of the Strategic Portfolio must be invested in asset types with high liquidity, specifically U.S. Government obligations, U.S. Government Agency obligations, LGIP, demand accounts, repo, sweep, and commercial paper.

## Seattle Public Utilities – Drainage and Wastewater Fund

### (An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle)

#### Notes to Financial Statements

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**Investments** – The Fund’s cash resources may be invested by FAS separate from the cash and investments pool. Investments are managed in accordance with the City’s Statement of Investment Policy, with limits and restrictions applied at the City-wide level rather than to specific investments of the Fund. As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Fund did not have any dedicated investments. The City’s Statement of Investment Policy was modified on January 1, 2018, with an effective date of March 8, 2018. There have been no subsequent changes to the policy.

The City of Seattle has three objectives in managing its investments that define its risk profile and guide implementation of its investment strategy. In order of importance they are safety of principal, maintenance of liquidity, and return on investment.

The City follows a set of standards of care when it comes to its investments that include the following:

- *Social policies* – A City social policy shall take precedence over furthering the City’s financial objectives when expressly authorized by City Council resolution, except where otherwise provided by law or trust principles.
- *Ethics and conflict of interest* – Investment officers shall comply with the City’s Ethics Code (SMC 4.16.080) and annually submit a Financial Interest Statement to the City’s Ethics & Elections Commission that identifies any potential financial interest that could be related to the performance of the City’s investment portfolio.

**Delegation of authority** – The Director of Finance and Administrative Services has delegated management responsibility for the City’s investment program to the Director of Finance who has designated day to day management responsibility to investment officers under the supervision of the City’s Treasury Services Director. No persons may engage in an investment transaction except as provided under the terms of the City Statement of Investment Policy and the procedures established therein.

**Fair value of pooled investments** – The City reports investments at fair value and categorizes its fair value measurements within the fair value hierarchy established by GASB Statement No. 72, *Fair Value Measurement and Application*. Fair value of the City’s pooled investments fluctuates with changes in interest rates and the underlying size of the pooled investment portfolio. To mitigate interest rate risk in the City’s pooled investment portfolio, the City typically holds its investments to maturity and manages its maturities to ensure sufficient monthly cash flow to meet its liquidity requirements.

As of December 31, 2023, the City held \$406.4 million on deposit in the Washington State Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP) managed by the Office of the Washington State Treasurer. The City’s investments in the LGIP are reported at amortized cost, which approximates fair value. It is overseen by the Office of the State Treasurer, the State Finance Committee, the Local Government Investment Pool Advisory Committee, and the Washington State Auditor’s Office.



# Seattle Public Utilities – Drainage and Wastewater Fund

## (An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle)

### Notes to Financial Statements

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The City reports its investments at fair value and categorizes its fair value measurements within the fair value hierarchy established by U.S. GAAP. Fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction amongst market participants at the measurement date (an exit price). Fair value is a market-based measurement for a particular asset or liability based on assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability. Such assumptions include observable and unobservable inputs of market data, as well as assumptions about risk and the risk inherent in the inputs to the valuation technique.

Valuation techniques to determine fair value should be consistent with one or more of three approaches: the market approach, cost approach, and income approach. The City uses a combination of the market and cost approach for the valuation of pooled investments.

The City's overnight repurchase agreement with Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., and investment in the State of Washington LGIP are accounted for at cost. The LGIP is an external investment pool and is measured at a net asset value (NAV) per share of \$1. The remainder of the City's investments are purchased in the over-the-counter U.S. bond market and accounted for at market.

The City uses market pricing for its over-the-counter investments as provided by its contractual custodial agent, Principal Custody Solutions.

As a basis for considering market participant assumptions in fair value measurements, GASB Statement No. 72 establishes a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value into three broad levels as follows:

**Level 1** – Inputs are quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the Fund can access at the measurement date.

**Level 2** – Inputs are inputs other than quoted prices included in Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly.

**Level 3** – Inputs are unobservable inputs for the asset or liability. Valuation adjustments such as for nonperformance risk or inactive markets could cause an instrument to be classified as Level 3 that would otherwise be classified as Level 1 or Level 2.

The City's investments in U.S. Treasuries are valued as Level 1. The City's remaining investments are valued as Level 2 or measured at amortized cost. The City does not invest in securities that require Level 3 inputs.

**Seattle Public Utilities – Drainage and Wastewater Fund**  
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As of December 31, 2023, the City's pooled investments were categorized within the fair value hierarchy as follows (in thousands):

Investments	Fair Value as of December 31, 2023	Fair Value Measurements Using			Weighted Average Maturity (Days)
		Level 1 Inputs	Level 2 Inputs	Level 3 Inputs	
U.S. Government Agency Securities	\$ 1,417,009	\$ -	\$ 1,417,009	\$ -	404
U.S. Treasury and U.S. Government-Backed Securities	1,240,539	1,240,539	-	-	679
Local Government Investment Pool	406,431	406,431	-	-	-
U.S. Government Agency Mortgage-Backed Securities	312,777	-	312,777	-	1,754
Municipal Bonds	150,811	-	150,811	-	772
Commercial Paper	-	-	-	-	-
Corporate Bonds	67,267	-	67,267	-	537
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development	48,924	-	48,924	-	247
Repurchase Agreements	17,297	17,297	-	-	9,497
	<u>\$ 3,661,055</u>	<u>\$ 1,664,267</u>	<u>\$ 1,996,788</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	

Weighted Average Maturity of the City's Pooled Investments

626

As of December 31, 2022, the City's pooled investments were categorized within the fair value hierarchy as follows (in thousands):

Investments	Fair Value as of December 31, 2022	Fair Value Measurements Using			Weighted Average Maturity (Days)
		Level 1 Inputs	Level 2 Inputs	Level 3 Inputs	
U.S. Government Agency Securities	\$ 1,204,123	\$ -	\$ 1,204,123	\$ -	662
U.S. Treasury and U.S. Government-Backed Securities	1,182,412	1,182,412	-	-	765
Local Government Investment Pool	415,588	415,588	-	-	-
U.S. Government Agency Mortgage-Backed Securities	274,968	-	274,968	-	2,126
Municipal Bonds	164,470	-	164,470	-	840
Commercial Paper	78,983	-	78,983	-	16
Corporate Bonds	72,116	-	72,116	-	810
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development	47,993	-	47,993	-	1,165
Repurchase Agreements	46,391	46,391	-	-	-
	<u>\$ 3,487,044</u>	<u>\$ 1,644,391</u>	<u>\$ 1,842,653</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	

Weighted Average Maturity of the City's Pooled Investments

729

The Fund's share of the City pool was as follows as of December 31:

	2023	2022
Operating cash and equity in pooled investments	\$ 346,885,578	\$ 270,396,363
Restricted cash and equity in pooled investments	<u>158,637,496</u>	<u>77,953,097</u>
Total	<u>\$ 505,523,074</u>	<u>\$ 348,349,460</u>

Balance as a percentage of City pool cash and investments	13.8%	10.0%
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**Concentration of credit risk** – Concentration risk is the risk of loss attributed to the magnitude of investments in a single issuer. The City manages concentration risk by limiting its investments in any one issuer in accordance with the City's investment policy and state statutes. The policy limits vary for each investment category. State statute and the City's Statement of Investment Policy do not stipulate concentration limits for holdings of U.S. Government or U.S. Government Agency Obligations. However, as noted under credit risk, the City's Statement of Investment Policy outlines maximum percentage allocations for municipal securities and commercial paper, as well as bank notes and corporate notes.

**Seattle Public Utilities – Drainage and Wastewater Fund**  
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The City's investments in which 5% or more is invested in any single issuer as of December 31 are as follows:

Issuer	2023		2022	
	Fair Value	Percent of Total Investments	Fair Value	Percent of Total Investments
United States Government	\$ 1,240,539	34%	\$ 1,182,412	34%
Federal Home Loan Bank	572,730	16%	355,558	10%
Local Government Investment Pool	406,431	11%	415,588	12%
Federal National Mortgage Association	293,713	8%	331,923	10%
Federal Farm Credit Bank	291,404	8%	299,433	9%
Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp	287,136	8%	191,788	6%
Federal Agriculture Mortgage Corp	248,019	7%	263,760	8%

**Note 3 – Capital Assets**

Capital asset activity consisted of the following for the year ended December 31, 2023:

	Beginning Balance	Additions and Transfers In	Retirements and Transfers Out	Ending Balance
Buildings	\$ 26,372,558	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 26,372,558
Infrastructure	1,327,277,336	105,488,527	(8,483,441)	1,424,282,422
Machinery and equipment	123,749,013	5,505,333	(44,639)	129,209,707
Computer systems	70,734,370	3,306,782	(145,777)	73,895,375
Intangible right-to-use	484,114	440,123	-	924,237
Total capital assets, excluding land	1,548,617,391	114,740,765	(8,673,857)	1,654,684,299
Less accumulated depreciation and amortization	(497,527,498)	(38,784,454)	5,503,904	(530,808,048)
	1,051,089,893	75,956,311	(3,169,953)	1,123,876,251
Construction in progress	468,354,639	191,143,734	(146,274,409)	513,223,964
Land and land rights	46,662,046	772,059	(276)	47,433,829
Artwork	4,945,548	860,916	-	5,806,464
Capital assets, net	<u>\$ 1,571,052,126</u>	<u>\$ 268,733,020</u>	<u>\$ (149,444,638)</u>	<u>\$ 1,690,340,508</u>

**Seattle Public Utilities – Drainage and Wastewater Fund**  
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**Notes to Financial Statements**

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Capital asset activity consisted of the following for the year ended December 31, 2022:

	Beginning Balance	Additions and Transfers In	Retirements and Transfers Out	Ending Balance
Buildings	\$ 26,450,533	\$ 3,875	\$ (81,850)	\$ 26,372,558
Infrastructure	1,303,044,345	27,173,015	(2,940,024)	1,327,277,336
Machinery and equipment	122,669,131	4,498,554	(3,418,672)	123,749,013
Computer systems	69,671,032	8,843,387	(7,780,049)	70,734,370
Intangible right-to-use	484,114	-	-	484,114
Total capital assets, excluding land	1,522,319,155	40,518,831	(14,220,595)	1,548,617,391
Less accumulated depreciation and amortization	(471,618,407)	(36,364,222)	10,455,131	(497,527,498)
	1,050,700,748	4,154,609	(3,765,464)	1,051,089,893
Construction in progress	356,932,019	174,719,546	(63,296,926)	468,354,639
Land and land rights	46,662,046	-	-	46,662,046
Artwork	4,439,956	505,592	-	4,945,548
Capital assets, net	<u>\$ 1,458,734,769</u>	<u>\$ 179,379,747</u>	<u>\$ (67,062,390)</u>	<u>\$ 1,571,052,126</u>

During 2023 and 2022, the Fund capitalized interest costs as a regulatory asset relating to construction of \$19,658,094 and \$16,942,126, respectively.

The Fund, as lessee, has entered into various leases for building and equipment with lease terms expiring between 2025 and 2034. Leases that have a maximum possible lease term that are non-cancelable by both lessee and lessor, have a term of more than 12 months, and a present value greater than \$5,000 are considered to be “right-to-use” assets. Unless explicitly stated in the lease agreement, the discount rate used to calculate lease right-of-use assets and liabilities in which the Fund acts as lessee is the City’s incremental borrowing rate based on the expiring date. The discount rate used for leases during the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022 was 0.38%.

Effective January 1, 2022, SPU adopted GASB 96 as discussed in more detail in Note 1. The Fund has one software agreement with the term ending in 2026. Any software agreement that is negotiated by Seattle IT that is for the benefit of multiple departments, will be accounted for at the City level by Seattle IT and is excluded by the Fund. The discount rate used for the software agreement during the year ended December 31, 2023 was 2.70%.

**Seattle Public Utilities – Drainage and Wastewater Fund**  
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Minimum payments under the leases are as follows:

Years Ending December 31,	Principal	Interest	Total
2024	\$ 156,232	\$ 6,697	\$ 162,929
2025	150,960	3,768	\$ 154,728
2026	139,930	826	\$ 140,756
2027	46,364	460	\$ 46,824
2028	46,364	286	\$ 46,650
2029 - 2030	43,481	111	43,592
	<u>\$ 583,331</u>	<u>\$ 12,148</u>	<u>\$ 595,479</u>

**Note 4 – Revenue Bonds**

The Fund issues bonds to provide financing for capital improvements. Payment of debt service on the bonds is derived solely from the revenues generated by the Fund. The Fund has \$30,872,471 in a debt service reserve fund and has obtained reserve insurance policies to meet the remainder of its reserve requirements. The total bonds outstanding as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, were \$799,425,000 and \$730,710,000, respectively. Revenue bonds outstanding as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, consisted of the following Municipal Drainage and Wastewater bonds:

Name of Issue	Issuance Date	Maturity Years	Interest Rates	Original Issue Amount	Bonds Outstanding	
					2023	2022
2009 Improvement, Series A (Taxable)	12/17/09	2017-2039	4.2-5.5%	\$ 102,535,000	\$ 79,415,000	\$ 83,030,000
2014 Improvement and Refunding	7/10/14	2015-2044	3.0-5.0%	133,180,000	84,350,000	89,315,000
2016 Improvement and Refunding	6/22/16	2016-2046	4.0-5.0%	160,910,000	136,860,000	141,405,000
2017 Improvement and Refunding	6/28/17	2018-2047	4.0-5.0%	234,125,000	195,600,000	201,550,000
2021 Improvement and Refunding	6/8/21	2022-2051	4.0-5.0%	111,010,000	106,865,000	108,990,000
2022 Improvement and Refunding	6/22/22	2022-2042	4.0-5.0%	117,165,000	98,395,000	106,420,000
2023 Improvement Revenue	6/8/23	2024-2053	5.0%	97,940,000	97,940,000	-
				<u>\$ 1,178,955,000</u>	<u>\$ 799,425,000</u>	<u>\$ 730,710,000</u>

**Seattle Public Utilities – Drainage and Wastewater Fund**  
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Minimum debt service requirements to maturity on revenue bonds are as follows:

Years Ending December 31,	Principal	Interest	Total
2024	\$ 32,100,000	\$ 35,481,846	\$ 67,581,846
2025	33,680,000	33,861,971	67,541,971
2026	34,200,000	32,259,221	66,459,221
2027	35,575,000	30,627,059	66,202,059
2028	34,050,000	28,852,984	62,902,984
2029 - 2033	174,435,000	120,143,154	294,578,154
2034 - 2038	176,795,000	81,070,908	257,865,908
2039 - 2043	142,870,000	45,532,640	188,402,640
2044 - 2048	96,960,000	18,804,700	115,764,700
2049 - 2053	38,760,000	4,506,725	43,266,725
	<u>\$ 799,425,000</u>	<u>\$ 431,141,208</u>	<u>\$ 1,230,566,208</u>

The following table shows the revenue bond activity during the year ended December 31, 2023:

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Reductions	Ending Balance	Due Within One Year
Bonds payable					
Revenue bonds	\$ 730,710,000	\$ 97,940,000	(29,225,000)	\$ 799,425,000	\$ 32,100,000
Add (deduct) deferred amounts					
Issuance premiums	86,926,740	10,189,291	(3,770,651)	93,345,380	-
Issuance discounts	(380,166)	-	23,760	(356,406)	-
Total bonds payable	<u>\$ 817,256,574</u>	<u>\$ 108,129,291</u>	<u>\$ (32,971,891)</u>	<u>\$ 892,413,974</u>	<u>\$ 32,100,000</u>

The following table shows the revenue bond activity during the year ended December 31, 2022:

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Reductions	Ending Balance	Due Within One Year
Bonds payable					
Revenue bonds	\$ 769,890,000	\$ 117,165,000	(156,345,000)	\$ 730,710,000	\$ 29,225,000
Add (deduct) deferred amounts					
Issuance premiums	96,485,926	11,435,246	(20,994,432)	86,926,740	-
Issuance discounts	(403,927)	-	23,761	(380,166)	-
Total bonds payable	<u>\$ 865,971,999</u>	<u>\$ 128,600,246</u>	<u>\$ (177,315,671)</u>	<u>\$ 817,256,574</u>	<u>\$ 29,225,000</u>

# Seattle Public Utilities – Drainage and Wastewater Fund

## (An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle)

### Notes to Financial Statements

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**Defeasance of debt** – The Fund defeased certain obligations by placing the proceeds of new bonds and a certain amount of operating cash in an irrevocable trust to provide for all future debt service payments on the old bonds. As a result, the old bonds are considered defeased, and the corresponding liabilities and trust account assets are not included in the statements of net position. In 2022, \$125,370,000 bonds were defeased. No bonds were defeased during the year ended December 31, 2023. As of December 31, 2023 \$19,235,000 remained outstanding as shown below:

Name of Issue	Amount Outstanding at December 31, 2022	Additions	Redemptions	Amount Outstanding at December 31, 2023
2014 Improvement and Refunding	\$ 19,235,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 19,235,000
	<u>\$ 19,235,000</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 19,235,000</u>

**Debt issuance** - In June 2023, the Fund issued \$97,940,000 of Drainage and Wastewater Improvement Revenue Bonds with varying annual principal payments due beginning 2024 and ending in 2053, at an interest rate of 5%.

**Financial covenants** – The revenue bonds contain certain financial covenants, the most significant of which requires the Fund to maintain Reserve Subaccount at the least of (i) Maximum Annual Debt Service on all parity bonds outstanding at the time of calculation, (ii) 1.25 times adjusted annual debt service on all parity bonds outstanding at the calculation, or (iii) the sum of 10% of the proceeds of each series of parity bonds then outstanding. Management believes the Fund was in compliance with all debt covenants as of December 31, 2023. For more information, see Other Information (page 55).

#### Note 5 – Postemployment Benefit Plans

**Deferred compensation** – The City offers all of its employees a deferred compensation plan (the Plan) created in accordance with IRC Section 457. The Plan permits employees to defer a portion of their salaries until future years. The deferred compensation is paid to employees upon termination, retirement, death, or unforeseen emergency.

The Plan is an eligible deferred compensation plan under Section 457 of the IRC of 1986, as amended, and a trust exempt from tax under IRC Sections 457(g) and 501(a). The Plan is operated for the exclusive benefit of participants and their beneficiaries. No part of the corpus or income of the Plan shall revert to the City or be used for, or diverted to, purposes other than the exclusive benefit of participants and their beneficiaries. The Plan is not reported in the financial statements of the City or the Fund.

It is the opinion of the City’s legal counsel that the City has no liability for investment losses under the Plan. Under the Plan, participants select investments from alternatives offered by the Plan Administrator, who is under contract with the City to manage the Plan. Investment selection by a participant may be changed from time to time. The City does not manage any of the investment selections. By making the selection, participants accept and assume all risks inherent in the Plan and its administration.

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**Other postemployment benefits plan description** – Health care plans for active and retired employees are administered by the City of Seattle as single-employer defined benefit public employee health care plans.

Employees retiring under the City may continue their health insurance coverage under the City's health insurance plans for active employees. When a retired participant dies, the spouse remains fully covered until age 65 and covered by the Medicare supplement plan thereafter. Employees that retire with disability retirement under the City may continue their health coverage through the City with same coverage provisions as other retirees. Eligible retirees self-pay 100 percent of the premium based on blended rates that were established by including the experience of retirees with the experience of active employees for underwriting purposes. The postemployment benefit provisions are established and may be amended by ordinance of the Seattle City Council and as provided in Seattle Municipal Code 4.50.020. The City provides an implicit subsidy of the post-retirement health insurance costs and funds the subsidy on a pay-as-you-go basis.

Actuarial valuations involve estimates of the value of reported amounts and assumptions about the probability of events far into the future. Actuarially determined amounts are subject to continual revision as actual results are compared to past expectations and new estimates are made about the future.

Calculations are based on the types of benefits provided under the terms of the substantive plan at the time of each valuation and on the pattern of sharing of costs between the employer and plan members to that point. The projection of benefits for financial reporting purposes does not explicitly incorporate the potential effects of legal or contractual funding limitations on the pattern of cost sharing between the employer and plan members in the future. Actuarial calculations reflect a long-term perspective. Consistent with that perspective, actuarial methods and assumptions used include techniques that are designed to reduce short-term volatility in actuarial accrued liabilities and the actuarial value of assets.



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Based on the latest biennial actuarial valuation date the significant methods and assumptions are as follows:

**Actuarial data and assumptions** – The demographic assumptions of mortality, termination, retirement, and disability are set equal to the assumptions used for City pension actuarial valuations based on a Seattle City Employees' Retirement System Experience Report for the period 2018–2021.

<b>Actuarial data and assumptions</b>	<b>2023</b>
Valuation and measurement date	January 1, 2023
Actuarial cost method	Entry age normal
Amortization method	Level dollar
Discount rate	3.72%
Health care cost trend rates – medical	6.75% in 2023, increasing to 6.47% in 2024, and decreasing by varying amounts until 2030 thereafter
Health care cost trend rates – Rx	8.00% in 2023 and 7.56% in 2024, and decreasing by varying amounts until 2030 thereafter
Participation	25% of active employees who retire participate

#### **Mortality**

##### General Service (Actives)

PubG-2010 Employee Table multiplied by 95%

Rates are projected generationally using Scale MP-2021 ultimate rates

##### General Service (Retirees)

PubG-2010 Retired Mortality Table multiplied by 95%

Rates are projected generationally using Scale MP-2021 ultimate rates

**Marital status** – 25% of members electing coverage: married or have a registered domestic partner. Male spouses two years older than their female spouses.

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**Health care claims development** – The sample per capita claim cost assumptions shown below by age, benefit, and plan represent the true underlying baseline experience estimated for the City of Seattle’s sponsored postretirement benefits and costs.

Age	Pre-65 Medical, RX, and Admin Combined			
	Aetna Preventive Plan	Aetna Traditional	Kaiser Standard	Kaiser Deductible
50	\$ 14,137	\$ 12,657	\$ 8,212	\$ 6,639
55	17,449	15,622	10,136	8,195
60	21,640	19,375	12,571	10,163

The average medical and prescription drug per capita claims costs were developed from 2023 calendar year self-funded premium rates. Premium-equivalent rates were provided by City of Seattle’s health pricing actuary. The average medical and prescription drug per capita “adult-equivalent” claims costs were based on the respective pre-65 enrollment weighted average of the 2023 four-tier rate structure including the add-on cost of dependent children and trended back from 2023 to 2022 to be centered at the mid-point of the annual period following the valuation date. Average medical/Rx per capita claims costs were then age-adjusted based on the demographics of the rating population, and the assumed health care aging factors shown in the table below.

Models are used to estimate underlying per capita medical and drug claims costs, subsequently utilized as assumption inputs for valuation models used to develop the liabilities for the 2022 and future valuations.

**Morbidity factors** – The claim costs for medical and prescription drugs were assumed to increase with age according to the table below.

Age	Medical	Rx	Composite
40–44	3.0%	4.8%	3.3%
45–49	3.7%	4.7%	3.8%
50–54	4.2%	4.7%	4.3%
55–59	4.4%	4.6%	4.4%
60–64	3.7%	4.6%	3.8%

**Other considerations** – Active employees with current spouse and/or dependent coverage elect same plan and coverage. After retirement, it is assumed that children will have aged off coverage and will have \$0 liability.

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**OPEB liability** – The Fund reported an OPEB liability of approximately \$2.4 million in 2023 and \$2.8 million in 2022. The Fund's proportionate share of the OPEB liability was 5.63% and 5.46% for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively. Based on the actuarial valuation date of January 1, 2023, details regarding the Fund's total OPEB liability, plan fiduciary net position, and net OPEB liability as of December 31, are shown below.

	Total OPEB Liability at December 31,	
	2023	2022
Changes recognized for the fiscal year:		
Service cost	\$ 200,438	\$ 246,558
Interest on the total OPEB liability	67,271	84,822
Differences between expected and actual experience	-	(875,278)
	-	
Changes of assumptions	(450,575)	(85,002)
Benefit payments	(137,043)	(166,016)
Other changes	(38,211)	23,114
Net changes	(358,120)	(771,802)
Balance recognized at December 31, 2022	2,764,770	3,536,572
Balance recognized at December 31, 2023	\$ 2,406,650	\$ 2,764,770

The Fund recorded an expense for OPEB of \$51,476 in 2023 and \$169,620 in 2022. The Health Care Subfund of the General Fund is reported in The City of Seattle's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.

**Discount rate and healthcare cost trend rates** – The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability is 3.72% for 2023 and 2.06% for 2022. The following tables present the sensitivity of net OPEB liability calculation to a 1% increase and a 1% decrease in the discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability:

	Discount Rate Sensitivity	
	OPEB Liability at December 31,	
	2023	2022
Discount rate		
1% decrease	\$ 2,669,747	\$ 3,048,463
Current discount rate	2,406,650	2,764,770
1% increase	2,168,313	2,504,455

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The following table presents the sensitivity of net Health Plan OPEB liability calculation to a 1% increase and a 1% decrease in the health care cost trend rates used to measure the total health plan OPEB liability:

		Healthcare Cost Trend Rate Sensitivity	
		OPEB Liability at December 31,	
		2023	2022
Discount rate			
1% decrease	\$	2,078,685	\$ 2,412,835
Current trend rate		2,406,650	2,764,770
1% increase		2,797,256	3,185,117

**Deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB** – The following table presents information about the OPEB-related deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources for the Fund at December 31, 2023:

	Deferred Outflows	Deferred Inflows
Difference between actual and expected experience	\$ 408,400	\$ 672,971
Assumption changes	136,137	1,104,362
Contributions made in 2023 after measurement date	138,100	-
Total	<u>\$ 682,637</u>	<u>\$ 1,777,333</u>

The following table presents information about the OPEB-related deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources for the Fund at December 31, 2022:

	Deferred Outflows	Deferred Inflows
Difference between actual and expected experience	\$ 541,280	\$ 780,448
Assumption changes	160,598	933,177
Contributions made in 2022 after measurement date	133,053	N/A
Total	<u>\$ 834,931</u>	<u>\$ 1,713,625</u>

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The Fund's contributions made in 2023 in the amount of \$138,100 are reported as deferred outflows of resources and will be recognized as a reduction of the net OPEB liability in the year ended December 31, 2024. Other inflows and outflows related to OPEB will be recognized in the future as shown in the following table. Note that additional future deferred outflows and inflows of resources may impact these amounts.

Year Ending December 31,	<u>Amortization</u>
2024	\$ (201,300)
2025	(201,300)
2026	(201,300)
2027	(156,036)
2028	(135,294)
Thereafter	<u>(337,566)</u>
Total	<u>\$ (1,232,796)</u>

The Health Care Subfund of the General Fund is reported in the City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report which can be obtained by writing the Department of Finance, City of Seattle, PO Box 94747, Seattle, WA 98124-4747 or [www.seattle.gov/investor-relations](http://www.seattle.gov/investor-relations).

**Note 6 – Claims Payable**

The City and the Fund are self-insured for certain losses arising from personal and property damage claims by third parties and for casualty losses to the Fund's property. Liabilities for identified claims and claims incurred but not reported have been recorded by the Fund.

For 2023 and 2022, liabilities for workers' compensation claims, as well as other claims, are discounted over a 15-year period at the City's rate of return on investments of 3.12% and 1.725%, respectively. Claims expected to be paid within one year are \$2,907,466 and \$2,843,964 as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively.

The schedules below present the changes in the liability for workers' compensation claims and other claims (risk financing liabilities) as of December 31:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Beginning liability, discounted	\$ 11,915,192	\$ 11,058,067
Payments	(3,745,172)	(2,745,388)
Incurred claims and change in estimate	<u>4,664,593</u>	<u>3,602,513</u>
Ending liability, discounted	<u>\$ 12,834,613</u>	<u>\$ 11,915,192</u>

The Fund is involved in litigation from time to time as a result of operations.

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**Note 7 – Compensated Absences**

The Fund has recorded a liability for earned but unused compensatory and vacation leave, as well as estimated sick leave payments calculated based on the termination payment method. The schedules below show the compensated absences activity during the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022:

	2023	2022
Beginning liability	\$ 6,864,509	\$ 6,834,443
Additions	6,791,576	6,260,100
Reductions	<u>(6,641,493)</u>	<u>(6,230,034)</u>
Ending liability	<u>\$ 7,014,592</u>	<u>\$ 6,864,509</u>

**Note 8 – Pension Benefit Plan**

**Plan description** – The Seattle City Employees' Retirement System (the System) is a cost-sharing multiple employer pension plan covering employee of the City of Seattle and is administered in accordance with Chapter 4.36 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

The System is governed by the Retirement System Board of Administration (the Board). The Board consists of seven members including the Chair of the Finance Committee of the Seattle City Council, the City of Seattle Finance Director, the City of Seattle Personnel Director, two active members and one retired member of the System who are elected by other System members, and one outside board member who is appointed by the other six board members. Elected and appointed board members serve for three-year terms.

Beginning with employees with hire dates of January 1, 2017 or later, all new members are enrolled in SCERS Plan II, which has contribution and benefit calculation rates different than the original SCERS I Plan.

All permanent Fund employees are eligible to participate in the system.

**System benefits** – Service retirement benefits are calculated on the basis of age, salary, and service credit.

**SCERS I** – The System provides retirement, death, and disability benefits. Retirement benefits vest after five years of credited service, while death and disability benefits vest after 10 years of service. Members are eligible for retirement benefits after 30 years of service; at age 52 after 20 years of service; at age 57 after 10 years of service; and at age 62 after five years of service. Annual retirement benefits are calculated as 2% multiplied by years of creditable service, multiplied by average salary, based on the highest 24 consecutive months, excluding overtime. Members who retire before meeting the age and/or years of service requirement receive a 0.1% reduction for each year that retirement precedes the date of eligibility. Retirement benefits vest after five years of credited service.

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**SCERS II** – Members are eligible for retirement benefits at age 55 after 20 years of service, at age 57 after 10 years of service, and at age 60 after 5 years of service. Annual retirement benefits are calculated as 1.75% multiplied by years of creditable service, multiplied by average salary, based on the highest 60 consecutive months, excluding overtime. Members who retire before meeting the age and/or years of service requirement receive a 0.1% reduction for each year that retirement precedes the date of eligibility. Retirement benefits vest after five years of credited service.

Member and employer contributions – member and employer contributions are:

	YEAR	SCERS I	SCERS II
Member contribution	2023	10.03%	7.00%
	2022	10.03%	7.00%
Employer contribution	2023	15.91%	15.56%
	2022	16.20%	15.72%

Member and employer rates are established by the Seattle Municipal Code Chapter 4.36. The Fund's contributions to the System for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, were \$9,411,900 and \$9,355,334 , respectively.

The System issues stand-alone financial statements, which may be obtained by writing to the Seattle City Employees' Retirement System, 720 Third Avenue, Suite 900, Seattle, Washington, 98104, and telephone: (206) 386-1293, or email at [retirecity@seattle.gov](mailto:retirecity@seattle.gov) or <https://www.seattle.gov/retirement/forms-and-publications/publications>.

**Pension liabilities, pension expense, and deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions** – At December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Fund reported a liability of \$90,297,843 and \$44,885,251, respectively, of its proportionate share of the System's net pension liability. The net pension liability was measured as of December 31, 2022 and 2021, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of those dates. The Fund's proportion of the net pension liability was based on a projection of the City's long-term share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the projected contributions of all participating parties, actuarially determined. At December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Fund's proportion was 6.96% and 6.94%, respectively.

For the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Fund recognized pension expense of approximately \$13,187,000 and \$1,073,000, respectively.

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The Fund's deferred outflows and inflows of resources are as follows at December 31, 2023:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 140,991	\$ 1,132,225
Change of assumptions	5,685,901	-
Difference between projected and actual earnings	18,395,996	
Contributions made subsequent to measurement date	9,411,900	-
Changes in proportion and differences between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions	<u>-</u>	<u>1,068,687</u>
Total	<u><u>\$ 33,634,788</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 2,200,912</u></u>

The Fund's deferred outflows and inflows of resources are as follows at December 31, 2022:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 208,115	\$ 1,232,721
Change of assumptions	8,911,665	-
Difference between projected and actual earnings	-	28,958,580
Contributions made subsequent to measurement date	9,355,334	-
Changes in proportion and differences between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions	<u>1,214,189</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	<u><u>\$ 19,689,303</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 30,191,301</u></u>

Other amounts currently reported as deferred outflows and inflows of resources will be recognized in pension expense as follows for years ending December 31:

2024	\$ 360,491
2025	3,790,908
2026	7,784,972
2027	10,483,014
2028	<u>(397,409)</u>
Total	<u><u>\$ 22,021,976</u></u>



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**Actuarial assumptions** – The total pension liability as of December 31, 2023, was determined using the following actuarial assumptions:

Valuation date	January 1, 2022
Measurement date	December 31, 2022
Actuarial cost method	Individual Entry Age Normal
Amortization method	Level Percent, Closed
Remaining amortization period	30 years as of January 1, 2013 valuation
Asset valuation method	5-Year Non-asymptotic
Inflation	2.60%
Investment rate of return	6.75% compounded annually, net of expenses
Discount rate	6.75%
Projected general wage inflation	2.6%
Postretirement benefit increases	1.5%
Mortality	Various rates based on PubG-2010 mortality tables and using generational projection of improvement using MP-2021 Ultimate projection scale. See 2022 Investigation of Experience report for details.

The actuarial assumptions that determined the total pension liability as of the measurement date were based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2021.

The discount rate used to measure the pension liability is based on a projection of cash flows assuming that plan member contributions will be made at the current contribution rate and that participating employer contributions will be made at rates equal to the difference between actuarially determined contribution rates and the member rate. Based on those assumptions, the System's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods on projected benefit payment to determine total pension liability.

The long-term expected rate of return assumption was based on the System's investments using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation.

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Best estimates of geometric real rates of return for each major asset class included in the System's target asset allocation as of December 31, 2022, are summarized in the following table:

Asset Class	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return
Equity: Public	4.90%
Equity: Private	7.50%
Fixed Income: Broad	2.10%
Fixed Income: Credit	5.30%
Real Assets: Real Estate	3.00%
Real Assets: Infrastructure	4.40%

**Sensitivity analysis** – The following presents the Fund's proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the discounted rate of 6.75%, as well as what the employer's proportionate share of the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (5.75%) or one percentage point higher (7.75%) than the current rate.

1% Decrease 5.75%	Current Discount Rate 6.75%	1% Increase 7.75%
\$ 128,957,736	90,297,842	\$ 57,965,226

**Note 9 – Environmental Liabilities**

Following is a brief description of the significant sites that require environmental remediation:

**Lower Duwamish Waterway (LDW) Superfund site** – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has indicated that it will require the remediation of the LDW site under its Superfund authority. In order to manage the liability, the City has worked with the EPA and other PRPs to complete a Remedial Investigation (RI) and Feasibility Study (FS). On November 2, 2012, the EPA and Ecology approved the Lower Duwamish Waterway Group's FS. The EPA announced their proposed cleanup plan in February 2013 for public comment. The remaining scope of cleanup by PRPs has been decided by the EPA in the 2014 Record of Decision. The Fund recorded an estimate of its share of the estimated total cost. Remedial design work began in 2019.

Specific "early action sites" have been cleaned up separately under Administrative Orders on Consent (AOC). The Fund, together with other PRPs, has completed two early action sites identified during the RI under EPA issued AOC: Slip 4 and T-117.

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**East Waterway Site** – In 2006 the EPA issued an AOC for a Supplemental RI and FS for the East Waterway, an operable unit of the Harbor Island Superfund Site. The Port of Seattle (the Port) alone signed the AOC. Both the City and King County signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Port to participate as cost share partners in the RI/FS work required by the EPA. The RI and FS are complete. The FS identifies a range of alternatives for cleanup construction that range in cost from \$256 million to \$411 million (2016 dollars). EPA released their Proposed Plan in 2023. The Record of Decision is expected in late 2024. Remedial design activities would start in late 2025 at the earliest. The Fund recorded an estimate of its share of the estimated total cost.

**Gas Works Park Sediment Site** – In April 2002, the Department of Ecology (DOE) named the City and another party, Puget Sound Energy, as PRPs for contamination at the Gas Works Sediments Site in North Lake Union. The City and Puget Sound Energy signed an Agreed Order with the DOE in 2005 to initiate two RIs and FSs for the sediment site: one in the western portion of the site led by the City, and another in the eastern portion of the site led by Puget Sound Energy. Subsequently, in fall of 2012, the City and Puget Sound Energy entered into a Settlement, Release, and Cost Allocation Agreement that puts Puget Sound Energy in the lead for all additional cleanup work at the site and eliminated the east-west split. Based on the 2012 Agreement, the City pays for 20% of the Shared Costs incurred by Puget Sound Energy for the cleanup work. DOE approved the site RI/FS in January 2023. A Clean-up Action Plan, which is the State's equivalent to a Record of Decision under the Model Toxics Control Act, was developed in 2023 and, will be an exhibit to a Consent Decree for design and construction of the sediment cleanup. The Consent Decree is expected in early 2024.

**North Boeing Field/Georgetown Steam Plant** – The City, King County, and Boeing have signed an Administrative Order with the DOE requiring them to investigate and possibly remove contamination in an area that encompasses North Boeing Field, the Georgetown Steam Plant, and the King County Airport. A RI is currently in preparation.

**Terminal 108** – EPA notified the City in 2019 that it is a Potentially Responsible Party for a site adjacent to the Lower Duwamish Waterway that is known as Terminal 108 or T108. The City's potential liability arises from a former sewage treatment plant that was located there. Other PRPs include the Port of Seattle, which is the current owner of the site, King County, the United States and several private entities. In 2020, the Port of Seattle, City of Seattle (SPU), and King County entered into an agreed Administrative Order with EPA and a cost-sharing agreement among themselves to complete an Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis (EE/CA). Work has begun on the investigative phase of the EE/CA at the T108 site in accordance with the Administrative Order, which will lead to a recommended removal or cleanup action. Preparation of the draft EE/CA report is expected to begin in late 2024 and continue into 2025. Liabilities are estimated through the EE/CA. The Department's ultimate liability is indeterminate.

**South Park Marina** – The Washington Department of Ecology notified the City in 2016 that it is a Potentially Liable Party for contamination at the South Park Marina, which is adjacent to Terminal 117. The City Light Department is the lead department for the City at this site. The Potentially Liable Parties (PLPs), which are the City, the Port, and South Park Marina (SPM), signed a final Agreed Order for a Remedial Investigation (RI) in April 2019. A Common Interest and Cost Sharing Agreement among the PLPs was signed in 2019 with an interim cost share of one-third each. In 2019, the City contracted with a consultant to complete the RI. The City's share is split between City Light (97.5%) and SPU (2.5%). The Department's ultimate liability is indeterminate.

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The Fund has included in its estimated liability those portions of the environmental remediation work that are currently deemed to be reasonably estimable. Cost estimates were developed using the expected cash flow technique in accordance with GASB 49. For most of the sites, estimated outlays were based on current cost and no adjustments were made for discounting or inflation. The Duwamish site cost estimates were adjusted to remove discounting and to record the costs in 2023 dollars. Cost scenarios were developed for a given site based on data available at the time of estimation and will be adjusted for changes in circumstance. Scenarios consider the relevant potential requirements and are adjusted when benchmarks are met or when new information revises estimated outlays, such as changes in the remediation plan or operating conditions. Costs reflect cost-sharing agreements in effect. In addition, certain estimates were derived from independent engineers and consultants. The estimates were made with the latest information available; however, as new information becomes available, estimates may vary significantly due to scope changes, price fluctuations, technological advances, or applicable laws.

The Fund is aggressively pursuing other third parties that may have contributed to the contamination of the sites noted. The Fund's estimate for not yet realized recoveries from other parties for their share of remediation work that offset the Fund's estimated environmental liability was \$3.6 million as of December 31, 2023, and \$3.2 million as of December 31, 2022.

The following changes in the provision for environmental liabilities at December 31 are:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Beginning environmental liability, net of recovery	\$ 215,604,015	\$ 184,898,577
Payments or amortization	(5,233,517)	(3,707,994)
Incurred environmental liability	<u>62,359,237</u>	<u>34,413,432</u>
Ending environmental liability, net of recovery	<u><u>\$ 272,729,735</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 215,604,015</u></u>

The following table represents the current and long term portions for the environmental liabilities:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Environmental liability, current	\$ 6,884,332	\$ 3,665,776
Environmental liability, noncurrent	<u>265,845,403</u>	<u>211,938,239</u>
Ending liability	<u><u>\$ 272,729,735</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 215,604,015</u></u>

**Note 10 – Loans**

The Fund has various construction projects that are financed by low interest loans issued by the State of Washington. The loan agreements require that the Fund finance a portion of these projects from other sources. These loans have been used to enhance the drainage system.

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In 2019, the Fund entered into a 20-year loan agreement with the Washington State Department of Ecology to borrow up to \$25.0 million to support the Ship Canal Water Quality Project. Amounts borrowed under this agreement accrue interest at the rate of 2.0% per annum and are to be repaid by June 2042. As of December 31, 2022, the Fund had drawn \$23.3 million on the loan. The final draw of \$0.3 million was completed on April 26, 2022, bringing the final loan balance to \$24 million with accrued interest. As of December 31, 2023, the loan had an outstanding balance of \$22.5 million.

In 2020, the Fund entered into a 20-year loan agreement with the Washington State Department of Commerce Public Work Board to borrow up to \$10 million for Pearl Street Drainage & Wastewater Improvement. Amounts borrowed under this agreement accrue interest at the rate of 1.58%. As of December 31, 2022, the Fund had drawn \$8.9 million on the loan. As of December 31, 2023, the loan had an outstanding balance of \$8.8 million.

In 2020 the Fund entered into a 30-year loan agreement with the United States Environmental Protection Agency to borrow up to \$192 million (N18106WA) to support the Ship Canal Water Quality Project. Amounts borrowed under this agreement accrue interest at a rate of 1.01% per annum. As of December 31, 2023 the Fund has drawn \$34.2 million on the loan.

In 2021, the Fund entered into a 20-year loan agreement with the Washington State Department of Ecology to borrow up to \$66.0 million (EL210276 and EL210311) to support the Ship Canal Water Quality Project. In 2022, this was amended for an additional \$59.0 million (EL220699 and EL220700). Amounts borrowed under this agreement accrue interest at the rate of 1.2% per annum. As of December 31, 2023, the Fund had drawn \$125.0 million on the loan.

Loans outstanding as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, are as follows:

Description	Maturity Years	Interest Rate	Amount Borrowed	Loans Outstanding	
				2023	2022
Midvale	2013-2031	0.25%	\$ 4,000,000	\$ 1,694,165	\$ 1,905,936
Thornton Creek Natural Drainage Systems	2006-2024	0.50%	3,700,000	195,882	391,765
High Point Natural Drainage Systems	2010-2029	1.50%	2,679,413	830,473	974,248
South Park Flood Control and Local Drainage Program	2007-2025	0.50%	3,400,000	394,246	591,368
Thornton Creek Water Quality Project	2011-2030	1.50%	6,983,021	2,567,269	2,940,499
Capital Hill Water Quality Project	2014-2033	2.60%	1,880,598	1,091,625	1,185,994
Henderson CSO	2018-2037	2.40%	36,372,252	26,616,241	28,266,065
Pearl Street	2021-2039	1.58%	10,000,000	8,803,004	8,174,143
Ship Canal Water Quality Project				0	
EL190167 SRF	2022-2024	2.00%	23,967,096	22,520,346	23,516,493
EL210276 SRF	2025-2044	1.20%	38,365,000	38,365,000	38,355,000
EL210311 SRF	2025-2044	1.20%	27,635,000	27,635,000	27,635,000
EL220699 SRF	2025-2044	1.20%	27,631,000	27,631,000	8,074,371
EL220700 SRF	2025-2044	1.20%	31,369,000	31,369,000	-
N18106WA WIFIA	2023-2055	1.01%	34,238,280	34,238,280	-
			<u>\$ 252,220,660</u>	<u>\$ 223,951,531</u>	<u>\$ 142,010,882</u>

**Seattle Public Utilities – Drainage and Wastewater Fund**  
**(An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle)**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**

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Minimum debt service requirements to maturity on long term loans are as follows:

Years Ending December 31,	Principal	Interest	Total
2024	\$ 4,482,740	\$ 1,580,531	\$ 6,063,271
2025	9,922,465	3,031,481	12,953,946
2026	10,848,864	2,881,928	13,730,792
2027	11,001,953	2,720,992	13,722,945
2028	11,157,631	2,557,467	13,715,098
2029 - 2033	55,572,006	10,295,969	65,867,975
2034 - 2038	54,139,519	6,097,587	60,237,106
2039 - 2043	44,894,634	2,681,468	47,576,102
2044 - 2048	12,996,091	697,635	13,693,726
2049 - 2053	6,318,134	324,907	6,643,041
2054 - 2058	2,617,494	39,721	2,657,215
	<u>\$ 223,951,531</u>	<u>\$ 32,909,686</u>	<u>\$ 256,861,217</u>

The following table shows the loan activity during the years ended December 31:

	2023	2022
Net loans, beginning of year	\$ 142,010,882	\$ 101,344,496
Loan proceeds	86,283,601	44,414,597
Principal payments	<u>(4,342,952)</u>	<u>(3,748,211)</u>
Net loans, end of year	<u>\$ 223,951,531</u>	<u>\$ 142,010,882</u>
Loans due within one year	<u>\$ 4,482,740</u>	<u>\$ 4,342,952</u>
Loans, noncurrent	<u>\$ 219,468,791</u>	<u>\$ 137,667,930</u>

**Note 11 – Wastewater Disposal Agreement**

The Fund has a wastewater disposal agreement with the King County Department of Natural Resources Wastewater Treatment Division (the Division), which expires in 2036. The monthly wastewater disposal charge paid to the Division is based on the Division's budgeted cost for providing the service. The charges are determined by water consumption and the number of single-family residences as reported by SPU and other component agencies. Payments made by the Fund were \$186,991,467 and \$170,521,806 for fiscal years 2023 and 2022, respectively.

## **Required Supplementary Information**

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**Seattle Public Utilities – Drainage and Wastewater Fund**  
**(An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle)**  
**Required Supplementary Information**

**Schedule of Seattle Public Utilities’ Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability**

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Employer’s proportion of the net pension liability	14.21%	14.76%	14.62%	14.33%	14.55%	14.73%	15.13%	16.37%	16.96%
Employer’s proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$214,988,644	\$122,309,887	\$143,163,797	\$180,105,232	\$221,049,893	\$163,086,154	\$197,454,529	\$212,671,200	\$187,919,945
Employer’s covered payroll	\$127,869,634	\$126,830,347	\$127,584,358	\$112,528,955	\$111,973,027	\$107,715,383	\$106,696,535	\$105,031,141	\$102,783,473
Employer’s proportionate share of the net pension liability as a percentage of its covered payroll	168.13%	96.44%	112.21%	160.05%	197.41%	151.40%	185.06%	202.48%	182.83%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	70.63%	83.31%	78.81%	71.48%	64.14%	72.04%	65.60%	64.03%	67.70%

**Schedule of Seattle Public Utilities’ Contributions**

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Contractually required employer contribution	\$ 20,632,427	\$ 20,589,068	\$ 20,654,175	\$ 17,041,133	\$ 17,103,559	\$ 16,466,270	\$ 16,354,089	\$ 16,487,154	\$ 15,170,276
Contributions in relation to the contractually required employer contribution	(20,632,427)	(20,589,068)	(20,654,175)	(17,041,133)	(17,103,559)	(16,466,270)	(16,354,089)	(16,487,154)	(15,170,276)
Employer contribution deficiency (excess)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Employer’s covered payroll	\$127,869,634	\$126,830,347	\$127,584,358	\$112,528,955	\$111,973,027	\$107,715,383	\$106,696,535	\$105,031,141	\$102,783,273
Employer contributions as a percentile of covered payroll	16.14%	16.23%	16.19%	15.14%	15.27%	15.29%	15.33%	15.70%	14.76%

See report of independent auditors.



**Seattle Public Utilities – Drainage and Wastewater Fund**  
**(An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle)**  
**Required Supplementary Information**

**Schedule of Seattle Public Utilities' Proportionate Share of the OPEB Liability and Related Ratios**

	December 31, 2023	December 31, 2022	December 31, 2021	December 31, 2020	December 31, 2019	December 31, 2018
<b>Total OPEB Liability</b>						
Normal cost	\$ 3,563,210	\$ 4,514,549	\$ 4,015,249	\$ 3,378,925	\$ 3,842,152	\$ 3,821,876
Interest	1,195,910	1,553,119	1,813,401	2,586,942	2,195,238	2,583,105
Differences between expected and actual experience	-	(16,026,625)	-	6,956,579	-	13,491,865
Changes in assumptions	(8,009,946)	(1,556,412)	3,738,597	(7,760,776)	(3,886,702)	(22,126,128)
Benefit payment	(2,436,239)	(3,039,800)	(2,933,774)	(2,484,320)	(2,333,610)	(2,289,000)
Total OPEB liability – beginning of year	55,702,565	70,257,734	63,624,261	60,946,911	61,129,833	65,648,115
Total OPEB liability – end of year	<u>\$ 50,015,500</u>	<u>\$ 55,702,565</u>	<u>\$ 70,257,734</u>	<u>\$ 63,624,261</u>	<u>\$ 60,946,911</u>	<u>\$ 61,129,833</u>
 Covered-employee payroll	 \$ 1,145,862,502	 \$ 1,145,862,502	 \$ 1,124,692,046	 \$ 1,124,692,046	 \$ 1,015,097,334	 \$ 1,015,097,334
 Net OPEB liability as percentage of covered-employee payroll	 4.36%	 4.86%	 6.25%	 5.66%	 6.00%	 6.02%

## **Other Information (Unaudited)**

**Seattle Public Utilities – Drainage and Wastewater Fund**  
**(An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle)**  
**Other Information (Unaudited)**

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**Drainage Wastewater Debt Service Coverage Calculation 2023**

<b>Operating Revenues</b>	
Wastewater	\$ 348,412,047
Drainage	187,646,374
Other	<u>6,875,116</u>
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>	<u>542,933,537</u>
<b>Operating Expense</b>	
Wastewater Treatment Contract	189,409,659
Other Operations and Maintenance	150,599,390
City Taxes	64,158,046
Other Taxes	<u>7,948,428</u>
<b>Total Operating Expenses Before Debt Service</b>	<u>412,115,523</u>
<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<u>130,818,014</u>
<b>Adjustments</b>	
Add: Claim Expense	4,664,593
Add: City Taxes	64,158,046
Add: Investment Interest	14,025,309
Less: DSRF Earnings	(933,928)
Add: BAB's Subsidy	1,476,901
Add (Less): Net Other Nonoperating Revenues/(Expenses)	1,485,215
Add: Proceeds from Sale of Assets	<u>1,113</u>
<b>Total Adjustments</b>	<u>84,877,249</u>
<b>Net Revenue Available for Debt Service</b>	<u><u>\$ 215,695,263</u></u>
<b>Net Revenue Available for Debt Service (w/o City Taxes)</b>	<u><u>\$ 151,537,217</u></u>
Annual Debt Service	\$ 62,035,900
Less: DSRF Earnings	<u>(933,928)</u>
<b>Adjusted Annual Debt Service</b>	<u><u>\$ 61,101,972</u></u>
Coverage	3.53
Coverage without taxes	2.48

See report of independent auditors.

**Seattle Public Utilities – Drainage and Wastewater Fund**  
**(An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle)**  
**Other Information (Unaudited)**

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**Statistics Required for Revenue Bond Continuing Disclosure**

**Wastewater System Operating Statistics**

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Population Served	724,144	737,015	742,400	762,500	779,200
Billed Wastewater Revenues (\$1,000's)	\$ 303,935	\$ 302,829	\$ 324,630	\$ 337,634	\$ 350,340
Billed Wastewater Volume (Thousand CCF)					
Residential	7,723	7,851	7,867	7,429	7,332
Commercial	<u>13,554</u>	<u>11,995</u>	<u>12,127</u>	<u>12,818</u>	<u>13,262</u>
Total	21,277	19,846	19,994	20,247	20,594
Gallons Used Per Day Per Capita	60.18	55.15	55.16	54.38	54.13

**Drainage and Wastewater – 2023 Accounts and Billed Revenues**

	<u>Drainage</u>	<u>Wastewater</u>
<b>Customer Accounts</b>		
Residential	158,143	158,431
Commercial	<u>68,266</u>	<u>19,418</u>
Total	<u>226,409</u>	<u>177,849</u>
	<u>Drainage</u>	<u>Wastewater</u>
<b>Billed Revenue</b>		
Residential	\$ 95,206,463	\$ 112,786,605
Commercial	<u>90,519,726</u>	<u>237,545,628</u>
Total	<u>\$ 185,726,189</u>	<u>\$ 350,332,233</u>

See report of independent auditors.

**Seattle Public Utilities – Drainage and Wastewater Fund**  
**(An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle)**  
**Other Information (Unaudited)**

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**Major Wastewater Customers – 2023 Annual Billed Revenues and Percentage of Revenue**

Name	Revenue	% of Total Revenue
University of Washington	\$ 9,400,766	2.7%
Seattle Housing Authority	8,480,516	2.4%
City of Seattle	4,499,245	1.3%
Equity Residential	3,166,448	0.9%
Marriott	2,662,873	0.8%
Port of Seattle	2,209,272	0.6%
King County	2,159,342	0.6%
Darigold	1,861,200	0.5%
Hyatt	1,660,664	0.5%
Bellwether Housing	1,566,896	0.4%

**Major Drainage Customers – 2023 Annual Billed Revenues and Percentage of Revenue**

Name	Revenue	% of Total Revenue
City of Seattle	\$ 12,220,585	7.0%
King County	3,920,987	2.2%
Seattle Public Schools	3,833,510	2.2%
University Of Washington	3,184,170	1.8%
BNSF	2,858,844	1.6%
Federal Government	1,266,064	0.7%
Seattle Housing Authority	1,260,050	0.7%
Union Pacific	1,078,532	0.6%
Archdiocese Of Seattle	741,722	0.4%
The Boeing Company	662,646	0.4%

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See report of independent auditors.

**Seattle Public Utilities – Drainage and Wastewater Fund**  
**(An Enterprise Fund of the City of Seattle)**  
**Other Information (Unaudited)**

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**Wastewater Rates**

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Volume rate per ccf	\$ 14.48	\$ 15.55	\$ 16.67	\$ 17.01	\$ 17.63	\$ 18.30

Note: 1 CCF equals 748 gallons. Wastewater rate increased 3.6% and 2.0% in 2023 and 2022, respectively.

**Drainage Rates**

Flat Rate per Parcel	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>% Impervious Space</u>
Single Family Residential*								
0-1,999 sq. ft.	\$ 159.68	\$ 169.81	\$ 183.47	\$ 195.57	\$ 204.21	\$ 216.23	\$ 229.93	
2,000 - 2,999 sq. ft.	\$ 259.68	\$ 276.51	\$ 298.75	\$ 320.58	\$ 337.13	\$ 356.90	\$ 379.58	
3,000 - 4,999 sq. ft.	\$ 356.15	\$ 383.43	\$ 414.26	\$ 445.25	\$ 465.91	\$ 493.22	\$ 524.59	
5,000 - 6,999 sq. ft.	\$ 480.86	\$ 516.72	\$ 558.27	\$ 599.94	\$ 632.67	\$ 669.75	\$ 712.36	
7,000 - 9,999 sq. ft.	\$ 603.90	\$ 652.61	\$ 705.09	\$ 757.69	\$ 797.99	\$ 844.75	\$ 898.51	
Rate per 1,000 sq. ft.								
Undeveloped								0 - 15%
Regular	\$ 38.78	\$ 42.62	\$ 46.05	\$ 49.49	\$ 53.68	\$ 56.83	\$ 60.44	
Low Impact	\$ 23.06	\$ 25.36	\$ 27.40	\$ 29.45	\$ 31.11	\$ 32.93	\$ 35.02	
Light								16 - 35%
Regular	\$ 59.24	\$ 63.64	\$ 68.75	\$ 73.92	\$ 79.66	\$ 84.33	\$ 89.69	
Low Impact	\$ 46.74	\$ 49.85	\$ 53.85	\$ 57.87	\$ 61.92	\$ 65.55	\$ 69.72	
Medium								36 - 65%
Regular	\$ 85.45	\$ 90.58	\$ 97.86	\$ 105.15	\$ 112.87	\$ 119.48	\$ 127.08	
Low Impact	\$ 69.28	\$ 73.31	\$ 79.21	\$ 85.00	\$ 91.20	\$ 96.54	\$ 102.68	
High	\$ 112.57	\$ 119.86	\$ 129.50	\$ 139.17	\$ 149.12	\$ 157.85	\$ 167.91	66 - 85%
Very High	\$ 134.85	\$ 143.10	\$ 154.60	\$ 165.81	\$ 177.83	\$ 188.24	\$ 200.23	86 - 100%

\* SFR parcels more than 10,000 sq. ft. are billed under the commercial rate structure.



**Report of Independent Auditors on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with *Government Auditing Standards***

To the Director of Seattle Public Utilities  
Drainage and Wastewater Fund  
Seattle, Washington

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of Seattle Public Utilities – Drainage and Wastewater Fund (the Fund) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated April 26, 2024.

**Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Fund's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fund's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fund's internal control.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.



## **Report on Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Fund's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

## **Purpose of this Report**

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Moss Adams LLP".

Seattle, Washington  
April 26, 2024