Seatle City Council Select Budget Committee

Councilmember Budget Proposals| Tuesday, October 27, 2026

Seattle City Light (SCL)

Number	Title	Sponsor	Packet Page
SCL-001-A-1	Increase SCL by $40,000 GF (2027) and $40,000 GF (2028) to support SCL property lease in Ballard for a community garden	Strauss	2

2027-2028 COUNCIL BUDGET ACTION

V1

SCL-001-A

Increase SCL by $40,000 GF (2027) and $40,000 GF (2028) to support SCL property lease in Ballard for a community garden

SPONSORS

Dan Strauss, Joy Hollingsworth, Debora Juarez

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Fund	2027 Increase (Decrease)	2028 Increase (Decrease)
General Fund	$(40,000)	$(40,000)
Total Budget Balance Effect	$(40,000)	$(40,000)

CENTRAL STAFF SUMMARY

This CBA would increase appropriations to Seattle City Light (SCL) by $40,000 GF in 2027 and $40,000 GF in 2028 to support leasing costs for the former Market Street Substation site at 2826 Market Street. The lease would be with an existing community group for a garden. SCL is legally required to spend the utility's funds and manage its property in service of the rate payers. SCL purchased this property with rate-payer funds for rate-payer purposes, so SCL cannot allow the property to be used for free or at the cost of its payers. Another fund source is needed to pay SCL the rent for the property.

SCL would require the following terms on the lease for a community garden:

1) All plants grown in planters elevated above the ground and in clean soil not originating from the site;
2) Temporary (month-to-month) use permit with a 30-day cancellation provision;
3) Public benefit (that is, the lessee would be non-profit and community users will have access to the space);
4) Use is non-exclusive (meaning SCL can enter if needed), and
5) Mutual and offsetting benefits

"Mutual and offsetting benefits" means that the community group would be taking on stewardship of the site on behalf of SCL. Stewardship would include litter clean-up, site activation, and similar work.

SCL estimates that the rent would be $36,000 per year ($3,000 per month). The user would need to assume responsibility for any utilities. SCL would be required to increase the rent if the market conditions changed.

ATTACHMENT: No

TRANSACTIONS - ONGOING

2027-2028 COUNCIL BUDGET ACTION

Dept	BSL	BCL	Year	Revenue	Expenditure
SCL	Leadership and Administration	00100-BO-CL-A	2027		$40,000
SCL	Leadership and Administration	00100-BO-CL-A	2028		$40,000