

Public Storage
Form 424B5
November 27, 2012
Table of Contents

**Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5)
Registration Statement No. 333-185000**

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

(To Prospectus dated November 16, 2012)

Public Storage

712,400 Common Shares

PSAC Development Partners, L.P. (the selling shareholder), an affiliate of Public Storage, is offering for resale up to 712,400 of Public Storage's common shares of beneficial interest, \$0.10 par value per share (the common shares). The common shares that may be sold under this prospectus supplement were previously acquired by the selling shareholder in open market share purchases.

These sales, if any, will be made pursuant to the terms of an equity distribution agreement among the selling shareholder, Public Storage and Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, as sales agent or principal (the Sales Agent).

The selling shareholder will pay the Sales Agent a fee of \$0.06 per share for any common shares sold by the Sales Agent. Subject to the terms and conditions of the equity distribution agreement and in accordance with the instructions provided by the selling shareholder, the Sales Agent will use its commercially reasonable efforts to sell common shares on behalf of the selling shareholder. The offering of common shares pursuant to the equity distribution agreement will terminate upon the earlier of (1) the sale of all the common shares subject to the equity distribution agreement or (2) the termination of the equity distribution agreement, pursuant to its terms, by the Sales Agent, the selling shareholder or mutual agreement of the parties.

Under the terms of the equity distribution agreement, the selling shareholder also may sell common shares to the Sales Agent, as principal for its own respective account, at a price per share to be agreed upon at the time of sale. If the selling shareholder sells shares to the Sales Agent, acting as principal, the selling shareholder, Public Storage and the Sales Agent will enter into a separate terms agreement setting forth the terms of such transaction, and Public Storage will describe the terms agreement in a separate prospectus supplement or pricing supplement.

The common shares are listed and traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol PSA. On November 26, 2012, the last reported sale price of the common shares on the NYSE was \$145.30.

You should read this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus as well as additional information described under **Where You Can Find More Information** beginning on page S-ii of this prospectus supplement.

INVESTING IN THE COMMON SHARES INVOLVES RISKS THAT ARE DESCRIBED IN DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE INTO THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT AND THE ACCOMPANYING PROSPECTUS. SEE RISK FACTORS BEGINNING ON PAGE S-2 OF THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT AND IN OUR MOST RECENT ANNUAL REPORT ON FORM 10-K FOR INFORMATION THAT YOU SHOULD CONSIDER BEFORE PURCHASING THE COMMON SHARES OFFERED BY THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved the securities to be issued under this prospectus or determined if this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus is accurate or adequate. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

BofA Merrill Lynch

The date of this Prospectus Supplement is November 26, 2012

Table of Contents

Unless otherwise indicated or unless the context requires otherwise, all references in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus to the Company, we, us, our and similar references mean Public Storage and its subsidiaries. All references to the selling shareholder mean PSAC Development Partners, L.P.

You should rely only on the information contained in or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. Neither we nor the selling shareholder nor the Sales Agent have authorized any other person to provide you with different or additional information. If anyone provides you with different or additional information, you should not rely on it. The selling shareholder and we are not, and the Sales Agent is not, making an offer to sell the shares in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should assume that the information appearing in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, including the documents incorporated herein by reference, is accurate only as of their respective dates. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates. When the selling shareholder or the Sales Agent delivers this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus or makes a sale pursuant to this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus, neither we nor the selling shareholder nor the Sales Agent are implying that the information is current as of the date of the delivery or sale.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>	S-ii
<u>PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT SUMMARY</u>	S-1
<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	S-2
<u>FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	S-2
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	S-3
<u>SELLING SHAREHOLDER</u>	S-3
<u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u>	S-3
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	S-5
<u>EXPERTS</u>	S-5

PROSPECTUS

<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>	2
<u>FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	4
<u>THE COMPANY</u>	5
<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	6
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	7
<u>SELLING SHAREHOLDER</u>	8
<u>DESCRIPTION OF PUBLIC STORAGE SHARES OF BENEFICIAL INTEREST</u>	9
<u>CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF MARYLAND LAW AND THE PUBLIC STORAGE DECLARATION OF TRUST AND BYLAWS</u>	19
<u>MATERIAL U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS</u>	24
<u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u>	48
<u>LEGAL OPINIONS</u>	50
<u>EXPERTS</u>	50

This prospectus supplement is a supplement to the accompanying prospectus. If information in this prospectus supplement is inconsistent with the accompanying prospectus, this prospectus supplement will apply and supersede the information in the accompanying prospectus. It is

Edgar Filing: Public Storage - Form 424B5

important for you to read and carefully consider all information contained in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. You should also read and carefully consider the information in the documents to which we have referred you in **Where You Can Find More Information** beginning on page S-ii of this prospectus supplement.

S-i

Table of Contents

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We are subject to the reporting requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and are required to file annual, quarterly and special reports with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC). You may read and copy any of these documents at the SEC public reference rooms at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You may telephone the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on SEC public reference facilities. The SEC also maintains a website at <http://www.sec.gov> that contains the reports, proxy and prospectus and other information that we and other registrants file electronically with the SEC. You also can inspect reports and other information filed by us at the offices of the New York Stock Exchange, 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005.

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are a part of a registration statement on Form S-3 filed with the SEC to register offers and sales of the securities described in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus under the Securities Act. The registration statement contains additional information about us and the securities. You may obtain the registration statement and its exhibits from the SEC as indicated above or from us.

The SEC allows us to provide information about our business and other important information to you by incorporating by reference the information we file with the SEC, which means that we can disclose that information to you by referring in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus to the documents we file with the SEC. Under SEC regulations, any statement contained in a document incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus is automatically updated and superseded by any information contained in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, or in any subsequently filed document of the types described below.

We incorporate into this prospectus supplement by reference the following documents filed with the SEC by us, each of which should be considered an important part of this prospectus:

SEC Filing	Period Covered or Date of Filing
Annual Report on Form 10-K	Year ended December 31, 2011 (filed on February 27, 2012)
Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q	Quarters ended March 31, 2012 (filed on May 7, 2012); June 30, 2012 (filed on August 6, 2012); and September 30, 2012 (filed on November 8, 2012)
Current Reports on Form 8-K	Filed on January 5, 2012; January 9, 2012; March 5, 2012; March 7, 2012; March 27, 2012; May 3, 2012 (solely in respect of information filed pursuant to Items 5.07 and 8.01 therein); June 7, 2012; June 13, 2012; July 27, 2012; September 10, 2012; September 11, 2012; September 13, 2012; and November 8, 2012 (solely in respect of information filed pursuant to Item 8.01 therein)
The portions of our Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A that are incorporated by reference in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011	Filed March 23, 2012
Description of the common shares contained in its Current Report on Form 8-K(12B), filed June 6, 2007, as supplemented by the description contained in this prospectus	
All subsequent documents filed by Public Storage under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act of 1934 (other than those furnished pursuant to Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 of Form 8-K or other information furnished to the SEC)	After the date of this prospectus and before the termination of the offering

Table of Contents

You may request a copy of each of our filings at no cost, by writing or telephoning us at the following address, telephone or facsimile number:

Investor Services Department

Public Storage

701 Western Avenue

Glendale, California 91201-2349

Telephone: (800) 421-2856

(818) 244-8080

Facsimile: (818) 241-0627

Exhibits to a document will not be provided unless they are specifically incorporated by reference in that document.

S-iii

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT SUMMARY

This summary highlights selected information about us. It may not contain all the information that may be important to you in deciding whether to invest in the common shares. You should read this entire prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, together with the information incorporated by reference, including the risk factors, financial data and related notes, before making an investment decision.

About Public Storage

We are a fully integrated, self-administered and self-managed real estate investment trust, or REIT, that primarily acquires, develops, owns and operates storage facilities. Our storage properties are located in 38 states and seven Western European nations. At September 30, 2012, we had interests in 2,069 storage facilities with approximately 132 million net rentable square feet in the United States (U.S.) and 189 storage facilities with approximately 10 million net rentable square feet in Europe. We also own a 41% common equity interest in PS Business Parks, Inc. (NYSE:PSB) which owned and operated approximately 28.2 million rentable square feet of commercial space, primarily flex, multitenant office and industrial space, at September 30, 2012.

We elected to be taxed as a REIT beginning with our 1981 taxable year. So long as we continue to qualify as a REIT, we will not be taxed, with certain limited exceptions, on the net income that we distribute currently to our shareholders. We were incorporated in California in 1980 and reorganized as a Maryland real estate investment trust in June 2007. Our principal executive offices are located at 701 Western Avenue, Glendale, California 91201-2349. Our telephone number is (818) 244-8080.

The Offering

Issuer	Public Storage, a Maryland real estate investment trust
Common Shares Offered	712,400 Shares
Selling Shareholder	PSAC Development Partners, L.P.
Use of Proceeds	The selling shareholder expects to distribute to Public Storage substantially all of the net proceeds from the sales it makes from time to time of the common shares. Public Storage expects to use the proceeds for general business purposes, which may include property acquisitions and repurchases of its preferred and common shares.
Risk Factors	Investing in the common shares involves risk. You should carefully consider the information under Risk Factors beginning on page S-2 of the prospectus supplement, page 5 of the accompanying prospectus, and in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and the other information included or incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus before investing in the common shares.
New York Stock Exchange Symbol	PSA
Transfer Agent and Registrar	Computershare Trust Company, N.A.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

Before investing in the common shares, you should carefully consider the risks disclosed in the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, including (i) those described under the caption "Risk Factors" in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011, (ii) our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2012, June 30, 2012 and September 30, 2012, and (iii) documents we file with the SEC after the date of this prospectus supplement and which are deemed incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement. See "Where You Can Find More Information" beginning on page S-ii of this prospectus supplement for an explanation of how to get a copy of these documents. Although we discuss key risks in those risk factor descriptions, additional risks not currently known to us or that we currently deem immaterial also may impair our business. We cannot predict future risks or estimate the extent to which they may affect our financial performance. The trading price of our securities could decline due to the materialization of any of these risks, and you may lose all or part of your investment.

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus supplement includes or incorporates by reference forward-looking statements within the meaning of the federal securities laws. All statements in this document, other than statements of historical fact, are forward-looking statements which may be identified by the use of the words expects, believes, anticipates, plans, would, should, may, estimates and similar expressions. These forward-looking statements are subject to known and unknown risks and uncertainties, which may cause Public Storage's actual results and performance to be materially different from those expressed or implied in the forward-looking statements. As a result, you should not rely on any forward-looking statements in this prospectus supplement, or which management may make orally or in writing from time to time, as predictions of future events nor guarantees of future performance. We caution you not to place undue reliance on forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date of this report or as of the dates indicated in the statements. All of our forward-looking statements, including those in this prospectus supplement, are qualified in their entirety by this statement.

Factors and risks that may impact Public Storage's future results and performance include, but are not limited to, those described in Item 1A, "Risk Factors" in Public Storage's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011 and Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2012, June 30, 2012 and September 30, 2012 and in future filings with the SEC and include the following:

general risks associated with the ownership and operation of real estate including changes in demand, potential liability for environmental contamination, natural disasters and adverse changes in laws and regulations governing property tax, real estate and zoning;

risks associated with downturns in the national and local economies in the markets in which we operate, including risks related to current economic conditions and the economic health of our tenants;

the impact of competition from new and existing self-storage and commercial facilities and other storage alternatives;

difficulties in our ability to successfully evaluate, finance, integrate into our existing operations and manage acquired and developed properties;

risks associated with international operations including, but not limited to, unfavorable foreign currency rate fluctuations, and local and global economic uncertainty that could adversely affect our earnings and cash flows;

risks related to our participation in joint ventures;

Table of Contents

the impact of the regulatory environment as well as national, state, and local laws and regulations including, without limitation, those governing environmental, tax and tenant insurance matters and real estate investment trusts (REITs), and risks related to the impact of new laws and regulations;

risk of increased tax expense associated either with a possible failure by us to qualify as a REIT, or with challenges to intercompany transactions with our taxable REIT subsidiaries;

disruptions or shutdowns of our automated processes and systems or breaches of our data security;

difficulties in raising capital at a reasonable cost; and

economic uncertainty due to the impact of war or terrorism.

These factors, as well as changes in the real estate markets and the general economy, could cause future events and actual results to differ materially from those set forth or contemplated in the forward-looking statements. Public Storage undertakes no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information or otherwise. In light of these risks, uncertainties and assumptions, the forward-looking events discussed in this prospectus supplement or in the incorporated documents might not occur and actual results could be substantially different than expected.

USE OF PROCEEDS

The selling shareholder expects to distribute to Public Storage substantially all of the net proceeds from the sales it makes from time to time of the common shares. Public Storage expects to use the distributions for general business purposes, which may include property acquisitions and repurchases of its preferred and common shares. Pending application of the net proceeds as described above, the selling shareholder and Public Storage expect that the net proceeds realized from sales of the common shares will be deposited in interest-bearing accounts or invested in certificates of deposit, U.S. government obligations or other short-term, high-quality debt instruments selected in the discretion of the selling shareholder or Public Storage.

SELLING SHAREHOLDER

The selling shareholder is an affiliate of Public Storage and owns 712,400 common shares. The common shares were acquired in open market purchases between April 2000 and June 2005. The selling shareholder was established in 1999 as a development joint venture between Public Storage and two third-party investors to develop and own approximately 20 self-storage properties. It is expected that the selling shareholder will sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of all of the common shares it owns pursuant to the equity distribution agreement. See Plan of Distribution.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

Public Storage and the selling shareholder have entered into an equity distribution agreement with the Sales Agent under which the selling shareholder may offer and sell up to 712,400 common shares from time to time through the Sales Agent as sales agent or as principal. Sales of common shares to which this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus relate, if any, will be made by means of ordinary brokers transactions on the NYSE, negotiated transactions or as otherwise agreed between the selling shareholder and the Sales Agent.

The Sales Agent will offer and sell, on behalf of the selling shareholder, common shares, subject to the terms and conditions of the equity distribution agreement, on a daily basis or as otherwise agreed upon by the selling shareholder and the Sales Agent. The selling shareholder will provide instructions to the Sales Agent with respect to the manner of distribution of the common shares. The selling shareholder will designate the maximum amount of common shares to be sold through the Sales Agent on a daily basis or otherwise determine such maximum amount together with the Sales Agent. Subject to the terms and conditions of the equity distribution agreement and in accordance with the instructions provided by the selling shareholder, the Sales Agent will use its commercially reasonable efforts to sell common shares on behalf of the selling shareholder. The selling shareholder may instruct

Table of Contents

the Sales Agent not to sell common shares if the sales cannot be effected at or above the price designated by the selling shareholder in any such instruction. The selling shareholder or the Sales Agent may suspend this offering of common shares under the equity distribution agreement upon proper notice to the other parties.

The selling shareholder will pay the Sales Agent a fee of \$0.06 per share for any common shares sold by the Sales Agent. The selling shareholder expects to distribute to Public Storage substantially all of the net proceeds of any such sales of common shares.

Settlement for sales of the common shares will occur, unless the parties agree otherwise, on the third business day following the date on which any sales are made. On or prior to each settlement date, the shares will be delivered through the book-entry facilities of The Depository Trust Company or by such other means of delivery as may be agreed by the parties, in return for payment of the proceeds from the sale of such shares. There is no arrangement for funds to be received in an escrow, trust or similar arrangement.

Public Storage will report quarterly the number of common shares sold by the selling shareholder through or to the Sales Agent pursuant to the equity distribution agreement, the net proceeds to the selling shareholder and the compensation paid by the selling shareholder to the Sales Agent with respect to such sales of common shares.

Under the terms of the equity distribution agreement, the selling shareholder also may sell common shares to the Sales Agent, as principal for its own respective account, at a price per share to be agreed upon at the time of sale. If the selling shareholder sells shares to the Sales Agent, acting as principal, the selling shareholder, Public Storage and the Sales Agent will enter into a separate terms agreement setting forth the terms of such transaction, and Public Storage will describe the terms agreement in a separate prospectus supplement or pricing supplement.

In connection with the sale of common shares on behalf of the selling shareholder, the Sales Agent may be deemed to be an underwriter within the meaning of the Securities Act, and the compensation paid to the Sales Agent may be deemed to be underwriting commissions or discounts. Public Storage has agreed, under the equity distribution agreement, to provide indemnification and contribution to the Sales Agent against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act.

The Sales Agent and its affiliates have performed investment banking and advisory services for Public Storage from time to time for which it has received customary fees and expenses. The Sales Agent and its affiliates may also, from time to time, engage in transactions with and perform services for Public Storage in the ordinary course of their business.

In addition, in the ordinary course of their business activities, the Sales Agent and its affiliates may make or hold a broad array of investments and actively trade debt and equity securities (or related derivative securities) and financial instruments (including bank loans) for their own account and for the accounts of their customers. Such investments and securities activities may involve securities and/or instruments of Public Storage or its affiliates. The Sales Agent or its affiliates that have a lending relationship with Public Storage routinely hedge their credit exposure to us consistent with their customary risk management policies. Typically, the Sales Agent or its affiliates would hedge such exposure by entering into transactions which consist of either the purchase of credit default swaps or the creation of short positions in Public Storage's securities. The Sales Agent and its affiliates may also make investment recommendations and/or publish or express independent research views in respect of such securities or financial instruments and may hold, or recommend to clients that they acquire, long and/or short positions in such securities and instruments. The lenders under Public Storage's credit facility also include Bank of America, N.A., an affiliate of the Sales Agent.

We estimate that the total expenses of this offering payable by the selling shareholder will be approximately \$125,000.

The offering of common shares pursuant to the equity distribution agreement will terminate upon the earlier of (1) the sale of all the common shares subject to the equity distribution agreement or (2) the termination of the equity distribution agreement, pursuant to its terms, by the Sales Agent, the selling shareholder or mutual agreement of the parties.

Table of Contents

LEGAL MATTERS

Certain legal matters relating to the offering of the common shares by the selling shareholder will be passed upon for Public Storage by Hogan Lovells US LLP, and for the Sales Agent by Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, Los Angeles, California. Hogan Lovells US LLP and Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP have each from time to time represented Public Storage and its affiliates on unrelated matters.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of Public Storage appearing in Public Storage's Annual Report (Form 10-K) for the year ended December 31, 2011 (including the schedule appearing therein), and the effectiveness of Public Storage's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2011, have been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, as set forth in their reports thereon included therein, and incorporated herein by reference. Such consolidated financial statements and schedule are incorporated herein by reference in reliance upon such reports given on the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

Table of Contents

Prospectus

Public Storage

712,400 Common Shares

PSAC Development Partners, L.P. (the selling shareholder), an affiliate of Public Storage, is offering for resale up to 712,400 of our common shares of beneficial interest, \$0.10 par value per share. The common shares were previously acquired by the selling shareholder in open market share purchases.

The selling shareholder will receive the net proceeds from its sale of the common shares and will pay expenses incurred to register the common shares. See **Selling Shareholder** beginning on page 8 of this prospectus. The common shares may be offered from time to time by the selling shareholder directly or through agents or broker-dealers on prices and terms to be determined at the time of sale, as described in the section entitled **Plan of Distribution** beginning on page 48 of this prospectus.

Our common shares are listed and traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol **PSA**. On November 15, 2012, the last reported sale price of our common shares on the NYSE was \$144.25.

Our principal executive offices are located at 701 Western Avenue, Glendale, California, 91201-2349, and our telephone number there is (818) 244-8080.

INVESTING IN OUR SECURITIES INVOLVES RISKS. SEE RISK FACTORS BEGINNING ON PAGE 6 OF THIS PROSPECTUS FOR INFORMATION THAT YOU SHOULD CONSIDER BEFORE PURCHASING THE COMMON SHARES OFFERED BY THIS PROSPECTUS.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved the securities to be issued under this prospectus or determined if this prospectus is accurate or adequate. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

November 16, 2012

Table of Contents

Unless otherwise indicated or unless the context requires otherwise, all references in this prospectus to the Company, we, us, our and similar references mean Public Storage and its subsidiaries. All references to the selling shareholder mean PSAC Development Partners, L.P.

You should rely only on the information contained in or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement. Neither we nor the selling shareholder have authorized anyone to provide you with different information. The securities are not being offered in any state where the offer is not permitted. The information contained in or incorporated by reference in this prospectus is accurate only as of the date on the front of this prospectus. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since that date.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>	2
<u>FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	4
<u>THE COMPANY</u>	5
<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	6
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	7
<u>SELLING SHAREHOLDER</u>	8
<u>DESCRIPTION OF PUBLIC STORAGE SHARES OF BENEFICIAL INTEREST</u>	9
<u>CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF MARYLAND LAW AND THE PUBLIC STORAGE DECLARATION OF TRUST AND BYLAWS</u>	19
<u>MATERIAL U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS</u>	24
<u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u>	48
<u>LEGAL OPINIONS</u>	50
<u>EXPERTS</u>	50

(i)

Table of Contents

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

Public Storage is subject to the reporting requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and is required to file annual, quarterly and special reports with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC). You may read and copy any of these documents at the SEC public reference rooms at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You may telephone the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on SEC public reference facilities. The SEC also maintains a website at <http://www.sec.gov> that contains the reports, proxy and prospectus and other information that we and other registrants file electronically with the SEC. You also can inspect reports and other information filed by Public Storage at the offices of the New York Stock Exchange, 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005.

This prospectus is a part of a registration statement on Form S-3 filed with the SEC to register under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, resales of Public Storage's common shares of beneficial interest, par value \$0.10 per share. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the common shares the selling shareholder will offer and does not contain all the information set forth in the registration statement because certain parts of the registration statement are omitted as provided by the rules and regulations of the SEC. The registration statement contains additional information about us and the securities. You may obtain the registration statement and its exhibits from the SEC as indicated above or from us.

The SEC allows Public Storage to provide information about its business and other important information to you by incorporating by reference the information it files with the SEC, which means that Public Storage can disclose that information to you by referring in this prospectus to the documents it files with the SEC. Under SEC regulations, any statement contained in a document incorporated by reference in this prospectus is automatically updated and superseded by any information contained in this prospectus, or in any subsequently filed document of the types described below.

Public Storage incorporates into this prospectus by reference the following documents filed with the SEC by Public Storage, each of which should be considered an important part of this prospectus:

SEC Filing	Period Covered or Date of Filing
Annual Report on Form 10-K	Year ended December 31, 2011 (filed on February 27, 2012)
Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q	Quarters ended March 31, 2012 (filed on May 7, 2012); June 30, 2012 (filed on August 6, 2012); and September 30, 2012 (filed on November 8, 2012)
Current Reports on Form 8-K	Filed on January 5, 2012; January 9, 2012; March 5, 2012; March 7, 2012; March 27, 2012; May 3, 2012 (solely in respect of information filed pursuant to Items 5.07 and 8.01 therein); June 7, 2012; June 13, 2012; July 27, 2012; September 10, 2012; September 11, 2012; September 13, 2012; and November 8, 2012 (solely in respect of information filed pursuant to Item 8.01 therein)
The portions of our Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A that are incorporated by reference in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012	Filed March 23, 2012
Description of Public Storage's common shares of beneficial interest contained in its Current Report on Form 8-K(12B), filed June 6, 2007, as supplemented by the description contained in this prospectus	

Table of Contents

All subsequent documents filed by Public Storage under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act of 1934 (other than those furnished pursuant to Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 of Form 8-K or other information furnished to the SEC) After the date of this prospectus and before the termination of the offering
The SEC has assigned file number 1-33519 to the reports and other information that Public Storage files with the SEC.

You may request a copy of each of the filings of Public Storage at no cost, by writing or telephoning Public Storage at the following address, telephone or facsimile number:

Investor Services Department

Public Storage

701 Western Avenue

Glendale, California 91201-2349

Telephone: (800) 421-2856

Facsimile: (818) 244-8080

(818) 241-0627

Exhibits to a document will not be provided unless they are specifically incorporated by reference in that document. You may also find more information concerning Public Storage at the following Internet address: www.publicstorage.com.

You should rely only on the information in this prospectus or incorporated into this prospectus. Neither Public Storage nor the selling shareholder has authorized anyone else to provide you with different information. The selling shareholder is not making an offer of its common shares in any state where the offer is not permitted. You should not assume that the information in this statement is accurate as of any date other than the date indicated.

Table of Contents

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus includes or incorporates by reference forward-looking statements within the meaning of the federal securities laws. All statements in this document, other than statements of historical fact, are forward-looking statements which may be identified by the use of the words expects, believes, anticipates, plans, would, should, may, estimates and similar expressions. These forward-looking statements are subject to known and unknown risks and uncertainties, which may cause Public Storage's actual results and performance to be materially different from those expressed or implied in the forward-looking statements. As a result, you should not rely on any forward-looking statements in this prospectus, or which management may make orally or in writing from time to time, as predictions of future events nor guarantees of future performance. We caution you not to place undue reliance on forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date of this report or as of the dates indicated in the statements. All of our forward-looking statements, including those in this report, are qualified in their entirety by this statement.

Factors and risks that may impact Public Storage's future results and performance include, but are not limited to, those described in Item 1A, Risk Factors in Public Storage's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011 and Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2012, June 30, 2012 and September 30, 2012 and in future filings with the SEC and include the following:

general risks associated with the ownership and operation of real estate including changes in demand, potential liability for environmental contamination, natural disasters and adverse changes in laws and regulations governing property tax, real estate and zoning;

risks associated with downturns in the national and local economies in the markets in which we operate, including risks related to current economic conditions and the economic health of our tenants;

the impact of competition from new and existing self-storage and commercial facilities and other storage alternatives;

difficulties in our ability to successfully evaluate, finance, integrate into our existing operations and manage acquired and developed properties;

risks associated with international operations including, but not limited to, unfavorable foreign currency rate fluctuations, and local and global economic uncertainty that could adversely affect our earnings and cash flows;

risks related to our participation in joint ventures;

the impact of the regulatory environment as well as national, state, and local laws and regulations including, without limitation, those governing environmental, tax and tenant insurance matters and real estate investment trusts (REITs), and risks related to the impact of new laws and regulations;

risk of increased tax expense associated either with a possible failure by us to qualify as a REIT, or with challenges to intercompany transactions with our taxable REIT subsidiaries;

disruptions or shutdowns of our automated processes and systems or breaches of our data security;

Edgar Filing: Public Storage - Form 424B5

difficulties in raising capital at a reasonable cost; and

economic uncertainty due to the impact of war or terrorism.

These factors, as well as changes in the real estate markets and the general economy, could cause future events and actual results to differ materially from those set forth or contemplated in the forward-looking statements. We undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information or otherwise. In light of these risks, uncertainties and assumptions, the forward-looking events discussed in this prospectus or in the incorporated documents might not occur and actual results could be substantially different than expected.

Table of Contents

THE COMPANY

We are a fully integrated, self-administered and self-managed real estate investment trust, or REIT, that primarily acquires, develops, owns and operates storage facilities. Our storage properties are located in 38 states and seven Western European nations. At September 30, 2012, we had interests in 2,069 storage facilities with approximately 132 million net rentable square feet in the United States (U.S.) and 189 storage facilities with approximately 10 million net rentable square feet in Europe. We also own a 41% common equity interest in PS Business Parks, Inc. (NYSE:PSB) which owned and operated approximately 28.2 million rentable square feet of commercial space, primarily flex, multitenant office and industrial space, at September 30, 2012.

We elected to be taxed as a REIT beginning with our 1981 taxable year. So long as we continue to qualify as a REIT, we will not be taxed, with certain limited exceptions, on the net income that we distribute currently to our shareholders. We were incorporated in California in 1980 and reorganized as a Maryland real estate investment trust in June 2007. Our principal executive offices are located at 701 Western Avenue, Glendale, California 91201-2349. Our telephone number is (818) 244-8080.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

Before investing in the common shares, you should carefully consider the risks disclosed in the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement, including (i) those described under the caption "Risk Factors" in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011, (ii) our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2012, June 30, 2012 and September 30, 2012, and (iii) documents we file with the SEC after the date of this prospectus and which are deemed incorporated by reference in this prospectus.

Table of Contents

USE OF PROCEEDS

The selling shareholder expects to distribute to Public Storage substantially all of the net proceeds from the sales it makes from time to time of the common shares. Public Storage expects to use the proceeds for general business purposes, which may include property acquisitions and repurchases of its preferred and common shares. Pending application of the net proceeds as described above, the selling shareholder and Public Storage expect that the net proceeds realized from sales of the common shares will be deposited in interest bearing accounts or invested in certificates of deposit, U.S. government obligations or other short-term, high-quality debt instruments selected in the discretion of the selling shareholder or Public Storage.

Table of Contents

SELLING SHAREHOLDER

The selling shareholder is an affiliate of Public Storage and owns approximately 712,400 common shares. The common shares were acquired in open market purchases between April 2000 and June 2005. The selling shareholder was established in 1999 as a development joint venture between Public Storage and two third-party investors to develop and own approximately 20 self-storage properties. It is expected that the selling shareholder will sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of all of the common shares it owns. See Plan of Distribution.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF PUBLIC STORAGE SHARES OF BENEFICIAL INTEREST

For purposes of the following discussion concerning Public Storage shares of beneficial interest, references to our , we and us mean Public Storage and not its subsidiaries and affiliates.

Common Shares

We are authorized to issue up to 650,000,000 common shares of beneficial interest, par value \$0.10 per share. At November 14, 2012, we had outstanding 171,652,840 common shares (excluding common shares issuable upon conversion of convertible shares of beneficial interest and common shares subject to options).

Holders of our common shares will be entitled to receive distributions when, as and if declared by our board of trustees, out of funds legally available for distribution. If we fail to pay distributions on our outstanding preferred shares of beneficial interest, par value \$0.01 per share (Preferred Shares), generally we may not pay distributions on or repurchase our common shares. If we were to liquidate, dissolve or wind up our affairs, holders of common shares will be entitled to share equally and ratably in any assets available for distribution to them, after payment or provision for payment of our debts and other liabilities and the preferential amounts owing with respect to any of our outstanding Preferred Shares. Holders of common shares have no preemptive rights, which means they have no right to acquire any additional common shares that we may issue at a later date. Our outstanding common shares are fully paid and non-assessable.

The holders of our common shares are entitled to cast one vote for each share on all matters presented to our holders for a vote. Our declaration of trust permits cumulative voting for the election of trustees, subject to compliance with the notice requirements for the exercise of cumulative voting rights that are set forth in our bylaws. Cumulative voting means that each holder of our common shares is entitled to cast as many votes as there are trustees to be elected multiplied by the number of common shares registered in his or her name. A holder of our common shares may cumulate the votes for trustees by casting all of the votes for one candidate or by distributing the votes among as many candidates as he or she chooses.

The rights, preferences and privileges of holders of our common shares are subject to, and may be adversely affected by, the rights of the holders of shares of any series of our Preferred Shares or equity shares of beneficial interest which are outstanding or which we may designate and issue in the future. See Description of Preferred Shares and Description of Equity Shares.

Preferred Shares

We are authorized to issue up to 100,000,000 Preferred Shares. Preferred Shares may be issued from time to time in one or more series and give our board of trustees broad authority to fix the dividend and distribution rights, conversion and voting rights, if any, redemption provisions and liquidation preferences of each series of Preferred Shares. Holders of our outstanding Preferred Shares have no preemptive rights. Our outstanding Preferred Shares are fully paid and nonassessable.

We have in the past made, and expect that we will continue in the future to make, public offerings of depositary shares representing interests in a series of our Preferred Shares. At November 15, 2012, we had outstanding 11 series of Preferred Shares. Each series (1) has a stated value of \$25.00 per share or depositary share as applicable, (2) provides for cumulative quarterly distributions calculated as a percentage of the stated value (ranging from 5.375% to 6.875% per year) in preference to the holders of our common shares, and (3) is subject to redemption after a specified date, in whole or in part, at our option at a cash redemption price of \$25.00 per share or depositary share as applicable, plus accrued and unpaid distributions.

Table of Contents

The following table shows the series of Preferred Shares that are currently outstanding, including the distribution rate and date upon which such shares first are subject to redemption at our option:

	Distribution Rate	Date First Redeemable
Depository Shares Representing 1/1,000 of a 6.250% Cumulative Preferred Share, Series Z \$.01 par value	6.25%	March 5, 2009
Depository Shares Representing 1/1,000 of a 6.125% Cumulative Preferred Share, Series A \$.01 par value	6.125%	March 31, 2009
Depository Shares Representing 1/1,000 of a 6.180% Cumulative Preferred Share, Series D \$.01 par value	6.180%	February 28, 2010
Depository Shares Representing 1/1,000 of a 6.875% Cumulative Preferred Share, Series O \$.01 par value	6.875%	April 15, 2015
Depository Shares Representing 1/1,000 of a 6.500% Cumulative Preferred Share, Series P \$.01 par value	6.50%	October 7, 2015
Depository Shares Representing 1/1,000 of a 6.500% Cumulative Preferred Share, Series Q \$.01 par value	6.50%	April 4, 2016
Depository Shares Representing 1/1,000 of a 6.350% Cumulative Preferred Share, Series R \$.01 par value	6.35%	July 26, 2016
Depository Shares Representing 1/1,000 of a 5.900% Cumulative Preferred Share, Series S \$.01 par value	5.90%	January 12, 2017
Depository Shares Representing 1/1,000 of a 5.750% Cumulative Preferred Share, Series T \$.01 par value	5.75%	March 13, 2017
Depository Shares Representing 1/1,000 of a 5.625% Cumulative Preferred Share, Series U \$.01 par value	5.625%	June 15, 2017
Depository Shares Representing 1/1,000 of a 5.375% Cumulative Preferred Share, Series V \$.01 par value	5.375%	September 20, 2017

Ranking. The Preferred Shares of each series rank, with respect to distribution rights and rights upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs:

(1) senior to our common shares, any future equity shares and any future series of Preferred Shares ranking junior to the outstanding Preferred Shares; and

(2) on a parity with all other Preferred Shares issued or reserved for issuance in the future.

Distributions. Holders of Preferred Shares of a particular series are entitled to receive, when, as and if declared by our board of trustees, out of our assets legally available for payment, cash distributions at the respective rates and on the respective dates as set forth in the articles supplementary relating to such series. Each distribution will be payable to holders of record as they appear on our share transfer books on the record dates fixed by our board of trustees.

Distributions on the Preferred Shares are cumulative from and after the date of issuance or most recent payment date. No distributions (other than in common shares or other shares of beneficial interest ranking junior to the Preferred Shares as to distributions and upon liquidation) will be declared or paid or set aside for payment (nor will any other distribution be declared or made upon our common shares, or any of our other shares of beneficial interest ranking junior to or on a parity with the Preferred Shares as to distributions or upon liquidation), nor will any common shares or any other of our shares of beneficial interest ranking junior to or on a parity with the Preferred Shares as to distributions or upon liquidation be redeemed, purchased or otherwise acquired for any consideration (or any moneys be paid to or made available for a sinking fund for the redemption of any such shares) by us (except by conversion into or exchange for our other shares of beneficial interest ranking junior to the Preferred Shares as to distributions and upon liquidation) unless full cumulative distributions on the Preferred Shares have been or contemporaneously are declared and paid or declared and a sum set apart for payment for all past distribution periods and the then current distribution period.

Table of Contents

Any distribution made on shares of a series of cumulative Preferred Shares will first be credited against the earliest accrued but unpaid distribution due with respect to shares which remains payable.

Redemption. The Preferred Shares are subject to redemption at our option, in whole or in part, beginning on the respective dates shown on the table above. The Preferred Shares also are subject to redemption at our option, in whole or in part, if the board of trustees determines in good faith that such redemption, is necessary to maintain the company's status as a REIT for tax purposes. The redemption price may be payable in cash, securities or other property, as specified in the articles supplementary relating to each outstanding series of Preferred Shares.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, no Preferred Shares of any series will be redeemed and we will not purchase or otherwise acquire directly or indirectly any Preferred Shares of that series (except by conversion into or exchange for our shares of beneficial interest ranking junior to the Preferred Shares of that series as to distributions and upon liquidation) unless full cumulative distributions on the Preferred Shares of that series will have been or contemporaneously are declared and paid or declared and a sum sufficient for payment for all past distribution periods and the then current distribution period is set apart.

If fewer than all of the outstanding Preferred Shares of any series are to be redeemed, the number of shares to be redeemed will be determined by us and these shares must be redeemed pro rata from the holders of record of these shares in proportion to the number of these shares held by such holders (with adjustments to avoid redemption of fractional shares) or any other equitable method determined by us.

Notice of redemption will be mailed at least 30 days but not more than 60 days before the redemption date to each holder of record of Preferred Shares of any series to be redeemed at the address shown on our share transfer books. Each notice will state:

- (1) the redemption date;
- (2) the number of shares and series of the Preferred Shares to be redeemed;
- (3) the redemption price;
- (4) the place or places where certificates for such Preferred Shares are to be surrendered for payment of the redemption price; and
- (5) that distributions on the Preferred Shares to be redeemed will cease to accrue on the redemption date.

If fewer than all the Preferred Shares of any series are to be redeemed, the notice mailed to each holder will also specify the number of Preferred Shares to be redeemed from the holder and, upon redemption, a new certificate will be issued representing the unredeemed shares without cost to the holder. To facilitate the redemption of Preferred Shares, our board of trustees may fix a record date for the determination of Preferred Shares to be redeemed. The record date may not be less than 30 or more than 60 days before the date fixed for redemption.

If notice has been given as provided above, unless we default in providing funds for the payment of the redemption price on that date, then from and after the redemption date all distributions on the Preferred Shares called for redemption will cease. From and after the redemption date, unless we default, all rights of the holders of our Preferred Shares of such series, except the right to receive the redemption price (but without interest), will cease.

Subject to applicable law and the limitation on purchases when distributions on Preferred Shares are in arrears, we may, at any time and from time to time, purchase any Preferred Shares in the open market, by tender or by private agreement.

Table of Contents

Liquidation Preference. If we voluntarily or involuntarily liquidate, dissolve or wind-up our affairs, then, before we make any distribution or payment to the holders of any common shares or any other class or series of our shares of beneficial interest ranking junior to the Preferred Shares in the distribution of assets upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, the holders of each series of Preferred Shares will be entitled to receive out of our assets legally available for distribution to shareholders liquidating distributions in the amount of the liquidation preference per share (set forth in the applicable articles supplementary relating to such series), plus an amount equal to all accrued and unpaid distributions. After payment of the full amount of the liquidating distributions to which they are entitled, the holders of Preferred Shares will have no right or claim to any of our remaining assets. In the event that, upon the voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up, our legally available assets are insufficient to pay the amount of the liquidating distributions on all outstanding Preferred Shares and the corresponding amounts payable on all shares of other classes or series of our shares of beneficial interest ranking on a parity with the Preferred Shares in the distribution of assets upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up, then the holders of the Preferred Shares and all other such classes or series of shares of beneficial interest will share ratably in any distribution of assets in proportion to the full liquidating distributions to which they would otherwise be respectively entitled.

If liquidating distributions have been made in full to all holders of Preferred Shares, our remaining assets will be distributed among the holders of any other classes or series of shares of beneficial interest ranking junior to the Preferred Shares upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up, according to their respective rights and preferences and in each case according to their respective number of shares. For these purposes, our consolidation or merger with or into any other corporation, or the sale, lease, transfer or conveyance of all or substantially all of our property or business, will not be deemed to constitute a liquidation, dissolution or winding up.

Voting Rights. Holders of the Preferred Shares do not have any voting rights, except as set forth below or as otherwise expressly required by law or as indicated in the applicable articles supplementary.

If six quarterly distributions payable on any series of Preferred Shares are in default (whether or not declared or consecutive), the holders of all the series of Preferred Shares, voting as a single class with all other series of Preferred Shares upon which similar voting rights have been conferred and are exercisable, will be entitled to elect two additional trustees until all distributions in default have been paid or declared and set apart for payment.

The right to vote separately to elect trustees will, when vested, be subject, always, to the same provisions for vesting of the right to elect trustees separately in the case of future distribution defaults. At any time when the right to elect trustees separately has vested, we may, and upon the written request of the holders of record of not less than 10% of our total number of Preferred Shares then outstanding will, call a special meeting of shareholders for the election of trustees. In the case of the written request, a special meeting will be held within 90 days after the delivery of the request and, in either case, at the place and upon the notice provided by law and in the bylaws. However, we will not be required to call a special meeting if the request is received less than 120 days before the date fixed for the next annual meeting of shareholders, and the holders of all classes of outstanding Preferred Shares are offered the opportunity to elect the trustees (or fill any vacancy) at the annual meeting of shareholders. Trustees so elected will serve until the next annual meeting of shareholders or until their respective successors are elected and qualify. If, before the end of the term of any trustee so elected, a vacancy in the office of the trustee occurs, during the continuance of a default, by reason of death, resignation, or disability, the vacancy will be filled for the unexpired term of the former trustee by the appointment of a new trustee by the remaining trustee or trustees so elected.

The affirmative vote or consent of the holders of at least 66 2/3% of the outstanding Preferred Shares will be required to amend or repeal any provision of, or add any provision to, our declaration of trust, including the articles supplementary, if this action would adversely alter or change the rights, preferences or privileges of the series of Preferred Shares.

Table of Contents

Our board of trustees will not, without the consent of holders of at least 66 2/3% of the outstanding Preferred Shares, voting as a single class, authorize another class of shares of beneficial interest senior to the Preferred Shares. No consent or approval of the holders of any series of Preferred Shares will be required for the issuance from our authorized but unissued Preferred Shares of other Preferred Shares of any series ranking on a parity with or junior to the Preferred Shares in question, or senior to a series of Preferred Shares expressly made junior to that series of Preferred Shares as to payment of distributions and distribution of assets, including other Preferred Shares of the same series.

These voting provisions will not apply if, at or prior to the time when the act with respect to which a vote would otherwise be required is effected, all outstanding Preferred Shares had been redeemed or called for redemption upon proper notice and sufficient funds had been deposited in trust to effect the redemption.

Equity Shares

We are authorized to issue up to 100,000,000 equity shares of beneficial interest, par value \$.01 per share, none of which are issued and outstanding as of November 15, 2012. Our declaration of trust provides that the equity shares may be issued from time to time in one or more series and give our board of trustees broad authority to fix the distribution, conversion and voting rights, redemption provisions and liquidation rights of each series of equity shares. Holders of equity shares will have no preemptive rights. The equity shares will be, if and when issued, fully paid and nonassessable.

Depositary Shares

Certain of our Preferred Shares are represented by depositary shares, each of which represents a fractional interest in a Preferred Share of a specified series as described in the applicable articles supplementary. The Preferred Shares represented by the depositary shares have been deposited with Computershare Trust Company, N.A., or other depositary, under a deposit agreement, among the depositary, the holders of the depositary receipts and us. Depositary receipts, which are certificates evidencing depositary shares, have been issued to evidence the depositary shares. The depositary is the transfer agent, registrar and dividend disbursing agent for the depositary shares. Holders of depositary receipts have agreed to be bound by the deposit agreement, which requires holders to take certain actions such as filing proof of residence and paying certain charges.

Distributions. The depositary will distribute all cash or other cash distributions received in respect of Preferred Shares represented by the depositary shares to the record holders of depositary receipts in proportion to the number of depositary shares owned by those holders on the relevant record date, which will be the same date as the record date fixed by us for the applicable series of Preferred Shares. The depositary, however, will distribute only an amount as can be distributed without attributing to any depositary share a fraction of one cent with any undistributed balance added to and treated as part of the next sum received by the depositary for distribution to record holders of depositary receipts then outstanding.

In the event of a distribution other than in cash, the depositary will distribute property received by it to the record holders of depositary receipts that are entitled to receive the distribution, in proportion, as nearly as may be practicable, to the number of depositary shares owned by those holders on the relevant record date, unless the depositary determines (after consultation with us) that it is not feasible to make the distribution. If this occurs, the depositary may (with our approval) sell the property and distribute the net proceeds from that sale to those holders or adopt another method of distribution as it deems equitable and appropriate.

Liquidation Rights. If we liquidate, dissolve or wind up our affairs, whether voluntarily or involuntarily, the holders of each depositary share will be entitled to the fraction of the liquidation amount accorded each share of the applicable series of Preferred Shares, as set forth in the applicable articles supplementary.

Table of Contents

Redemption. For all cases where series of Preferred Shares represented by that series of depositary shares is redeemable, those depositary shares will be redeemed from the proceeds received by the depositary resulting from the redemption, in whole or in part, of that series of Preferred Shares held by the depositary. Whenever we redeem any Preferred Shares held by the depositary, the depositary will redeem as of the same redemption date the number of depositary shares representing the Preferred Shares so redeemed. The depositary will mail the notice of redemption promptly upon receipt of such notice from us and not less than 30 nor more than 60 days prior to the date fixed for redemption of the Preferred Shares and the depositary shares to the record holders of the depositary receipts.

Voting. Promptly upon receipt of notice of any meeting at which the holders of Preferred Shares represented by the applicable series of depositary shares are entitled to vote, the depositary will mail the information contained in the notice of meeting to the record holders of the depositary receipts as of the record date for that meeting. Each record holder of depositary receipts will be entitled to instruct the depositary as to the exercise of the voting rights pertaining to the number of Preferred Shares represented by that record holder's depositary shares. The depositary will then try, as far as practicable, to vote the Preferred Shares represented by such depositary shares in accordance with those instructions, and we will agree to take all action which may be deemed necessary by the depositary in order to enable the depositary to do so. The depositary will not vote any of the Preferred Shares to the extent that it does not receive specific instructions from the holders of depositary receipts.

Withdrawal of Preferred Shares. Upon surrender of depositary receipts at the principal office of the depositary, upon payment of any unpaid amount due the depositary, and subject to the terms of the deposit agreement, the holder of the depositary shares evidenced by the depositary receipts is entitled to delivery of the number of whole Preferred Shares and all money and other property, if any, represented by those depositary shares. Partial Preferred Shares will not be issued. If the depositary receipts delivered by the holder evidence a number of depositary shares in excess of the number of depositary shares representing the number of whole Preferred Shares to be withdrawn, the depositary will deliver to that holder at the same time a new depositary receipt evidencing the excess number of depositary shares. Holders of withdrawn Preferred Shares will not be entitled to deposit those shares under the deposit agreement or to receive depositary receipts evidencing depositary shares.

Amendment and Termination of Deposit Agreement. The form of depositary receipt evidencing the depositary shares of any series and any provision of the deposit agreement may at any time be amended by agreement between the depositary and us. However, any amendment which materially and adversely alters the rights of the holders (other than any change in fees) of depositary shares representing Preferred Shares of any series will not be effective unless that amendment has been approved by the holders of at least a majority of the depositary shares of that series then outstanding. No such amendment may impair the right, subject to the terms of the deposit agreement, of any owner of any depositary shares to surrender the depositary receipt evidencing those depositary shares with instructions to the depositary to deliver to the holder the Preferred Shares and all money and other property, if any, represented by the depositary receipt, except in order to comply with mandatory provisions of applicable law. The deposit agreement may be terminated by the depositary or us only if:

- (1) all outstanding depositary shares have been redeemed or
- (2) there has been a final distribution in respect of the Preferred Shares in connection with our liquidation, dissolution or winding up and the distribution has been made to all the holders of depositary shares.

Charges of Depositary. We will pay all transfer and other taxes and governmental charges arising solely from the existence of the depositary arrangements. We have paid and will pay charges of the depositary in connection with the initial deposit of the Preferred Shares and the initial issuance of the depositary shares, and redemption of the Preferred Shares and all withdrawals of Preferred Shares by owners of depositary shares. Holders of depositary receipts will pay transfer, income and other taxes and governmental charges and those

Table of Contents

other charges as are provided in the deposit agreement to be for their accounts. In some circumstances, the depositary may refuse to transfer depositary shares, may withhold dividends and distributions and sell the depositary shares evidenced by the depositary receipt if the charges are not paid.

Miscellaneous. The depositary will forward to the holders of depositary receipts all reports and communications from us which are delivered to the depositary and which we are required to furnish to the holders of the Preferred Shares. In addition, the depositary will make available for inspection by holders of depositary receipts at the principal office of the depositary, and at other places as it may from time to time deem advisable, any reports and communications received from us which are received by the depositary as the holder of Preferred Shares. Neither the depositary nor we assume any obligation or liability under the deposit agreement to holders of depositary receipts other than for its or our negligence or willful misconduct. Neither the depositary nor we will be liable if the depositary is prevented or delayed by law or any circumstance beyond its control in performing its obligations under the deposit agreement. Our obligations and those of the depositary under the deposit agreement are limited to performance in good faith of the depositary's duties under the deposit agreement. Neither of us is obligated to prosecute or defend any legal proceeding in respect of any depositary shares or Preferred Shares unless satisfactory indemnity is furnished. We and the depositary may rely on written advice of counsel or accountants, on information provided by holders of depositary receipts or other persons believed in good faith to be competent to give the information and on documents believed to be genuine and to have been signed or presented by the proper party or parties.

Resignation and Removal of Depositary. The depositary may resign at any time by delivering to us notice of its election to do so, and we may at any time remove the depositary. Any resignation or removal will take effect upon the appointment of a successor depositary and its acceptance of the appointment. The successor depositary must be appointed within 60 days after delivery of the notice for resignation or removal and must be a bank or trust company having its principal office in the United States of America and having a combined capital and surplus of at least \$150,000,000.

Power to Reclassify Shares and Issue Additional Shares

Our declaration of trust authorizes our board of trustees to classify any unissued Preferred Shares or equity shares and to reclassify any previously classified but unissued common shares, Preferred Shares and equity shares of any series from time to time in one or more series, as authorized by the board of trustees. Prior to issuance of any classified or reclassified shares of a particular class or series, our board of trustees is required by the Maryland REIT law and our declaration of trust to set for each such class or series, subject to the provisions of our declaration of trust regarding the restrictions on transfer of shares of beneficial interest, the terms, preferences, conversion or other rights, voting powers, restrictions, limitations as to dividends or other distributions, qualifications and terms or conditions of redemption for each such class or series. As a result, our board of trustees could authorize the issuance of Preferred Shares or equity shares that have priority over the common shares with respect to dividends and rights upon liquidation and with other terms and conditions that could have the effect of delaying, deterring or preventing a transaction or a change in control that might involve a premium price for holders of common shares or otherwise might be in their best interest.

Holders of our shares will not have preemptive rights, which means they will have no right to acquire any additional shares that we may issue at a subsequent date.

Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer

To qualify as a REIT under the Code, Public Storage's shares must be beneficially owned by 100 or more persons during at least 335 days of a taxable year of 12 months or during a proportionate part of a shorter taxable year. Also, not more than 50% of the value of Public Storage's outstanding shares (after taking into account options to acquire shares) may be owned, directly, indirectly or through attribution, by five or fewer individuals (as defined in the Code to include certain entities) during the last half of a taxable year.

Table of Contents

To maintain Public Storage's qualification as a REIT, our declaration of trust provides that:

no person, other than an excepted holder or a designated investment entity (each as defined in the declaration of trust and as described below), may own directly or indirectly, or be deemed to own by virtue of the attribution provisions of the Code, more than 3%, in value or number of common shares, whichever is more restrictive, of the outstanding shares of any class or series of common shares;

no person, other than a designated investment entity or an excepted holder (each as defined in the declaration of trust and as described below), may own directly or indirectly, or be deemed to own through attribution, more than 9.9% in value or number of shares, whichever is more restrictive, of the outstanding shares of any class or series of Preferred Shares, or equity shares;

no excepted holder, which means certain members of the Hughes family, certain trusts established for the benefit of members of the Hughes family, certain related entities, as well as persons whose ownership of shares would cause members of the Hughes family to be deemed to own shares pursuant to application attribution rules under the Code, may own directly or indirectly common shares if, under the applicable tax attribution rules of the Code, any single excepted holder who is treated as an individual would own more than 35.66%, in value or number of shares, whichever is more restrictive, of any class or series of the outstanding common shares, any two excepted holders treated as individuals would own more than 38.66%, in value or number of shares, whichever is more restrictive, of any class or series of the outstanding common shares, any three excepted holders treated as individuals would own more than 41.66%, in value or number of shares, whichever is more restrictive, of any class or series of the outstanding common shares, any four excepted holders treated as individuals would own more than 44.66%, in value or number of shares, whichever is more restrictive, of any class or series of the outstanding common shares, or any five excepted holders treated as individuals would own more than 47.66%, in value or number of shares, whichever is more restrictive, of any class or series of the outstanding common shares;

no excepted holder, as described above, may own directly or indirectly, or be deemed to own through attribution, more than 15% in value or number of shares, whichever is more restrictive, of the outstanding shares of any class or series of equity shares; there is no special limit specifically applicable to Preferred Shares except the general ownership limit.

no designated investment entity may acquire or hold, directly or indirectly (or through attribution), shares in excess of the designated investment entity limit of 9.9%, in value or number of shares, whichever is more restrictive, of the outstanding shares of any class or series of common shares;

a designated investment entity may acquire or hold, directly or indirectly (or through attribution), 100% of the outstanding shares of any class or series of Preferred Shares or equity shares;

no person shall actually or beneficially own our shares to the extent that such ownership would result in us being closely held under Section 856(h) of the Code or otherwise cause us to fail to qualify as a REIT at any time; and

no person shall transfer our shares if such transfer would result in our shares being owned by fewer than 100 persons at any time. The excepted holder limit was established in light of the fact that the Hughes family and certain related trusts and entities own approximately 16.0% of our outstanding common shares at November 15, 2012, and have the right to acquire additional shares up to 35.66% of our outstanding common shares. The excepted holder limit allows excepted holders, defined in the declaration of trust to include certain members of the Hughes family, certain trusts established for the benefit of members of the Hughes family and certain related entities, to own up to 47.66% of the outstanding shares of any class or series of common shares, so long as no one individual excepted holder would own in excess of 35.66% of the outstanding shares of any such class or series. We believe that the excepted holder limit will not jeopardize our status as a REIT because no five excepted holders can own

Table of Contents

more than 47.66% of any class or series of our outstanding common shares and, thus, we will be in compliance with the REIT qualification requirement prohibiting five or fewer individuals from owning more than 50% of the value of our outstanding shares.

Our declaration of trust defines a designated investment entity as:

1. an entity that is a pension trust that qualifies for look-through treatment under Section 856(h)(3) of the Code;
2. an entity that qualifies as a regulated investment company under Section 851 of the Code; or
3. an entity (referred to in the declaration of trust as a qualified investment manager) that (i) for compensation engages in the business of advising others as to the value of securities or as to the advisability of investing in, purchasing or selling securities; (ii) purchases securities in the ordinary course of its business and not with the purpose or effect of changing or influencing control of us, nor in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having such purpose or effect, including any transaction subject to Rule 13d-3(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended; and (iii) has or shares voting power and investment power under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended;

so long as each beneficial owner of such entity, or in the case of a qualified investment manager holding shares solely for the benefit of its customer account holders, the individual account holders of the accounts managed by such entity, would satisfy the 3% common share or 9.9% preferred share or equity share ownership limit, as applicable, if such beneficial owner or account holder owned directly its proportionate share of the shares held by the entity.

Under our declaration of trust, the board of trustees may, in its sole and absolute discretion, exempt a shareholder that is not an individual from the 3% ownership limit for common shares, the 9.9% ownership limit for preferred and equity shares, or the ownership limit for common shares applicable to designated investment entities, if such shareholder provides information and makes representations to the board of trustees that are satisfactory to the board of trustees, in its sole and absolute discretion, to establish that such person's ownership in excess of the applicable ownership limit would not jeopardize our qualification as a REIT. Our board of trustees has from time to time granted waivers to such persons.

Any person who acquires or attempts or intends to acquire actual/or beneficial or constructive ownership of our shares that will or may violate any of the foregoing restrictions on transferability and ownership will be required to give notice immediately to us and provide us with such other information as the board of trustees may request in order to determine the effect of such transfer on our status as a REIT. If any transfer of shares or any other event would otherwise result in any person violating the ownership limits described above, then the declaration of trust provides that (a) the transfer will be void and of no force or effect with respect to the prohibited transferee with respect to that number of shares that exceeds the ownership limits and (b) the prohibited transferee would not acquire any right or interest in the shares. The foregoing restrictions on transferability and ownership will not apply if our board of trustees determines that it is no longer in our best interests to attempt to qualify, or to continue to qualify, as a REIT.

All certificates representing our shares will bear a legend referring to the restrictions described above.

Every owner of more than 5% (or such lower percentage as required by the Code or the regulations promulgated thereunder) of all classes or series of our shares, including common shares, will be required to give written notice to us within 30 days after the end of each taxable year stating the name and address of such owner, the number of shares of each class and series of shares that the owner beneficially owns and a description of the manner in which such shares are held. Each such owner shall provide to us such additional information as the board of trustees may request in order to determine the effect, if any, of such beneficial ownership on our status as a REIT and to ensure compliance with the various ownership limitations. In addition, each shareholder shall

Table of Contents

upon demand be required to provide to the board of trustees such information as the board of trustees may request, in good faith, in order to determine our status as a REIT and to comply with the requirements of any taxing authority or governmental authority or to determine such compliance.

These ownership limitations could delay, deter or prevent a transaction or a change in control that might involve a premium price for the common shares or might otherwise be in the best interest of our shareholders.

Transfer Agent, Registrar and Depositary

The transfer agent and registrar for our common shares and Preferred Shares, and the depositary for our depositary shares, currently is Computershare Trust Company, N.A.

Table of Contents

CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF MARYLAND LAW AND THE PUBLIC STORAGE DECLARATION OF TRUST AND BYLAWS

The following description of certain provisions of Maryland law and of the Public Storage declaration of trust and bylaws is only a summary and is qualified by reference to the applicable Maryland law and to the Public Storage declaration of trust and bylaws.

Number of Trustees; Vacancies

The Public Storage declaration of trust and bylaws provide that the number of trustees will be established by a vote of a majority of the members of the Public Storage board of trustees. The Public Storage board has set the number of trustees at nine trustees. The Public Storage bylaws provide that any vacancy, including a vacancy created by an increase in the number of trustees, may be filled only by a majority of the remaining trustees, even if the remaining trustees do not constitute a quorum. Pursuant to the Public Storage declaration of trust, each of Public Storage's trustees will be elected by its shareholders to serve until the next annual meeting and until their successors are duly elected and qualified.

The Public Storage bylaws provide that at least a majority of the Public Storage trustees will be independent, with independence being defined in the manner established by the Public Storage board of trustees and in a manner consistent with listing standards established by the New York Stock Exchange.

Removal of Trustees

The Public Storage declaration of trust provides that a trustee may be removed only with cause and only upon the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast in the election of trustees. Absent removal of all of the Public Storage trustees, this provision, when coupled with the provision in the Public Storage bylaws authorizing the Public Storage board of trustees to fill vacant trusteeships, may preclude shareholders from removing incumbent trustees and filling the vacancies created by such removal with their own nominees.

Business Combinations

The Public Storage board has approved a resolution that exempts Public Storage from the provisions of the Maryland business combination statute described below, but may opt to make these provisions applicable to Public Storage in the future. Maryland law prohibits business combinations between Public Storage and an interested shareholder or an affiliate of an interested shareholder for five years after the most recent date on which the interested shareholder becomes an interested shareholder. These business combinations include a merger, consolidation, share exchange, or, in circumstances specified in the statute, an asset transfer or issuance or reclassification of equity securities. Maryland law defines an interested shareholder as:

any person who beneficially owns 10% or more of the voting power of the Public Storage shares; or

an affiliate or associate of ours who, at any time within the two-year period prior to the date in question, was the beneficial owner of 10% or more of the voting power of our then outstanding voting shares.

A person is not an interested shareholder if the Public Storage board of trustees approves in advance the transaction by which the person otherwise would have become an interested shareholder. However, in approving a transaction, the Public Storage board of trustees may provide that its approval is subject to compliance, at or after the time of approval, with any terms and conditions determined by the Public Storage board of trustees.

Table of Contents

After the five-year prohibition, any business combination between Public Storage and an interested shareholder generally must be recommended by the board of trustees and approved by the affirmative vote of at least:

80% of the votes entitled to be cast by holders of the then outstanding shares of beneficial interest; and

two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast by holders of voting shares other than shares held by the interested shareholder with whom or with whose affiliate the business combination is to be effected or shares held by an affiliate or associate of the interested shareholder.

These super-majority vote requirements do not apply if Public Storage common shareholders receive a minimum price, as described under Maryland law, for their shares in the form of cash or other consideration in the same form as previously paid by the interested shareholder for its shares.

The statute permits various exemptions from its provisions, including business combinations that are approved by the board of trustees before the time that the interested shareholder becomes an interested shareholder.

Control Share Acquisitions

Public Storage's bylaws contain a provision exempting any and all acquisitions of its common shares from the control shares provisions of Maryland law. However, the board of trustees may opt to make these provisions applicable to Public Storage at any time by amending or repealing this provision in the future, and may do so on a retroactive basis. The Public Storage declaration of trust also exempts any future business combinations with the Hughes family from the control share provisions of Maryland law. Maryland law provides that control shares of a Maryland REIT acquired in a control share acquisition have no voting rights unless approved by a vote of two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast on the matter. Shares owned by the acquiror or by officers or trustees who are employees of Public Storage are excluded from the shares entitled to vote on the matter. Control shares are voting shares that, if aggregated with all other shares previously acquired by the acquiring person, or in respect of which the acquiring person is able to exercise or direct the exercise of voting power (except solely by virtue of a revocable proxy), would entitle the acquiring person to exercise or direct the exercise of the voting power in electing trustees within one of the following ranges of voting power:

one-tenth or more but less than one-third;

one-third or more but less than a majority; or

a majority or more of all voting power.

Control shares do not include shares the acquiring person is then entitled to vote as a result of having previously obtained shareholder approval. A control share acquisition means the acquisition of control shares, subject to certain exceptions.

A person who has made or proposes to make a control share acquisition may compel the Public Storage board of trustees to call a special meeting of shareholders to be held within 50 days of demand to consider the voting rights of the shares. The right to compel the calling of a special meeting is subject to the satisfaction of certain conditions, including an undertaking to pay the expenses of the special meeting. If no request for a special meeting is made, Public Storage may present the question at any shareholders' meeting.

If voting rights are not approved at the shareholders' meeting or if the acquiring person does not deliver the statement required by Maryland law, then, subject to certain conditions and limitations, Public Storage may redeem any or all of the control shares, except those for which voting rights have previously been approved, for fair value. Fair value is determined without regard to the absence of voting rights for the control shares and as of the date of the last control share acquisition or of any meeting of shareholders at which the voting rights of the shares were considered and not approved. If voting rights for control shares are approved at a shareholders' meeting, the acquiror may then vote a majority of the shares entitled to vote, and all other shareholders may exercise appraisal rights. The fair value of the shares for purposes of these appraisal rights may not be less than

Table of Contents

the highest price per share paid by the acquiror in the control share acquisition. The control share acquisition statute does not apply to shares acquired in a merger, consolidation or share exchange if Public Storage is a party to the transaction, nor does it apply to acquisitions approved by or exempted by the declaration of trust or bylaws of Public Storage.

Merger, Amendment of Declaration of Trust

Under Maryland REIT law, a Maryland REIT generally cannot dissolve, amend its declaration of trust or merge with another entity unless approved by the affirmative vote of shareholders holding at least two-thirds of the shares entitled to vote on the matter unless a lesser percentage, but not less than a majority of all the votes entitled to be cast on the matter, is set forth in the REIT's declaration of trust. The Public Storage declaration of trust requires that any transaction resulting in a merger, a consolidation or a sale of trust property be approved by the affirmative vote of not less than a majority of all the votes entitled to be cast, except where Public Storage is the successor in the merger. Under the Maryland REIT law and the declaration of trust, Public Storage trustees will be permitted, without any action by our shareholders, to amend the declaration of trust from time to time to qualify as a REIT under the IRC or the Maryland REIT law without the affirmative vote or written consent of the shareholders.

Limitation of Liability and Indemnification

Public Storage's declaration of trust limits the liability of its trustees and officers for money damages, except for liability resulting from:

actual receipt of an improper benefit or profit in money, property or services; or

a final judgment based upon a finding of active and deliberate dishonesty by the trustee that was material to the cause of action adjudicated.

The Public Storage declaration of trust requires us, to the maximum extent permitted by Maryland law, to indemnify, and to pay or reimburse reasonable expenses to, any of Public Storage's present or former trustees or officers or any individual who, while a trustee or officer and at the company's request, serves or has served another entity, employee benefit plan or any other enterprise as a trustee, director, officer, partner or otherwise. The indemnification covers any claim or liability against the person. The Public Storage bylaws require it, to the maximum extent permitted by Maryland law, to indemnify each present or former trustee or officer who is made a party to a proceeding by reason of his or her service to Public Storage.

Maryland law permits Public Storage to indemnify its present and former trustees and officers against liabilities and reasonable expenses actually incurred by them in any proceeding unless:

the act or omission of the trustee or officer was material to the matter giving rise to the proceeding; and

was committed in bad faith; or

was the result of active and deliberate dishonesty;

the trustee or officer actually received an improper personal benefit in money, property or services; or

in a criminal proceeding, the trustee or officer had reasonable cause to believe that the act or omission was unlawful.

However, Maryland law prohibits Public Storage from indemnifying its present and former trustees and officers for an adverse judgment in a derivative action or if the trustee or officer was adjudged to be liable for an improper personal benefit. Public Storage's bylaws and Maryland law require the company, as a condition to advancing expenses in certain circumstances, to obtain:

Edgar Filing: Public Storage - Form 424B5

a written affirmation by the trustee or officer of his or her good faith belief that he or she has met the standard of conduct necessary for indemnification; and

a written undertaking to repay the amount reimbursed if the standard of conduct is not met.

Table of Contents

Term and Termination

The Public Storage declaration of trust provides for it to have a perpetual existence. Pursuant to its declaration of trust, and subject to the provisions of any of its classes or series of shares of beneficial interest then outstanding and the approval by a majority of the entire board of trustees, Public Storage shareholders, at any meeting thereof, by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of all of the votes entitled to be cast on the matter, may approve a plan of liquidation and dissolution.

Meetings of Shareholders

Under the Public Storage bylaws, annual meetings of shareholders are to be held each year, within fifteen (15) months after the last annual meeting, at a date and time as determined by the board of trustees. Special meetings of shareholders may be called only by a majority of the trustees then in office, by the Chairman of the board of trustees, the President or by the holders of not less than 20% of the votes to be cast at the meeting. Only matters set forth in the notice of the special meeting may be considered and acted upon at such a meeting. Public Storage's bylaws provide that any action required or permitted to be taken at a meeting of shareholders may be taken without a meeting by unanimous written consent, if that consent sets forth that action and is signed by each shareholder entitled to vote on the matter.

Advance Notice of Trustee Nominations and New Business

The Public Storage bylaws provide that, with respect to an annual meeting of shareholders, nominations of persons for election to the board of trustees and the proposal of business to be considered by shareholders at the annual meeting may be made only:

pursuant to a notice of the meeting properly presented;

by the Public Storage board of trustees; or

by a shareholder who was a shareholder of record both at the time of the provision of notice and at the time of the meeting who is entitled to vote at the meeting and has complied with the advance notice procedures set forth in the Public Storage bylaws.

With respect to special meetings of shareholders, only the business specified in Public Storage's notice of meeting may be brought before the meeting of shareholders, and nominations of persons for election to the board of trustees may be made only:

pursuant to the notice of the meeting;

by the Public Storage board of trustees; or

provided that the Public Storage board of trustees has determined that trustees shall be elected at such meeting, by a shareholder who was a shareholder of record both at the time of the provision of notice and at the time of the meeting who is entitled to vote at the meeting and has complied with the advance notice provisions set forth in the bylaws.

The purpose of requiring shareholders to give advance notice of nominations and other proposals is to afford the Public Storage board of trustees the opportunity to consider the qualifications of the proposed nominees or the advisability of the other proposals and, to the extent considered necessary by the board of trustees, to inform shareholders and make recommendations regarding the nominations or other proposals. The advance notice procedures also permit a more orderly procedure for conducting shareholder meetings. Although the Public Storage bylaws do not give our board of trustees the power to disapprove timely shareholder nominations and proposals, they may have the effect of precluding a contest for the election of trustees or proposals for other action if the proper procedures are not followed, and of discouraging or deterring a third party from conducting a solicitation of proxies to elect its own slate of trustees to the board of trustees or to approve its own proposal.

Table of Contents

Possible Anti-Takeover Effect of Certain Provisions of Maryland Law and of Our Declaration of Trust and Bylaws

The business combination provisions of Maryland law (if the Public Storage board of trustees opts to make them applicable to Public Storage), the control share acquisition provisions of Maryland law (if the applicable provision in the Public Storage bylaws is rescinded), the limitations on removal of trustees, the restrictions on the acquisition of Public Storage shares of beneficial interest, the power to issue additional common shares or Preferred Shares and the advance notice provisions of the Public Storage bylaws could have the effect of delaying, deterring or preventing a transaction or a change in the control that might involve a premium price for holders of the common shares or might otherwise be in their best interest. The unsolicited takeovers provisions of Maryland law permit the board of trustees, without shareholder approval and regardless of what is provided in the declaration of trust or bylaws, to implement takeover defenses that Public Storage may not yet have.

Table of Contents

MATERIAL U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS

For purposes of the following discussion, references to our company, we and us mean Public Storage and not its subsidiaries or affiliates. The following discussion describes the material U.S. federal income tax considerations relating to the taxation of Public Storage as a REIT and the acquisition, ownership and disposition of our common shares.

Because this is a summary that is intended to address only the U.S. federal income tax considerations relating to the ownership and disposition of our common shares, it may not contain all the information that may be important in your specific circumstances. As you review this discussion, you should keep in mind that:

(1) The tax considerations to you may vary depending on your particular tax situation;

(2) Special rules that are not discussed below may apply to you if you are subject to special tax treatment under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code), including:

broker-dealers;

financial institutions;

holders who receive our common shares through the exercise of employee stock options or otherwise as compensation;

insurance companies;

non-U.S. shareholders (as defined below), except to the extent discussed below in U.S. Taxation of Non-U.S. Shareholders ;

persons holding 10% or more (by vote or value) of our outstanding common shares, except to the extent discussed below;

persons holding our common shares as part of a straddle, hedge, conversion transaction, synthetic security or other integrated investment;

persons holding our common shares on behalf of other persons as nominees; persons holding our common shares through a partnership or other pass-through entity;

persons subject to the alternative minimum tax provisions of the Internal Revenue Code;

REITs,

regulated investment companies, or RICs;

Edgar Filing: Public Storage - Form 424B5

subchapter S corporations

foreign (non-U.S.) governments;

tax-exempt organizations, except to the extent discussed below in Taxation of Tax-Exempt U.S. Shareholders.

trusts and estates; or

U.S. expatriates.

(3) This summary addresses neither U.S. federal taxes other than income taxes nor state, local or non-U.S. tax considerations;

(4) This summary deals only with Public Storage common shareholders that hold common shares as capital assets, within the meaning of Section 1221 of the Code; and

(5) This discussion is not intended to be, and should not be construed as, tax advice.

Table of Contents

You are urged both to review the following discussion and to consult with your tax advisor to determine the effect of acquiring, owning and disposing of our common shares in your individual tax situation, including any state, local or non-U.S. tax consequences.

The information in this section is based on the Code, current, temporary and proposed regulations promulgated by the U.S. Treasury Department, the legislative history of the Code, current administrative interpretations and practices of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and court decisions. The reference to IRS interpretations and practices includes IRS practices and policies as endorsed in private letter rulings, which are not binding on the IRS except with respect to the taxpayer that receives the ruling. In each case, these sources are relied upon as they exist on the date of this registration statement. Future legislation, regulations, administrative interpretations and court decisions could change current law or adversely affect existing interpretations of current law. Any change could apply retroactively. Except as described under Taxation of Public Storage as a REIT Income Tests Applicable to REITs, we have not obtained any rulings from the IRS concerning the tax treatment of the matters discussed below. Accordingly, even if there is no change in the applicable law, no assurance can be provided that the statements made in the following discussion, which do not bind the IRS or the courts, will not be challenged by the IRS or will be sustained by a court if so challenged.

Taxation of Public Storage as a REIT

General. We elected to be taxed as a REIT under the Code beginning with our taxable year ended December 31, 1981. A REIT generally is not subject to U.S. federal income tax on the net income that it distributes to shareholders if it meets the applicable REIT distribution requirements and other requirements for REIT qualification under the Code.

We believe that we have been and that we are organized and have operated, and we intend to continue to operate, to qualify as a REIT, but there can be no assurance that we qualify or will remain qualified as a REIT. Qualification and taxation as a REIT depend upon our ability to meet, through actual annual (or in some cases quarterly) operating results, requirements relating to income, asset ownership, distribution levels and diversity of share ownership, and the various other REIT qualification requirements imposed under the Code. Given the complex nature of the REIT qualification requirements, the ongoing importance of factual determinations and the possibility of future changes in our circumstances, we cannot provide any assurance that our actual operating results will satisfy the requirements for taxation as a REIT under the Code for any particular taxable year.

The sections of the Code that relate to our qualification and operation as a REIT are highly technical and complex. This discussion sets forth the material aspects of the sections of the Code that govern the U.S. federal income tax treatment of a REIT and its shareholders. This summary is qualified in its entirety by the applicable Code provisions, relevant rules and Treasury regulations, and related administrative and judicial interpretations.

Taxation. For each taxable year in which we qualify for taxation as a REIT, we generally will not be subject to federal corporate income tax on our net income that is distributed currently to our shareholders. U.S. Shareholders (as defined below) generally will be subject to taxation on dividends (other than designated capital gain dividends and qualified dividend income) at rates applicable to ordinary income, instead of at lower capital gain rates. Qualification for taxation as a REIT enables the REIT and its shareholders to substantially eliminate the double taxation (that is, taxation at both the corporate and shareholder levels) that generally results from an investment in a regular corporation. Regular corporations (non-REIT C corporations) generally are subject to U.S. federal corporate income taxation on their income and shareholders of regular corporations are subject to tax on any dividends that are received. Currently, however, for taxable years beginning prior to 2013, shareholders of regular corporations who are taxed at individual rates generally are taxed on dividends they receive at capital gains rates, which are lower for individuals than ordinary income rates, and shareholders of regular corporations who are taxed at regular corporate rates will receive the benefit of a dividends-received deduction that substantially reduces the effective rate that they pay on such dividends. Income earned by a REIT and distributed currently to its shareholders generally will be subject to lower aggregate rates of U.S. federal

Table of Contents

income taxation than if such income were earned by a non-REIT C corporation, subjected to corporate income tax, and then distributed to shareholders and subjected to tax either at capital gain rates or the effective rate paid by a corporate recipient entitled to the benefit of the dividends-received deduction.

While we generally will not be subject to corporate income taxes on income that we distribute currently to shareholders, we will be subject to U.S. federal income tax as follows:

1. We will be taxed at regular corporate rates on any undistributed REIT taxable income. REIT taxable income is the taxable income of the REIT subject to specified adjustments, including a deduction for dividends paid.

2. We may be subject to the alternative minimum tax on our undistributed items of tax preference, if any.

3. If we have (1) net income from the sale or other disposition of foreclosure property that is held primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of business, or (2) other non-qualifying income from foreclosure property, we will be subject to tax at the highest corporate rate on this income.

4. Our net income from prohibited transactions will be subject to a 100% tax. In general, prohibited transactions are sales or other dispositions of property held primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of business other than foreclosure property.

5. If we fail to satisfy either the 75% gross income test or the 95% gross income test discussed below, but nonetheless maintain our qualification as a REIT because other requirements are met, we will be subject to a tax equal to the gross income attributable to the greater of either (1) the amount by which 75% of our gross income exceeds the amount of our income qualifying under the 75% test for the taxable year or (2) the amount by which 95% of our gross income exceeds the amount of our income qualifying for the 95% income test for the taxable year, multiplied in either case by a fraction intended to reflect our profitability.

6. We will be subject to a 4% nondeductible excise tax on the excess of the required distribution over the sum of amounts actually distributed, excess distributions from the preceding tax year and amounts retained for which U.S. federal income tax was paid if we fail to make the required distribution by the end of a calendar year (taking into account certain distributions declared in the last three months of a calendar year and paid prior to the end of January of the following calendar year). The required distribution for each calendar year is equal to the sum of:

85% of our REIT ordinary income for the year;

95% of our REIT capital gain net income for the year; and

any undistributed taxable income from prior taxable years.

7. We will be subject to a 100% penalty tax on some payments we receive (or on certain expenses deducted by a taxable REIT subsidiary) if arrangements among us, our tenants, and our taxable REIT subsidiaries are not comparable to similar arrangements among unrelated parties.

8. If we acquire any assets from a non-REIT C corporation in a carry-over basis transaction (such as in the case of our 1995 merger with Public Storage Management), we would be liable for corporate income tax, at the highest applicable corporate rate for the built-in gain with respect to those assets if we disposed of those assets within 10 years after they were acquired. Built-in gain is the amount by which an asset's fair market value exceeds its adjusted tax basis at the time we acquire the asset. To the extent that assets are transferred to us in a carry-over basis transaction by a partnership in which a corporation owns an interest, we will be subject to this tax in proportion to the non-REIT C corporation's interest in the partnership. We also have acquired assets in carryover basis merger transactions with a number of REITs (including our 1999 merger with Storage Trust Realty). If any such acquired REIT failed to qualify as a REIT at the time of its merger into us, it would have been a non-REIT C corporation and we also would be liable for tax liabilities inherited from it.

Table of Contents

9. If we fail to satisfy one of the REIT asset tests (other than certain de minimis failures), but nonetheless maintain our qualification as a REIT because other requirements are met, we will be subject to a tax equal to the greater of \$50,000 or the amount determined by multiplying the net income generated by the non-qualifying assets during the period of time that the assets were held as non-qualifying assets by the highest rate of tax applicable to corporations.

10. If we fail to satisfy certain of the requirements under the Code the failure of which would result in the loss of our REIT status, and the failure is due to reasonable cause and not willful neglect, we may be required to pay a penalty of \$50,000 for each such failure in order to maintain our qualification as a REIT.

11. If we fail to comply with the requirements to send annual letters to our shareholders requesting information regarding the actual ownership of our shares and the failure was not due to reasonable cause or was due to willful neglect, we will be subject to a \$25,000 penalty or, if the failure is intentional, a \$50,000 penalty.

Furthermore, notwithstanding our status as a REIT, we also may have to pay certain state and local income taxes, because not all states and localities treat REITs the same as they are treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Moreover, each of our taxable REIT subsidiaries (as further described below) is subject to U.S. federal, state and local corporate income taxes on its net income.

If we are subject to taxation on our REIT taxable income or subject to tax due to the sale of a built-in gain asset that was acquired in a carry-over basis from a non-REIT C Corporation, some of the dividends we pay to our shareholders during the following year may be subject to tax at the reduced capital gains rates, rather than taxed at ordinary income rates. See Taxation of U.S. Shareholders Qualified Dividend Income.

Requirements for Qualification as a REIT. The Code defines a REIT as a corporation, trust or association:

- (1) that is managed by one or more trustees or directors;
- (2) that issues transferable shares or transferable certificates to evidence its beneficial ownership;
- (3) that would be taxable as a domestic corporation, but for Sections 856 through 860 of the Code;
- (4) that is neither a financial institution nor an insurance company within the meaning of certain provisions of the Code;
- (5) that is beneficially owned by 100 or more persons;
- (6) not more than 50% in value of the outstanding shares or other beneficial interest of which is owned, actually or constructively, by five or fewer individuals (as defined in the Code to include certain entities and as determined by applying certain attribution rules) during the last half of each taxable year;
- (7) that makes an election to be a REIT for the current taxable year, or has made such an election for a previous taxable year that has not been revoked or terminated, and satisfies all relevant filing and other administrative requirements established by the IRS that must be met to elect and maintain REIT status;
- (8) that uses a calendar year for U.S. federal income tax purposes and complies with the recordkeeping requirements of the Code and the Treasury regulations promulgated thereunder; and
- (9) that meets other applicable tests, described below, regarding the nature of its income and assets and the amount of its distributions.

The Code provides that conditions (1), (2), (3) and (4) above must be met during the entire taxable year and condition (5) above must be met during at least 335 days of a taxable year of 12 months, or during a proportionate part of a taxable year of less than 12 months. Conditions (5) and (6) do not apply until after the first taxable year for which an election is made to be taxed as a REIT. Condition (6) must be met during the last half of each taxable year. For purposes of determining share ownership under condition (6) above, a supplemental unemployment compensation benefits plan, a private foundation or a portion of a trust permanently set aside or used exclusively for charitable purposes generally is considered an individual. However, a trust that is a qualified trust under Code

Table of Contents

Section 401(a) generally is not considered an individual, and beneficiaries of a qualified trust are treated as holding shares of a REIT in proportion to their actuarial interests in the trust for purposes of condition (6) above.

We believe that we have been organized, have operated and have issued sufficient shares of beneficial ownership with sufficient diversity of ownership to allow us to satisfy the above conditions. In addition, our organizational documents contain restrictions regarding the transfer of our shares that are intended to assist us in continuing to satisfy the share ownership requirements described in conditions (5) and (6) above. The ownership restrictions in our declaration of trust generally prohibit the actual or constructive ownership of more than 3% of our outstanding common shares or more than 9.9% of the outstanding class or series of preferred or equity shares, in each case, other than certain excepted holders or designated investment entities, (each as defined in our declaration of trust), which are subject to separate limits set forth in our declaration of trust, unless an exception is established by the board of trustees. See Description of Common Shares Ownership Limitations.

The REIT protective provisions of our organizational documents are modeled after certain arrangements that the IRS has ruled in private letter rulings will preclude a REIT from being considered to violate the ownership restrictions so long as the arrangements are enforceable as a matter of state law and the REIT seeks to enforce them as and when necessary. There can be no assurance, however, that the IRS might not seek to take a different position concerning Public Storage (a private letter ruling is legally binding only as to the taxpayer to whom it was issued and we will not seek a private ruling on this issue) or contend that we failed to enforce these various arrangements. Accordingly, there can be no assurance that these arrangements necessarily will preserve our REIT status. If we fail to satisfy these share ownership requirements, we will fail to qualify as a REIT.

To monitor compliance with condition (6) above, a REIT is required to send annual letters to its shareholders requesting information regarding the actual ownership of its shares. If we comply with the annual letters requirement and do not know, or exercising reasonable diligence, would not have known, of a failure to meet condition (6) above, then we will be treated as having met condition (6) above.

To qualify as a REIT, we cannot have at the end of any taxable year any undistributed earnings and profits that are attributable to a non-REIT taxable year. As a result of the 1995 merger with Public Storage Management, the 1999 merger with Storage Trust Realty and mergers with other affiliated REITs, Public Storage has succeeded to various tax attributes of those entities and their predecessors, including any undistributed earnings and profits. We do not believe that we have acquired any undistributed non-REIT earnings and profits and we believe that the REITs with which we have merged qualified as REITs at the time of acquisition. However, neither these entities nor Public Storage has sought an opinion of counsel or outside accountants to the effect that we did not acquire any undistributed non-REIT earnings and profits. There can be no assurance that the IRS would not contend otherwise on a subsequent audit. If it was determined that we had at the end of any taxable year any undistributed earnings and profits that are attributable to a non-REIT taxable year, and we were unable to take advantage of applicable deficiency dividend procedures, we could fail to qualify as a REIT. Moreover, if we were considered to be a successor under the applicable Treasury regulations to a corporation that had failed to qualify as a REIT at the time of its merger with Public Storage, we could fail to qualify as a REIT.

Qualified REIT Subsidiaries. We may acquire 100% of the stock of one or more corporations that are qualified REIT subsidiaries. A corporation will qualify as a qualified REIT subsidiary if we own 100% of its stock and it is not a taxable REIT subsidiary. A qualified REIT subsidiary will not be treated as a separate corporation, and all assets, liabilities and items of income, deduction and credit of a qualified REIT subsidiary will be treated as our assets, liabilities and such items (as the case may be) for all purposes of the Code, including the REIT qualification tests. For this reason, references in this discussion to our income and assets should be understood to include the income and assets of any qualified REIT subsidiary we own. A qualified REIT subsidiary will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax, although it may be subject to state and local taxation in some states. Our ownership of the voting stock of a qualified REIT subsidiary will not violate the asset test restrictions against ownership of securities of any one issuer which constitute more than 10% of the voting power or value of such issuer's securities or more than five percent of the value of our total assets, as described below in Asset Tests Applicable to REITs.

Table of Contents

Taxable REIT Subsidiaries. A taxable REIT subsidiary is a corporation other than a REIT in which we directly or indirectly hold stock, which has made a joint election with us to be treated as a taxable REIT subsidiary under Section 856(l) of the Code. A taxable REIT subsidiary also includes any corporation other than a REIT in which a taxable REIT subsidiary of ours owns, directly or indirectly, securities, (other than certain straight debt securities), which represent more than 35% of the total voting power or value of the outstanding securities of such corporation. Other than some activities relating to lodging and health care facilities, a taxable REIT subsidiary may generally engage in any business, including the provision of customary or non-customary services to our tenants without causing us to receive impermissible tenant service income under the REIT gross income tests. A taxable REIT subsidiary is required to pay regular U.S. federal income tax, and state and local income tax where applicable, as a non-REIT C corporation. In addition, a taxable REIT subsidiary may be prevented from deducting interest on debt funded directly or indirectly by us if certain tests regarding the taxable REIT subsidiary's debt to equity ratio and interest expense are not satisfied. If dividends are paid to us by our taxable REIT subsidiary, then a portion of the dividends we distribute to shareholders who are taxed at individual rates will, for taxable years beginning before 2013, generally be eligible for taxation at lower capital gains rates, rather than at ordinary income rates. See *Taxation of U.S. Shareholders - Qualified Dividend Income*.

Generally, a taxable REIT subsidiary can perform impermissible tenant services without causing us to receive impermissible tenant services income under the REIT income tests. However, several provisions applicable to the arrangements between a REIT and its taxable REIT subsidiaries are intended to ensure that a taxable REIT subsidiary will be subject to an appropriate level of U.S. federal income taxation. For example, a taxable REIT subsidiary is limited in its ability to deduct interest payments made directly or indirectly to us in excess of a certain amount. In addition, a REIT will be obligated to pay a 100% penalty tax on some payments that it receives or on certain expenses deducted by the taxable REIT subsidiary if the economic arrangements between the REIT, the REIT's tenants and the taxable REIT subsidiary are not comparable to similar arrangements among unrelated parties. Our taxable REIT subsidiaries may make interest and other payments to us and to third parties in connection with activities related to our properties. There can be no assurance that our taxable REIT subsidiaries will not be limited in their ability to deduct certain interest payments made to us. In addition, there can be no assurance that the IRS might not seek to impose the 100% excise tax on a portion of payments received by us from, or expenses deducted by, our taxable REIT subsidiaries.

PS Orangeco, Inc. (and its subsidiaries, including PS Pickup & Delivery, Inc.), PSCC, Inc., PS Insurance Company Hawaii, Ltd. and certain other corporations (including corporations the interests in which were directly or indirectly acquired in connection with the Shurgard merger) have elected, together with us, to be treated as taxable REIT subsidiaries of Public Storage. These entities have engaged in businesses such as the portable self-storage business (which has since been discontinued), providing moving services and tenant reinsurance, selling locks, boxes and packing materials, and renting trucks (which also has since been discontinued), among other activities.

Ownership of Partnership Interests by a REIT. A REIT that owns an equity interest in an entity treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes is deemed to own its share (based upon its proportionate share of the capital of the partnership) of the assets of the partnership and is deemed to earn its proportionate share of the partnership's income. The assets and gross income of the partnership retain the same character in the hands of the REIT for purposes of the gross income and asset tests applicable to REITs as described below. In the mergers with Public Storage Management and Storage Trust Realty, the formation of PS Business Parks, L.P., and in other transactions, we have acquired interests in various partnerships that own and operate properties. Thus, our proportionate share of the assets and items of income of Storage Trust Properties, L.P., PS Business Parks, L.P. or other partnerships, including any such partnerships' shares of assets and items of income of any subsidiaries that are partnerships or limited liability companies treated as partnerships for U.S. federal income tax purposes, are treated as assets and items of income of Public Storage for purposes of applying the REIT asset and income tests. For these purposes, under current Treasury regulations our interest in each of the partnerships must be determined in accordance with our capital interest in each entity, as applicable.

Table of Contents

We believe that Storage Trust Properties, L.P., PS Business Parks, L.P. and each of the partnerships and limited liability companies in which we own an interest, directly or through another partnership or limited liability company, will be treated as partnerships or disregarded for U.S. federal income tax purposes and will not be taxable as corporations. If any of these entities were treated as a corporation, it would be subject to an entity level tax on its income and we could fail to meet the REIT income and asset tests. See *Income Tests Applicable to REITs* and *Asset Tests Applicable to REITs* below.

Income Tests Applicable to REITs. To qualify as a REIT, we must satisfy two gross income tests which are applied on an annual basis. First, in each taxable year we must derive directly or indirectly at least 75% of our gross income, excluding gross income from prohibited transactions, from investments relating to real property or mortgages on real property or from some types of temporary investments. Income from investments relating to real property or mortgages on related property includes rents from real property, gains on the disposition of real estate, dividends paid by another REIT and interest on obligations secured by mortgages on real property or on interests in real property. Second, in each taxable year we must derive at least 95% of our gross income, excluding gross income from prohibited transactions, from any combination of income qualifying under the 75% test and dividends, interest, and gain from the sale or disposition of stock or securities.

Rents we receive will qualify as rents from real property for the purpose of satisfying the gross income requirements for a REIT described above only if several conditions are met:

The amount of rent must not be based in whole or in part on the income or profits of any person. However, an amount we receive or accrue generally will not be excluded from the term rents from real property solely by reason of being based on a fixed percentage or percentages of gross receipts or sales;

We, or an actual or constructive owner of 10% or more of our shares, must not actually or constructively own 10% or more of the interests in the tenant, or, if the tenant is a corporation, 10% or more of the voting power or value of all classes of stock of the tenant. Rents received from such a tenant that is a taxable REIT subsidiary, however, will not be excluded from the definition of rents from real property as a result of this condition if either (i) at least 90% of the space at the property to which the rents relate is leased to third parties, and the rents paid by the taxable REIT subsidiary are comparable to rents paid by our other tenants for comparable space or (ii) the property is a qualified lodging property or, for taxable years of REITs beginning after July 30, 2008, a qualified health care property, and such property is operated on behalf of the taxable REIT subsidiary by a person who is an independent contractor and certain other requirements are met;

Rent attributable to personal property, leased in connection with a lease of real property, is not greater than 15% of the total rent received under the lease. If this requirement is not met, then the portion of rent attributable to personal property will not qualify as rents from real property; and

We generally must not provide directly impermissible tenant services to the tenants of a property, subject to a 1% de minimis exception, other than through an independent contractor from whom we derive no income or a taxable REIT subsidiary. We may, however, directly perform certain services that are usually or customarily rendered in connection with the rental of space for occupancy only and are not otherwise considered rendered primarily for the convenience of the tenant of the property. Examples of such services include the provision of light, heat, or other utilities, trash removal and general maintenance of common areas. In addition, we may provide through an independent contractor or a taxable REIT subsidiary, both customary and non-customary services to our tenants without causing the rent we receive from those tenants to fail to qualify as rents from real property. If the total amount of income we receive from providing impermissible tenant services at a property exceeds 1% of our total income from that property, then all of the income from that property will fail to qualify as rents from real property. Impermissible tenant service income is deemed to be at least 150% of our direct cost in providing the service.

Table of Contents

In light of these requirements, we do not intend to take any of the actions listed below, unless we determine that the resulting nonqualifying income, taken together with all other nonqualifying income that we earn in the taxable year, will not jeopardize our status as a REIT:

- (1) charge rent for any property that is based in whole or in part on the income or profits of any person (unless based on a fixed percentage or percentages of gross receipts or sales, as permitted and described above);
- (2) rent any property to a related party tenant, including a taxable REIT subsidiary, unless the rent from the lease to the taxable REIT subsidiary would qualify for the special exception from the related party tenant rule applicable to certain leases with a taxable REIT subsidiary;
- (3) derive rental income attributable to personal property other than personal property leased in connection with the lease of real property, the amount of which is less than 15% of the total rent received under the lease; or
- (4) directly perform services considered to be noncustomary or rendered to the occupant of the property.

In connection with our merger with Public Storage Management, Public Storage and the various other owners of self-storage facilities and business parks for which we performed management activities entered into an agreement with PSCC, Inc. under which PSCC provides the owners and Public Storage certain administrative and cost-sharing services in connection with the operation of the properties and the performance of certain administrative functions. The services include the provision of corporate office space and certain equipment, personnel required for the operation and maintenance of the properties, and corporate or partnership administration. Each of the owners and Public Storage pay PSCC directly for services rendered by PSCC in connection with the administrative and cost sharing agreement. That payment is separate from and in addition to the compensation paid to Public Storage under the management agreements for the management of the properties owned by the owners. At the time of the merger with Public Storage Management, we received a private letter ruling from the IRS to the effect that the reimbursements and other payments made to PSCC by the owners would not be treated as our revenues for purposes of the 95% gross income test, and to the effect that our income from self-storage facility rentals generally would qualify as rent from real property for purposes of the REIT gross income tests.

The ownership of certain partnership interests creates several issues regarding our satisfaction of the 95% gross income test. First, we earn property management fees from these partnerships. Existing Treasury regulations do not address the treatment of management fees derived by a REIT from a partnership in which the REIT holds a partnership interest, but the IRS has issued a number of private letter rulings holding that the portion of the management fee that corresponds to the REIT's capital interest in the partnership in effect is disregarded in applying the 95% gross income test when the REIT holds a substantial interest in the partnership. We disregard the portion of management fees derived from partnerships in which we are a partner that corresponds to our interest in these partnerships in determining the amount of our nonqualifying income. Private letter rulings, while indicative of the IRS's views as to a particular issue, cannot be relied upon by a taxpayer other than the taxpayer to whom the ruling has been issued. There can be no assurance, therefore, that the IRS would not take a contrary position with respect to Public Storage, either rejecting the approach set forth in the private letter rulings mentioned above or contending that our situation is distinguishable from those addressed in the private letter rulings (for example, arguing that we do not have a substantial interest in the partnerships).

In addition, we acquired interests in certain of these partnerships that entitle us to a percentage of profits (either from operations, or upon a sale, or both) in excess of the percentage of total capital originally contributed to the partnership with respect to such interest. Existing Treasury regulations do not specifically address how our capital interest in partnerships of this type should be determined. This determination is relevant because it affects both the percentage of the gross rental income of the partnership that is considered gross rental income (or

Table of Contents

qualifying income) to us and the percentage of the management fees paid to us that is disregarded in determining our nonqualifying income. In determining our capital interest in the various partnerships, we estimate the percentage of the partnership's assets that would be distributed to us if those assets were sold and distributed among the partners in accordance with the applicable provisions of the partnership agreements. There can be no assurance, however, that the IRS will agree with this methodology and not contend that another, perhaps less favorable, method must be used for purposes of determining our capital interests, which could adversely affect our ability to satisfy the 75% and 95% gross income tests.

Moreover, in connection with the Shurgard merger, we have acquired indirect equity interests in real estate located outside of the United States, and Public Storage may acquire additional interests in non-U.S. properties both directly and through equity interests in partnerships, joint ventures, or other legal entities that have invested in real estate. These investments carry risks and uncertainties with respect to our status as a REIT that are not present when we invest directly in real estate in the U.S. and against which we may not be able to protect. For purposes of the 75% and 95% gross income tests, certain foreign currency income and gains recognized after July 30, 2008 are disregarded for purposes of determining gross income.

Interest income that depends in whole or in part on the income or profits of any person generally will be non-qualifying income for purposes of the 75% or 95% gross income tests. However, interest based on a fixed percentage or percentages of gross receipts or sales may still qualify under the gross income tests. We do not expect to derive significant amounts of interest that would fail to qualify under both the 75% and 95% gross income tests.

Our share of any dividends received from our corporate subsidiaries that are not qualified REIT subsidiaries (and from other corporations in which we own an interest) will qualify for purposes of the 95% gross income test but not for purposes of the 75% gross income test. We do not anticipate that we will receive sufficient dividends to cause us to exceed the limit on nonqualifying income under the 75% gross income test. Dividends that we receive from other qualifying REITs will qualify for purposes of both REIT income tests.

If we fail to satisfy one or both of the 75% or 95% gross income tests for any taxable year, we may nevertheless qualify as a REIT for that year if we are entitled to relief under the Code. These relief provisions generally will be available if our failure to meet the tests is due to reasonable cause and not due to willful neglect, and we disclose to the IRS the sources of our income as required by the Code and applicable regulations. It is not possible, however, to state whether in all circumstances we would be entitled to the benefit of these relief provisions. For example, if we fail to satisfy the gross income tests because nonqualifying income that we intentionally incur exceeds the limits on nonqualifying income, the IRS could conclude that the failure to satisfy the tests was not due to reasonable cause. If these relief provisions are inapplicable to a particular set of circumstances, we will fail to qualify as a REIT. As discussed under Taxation of Public Storage as a REIT General even if these relief provisions apply, a tax would be imposed based on the amount of nonqualifying income.

Prohibited Transaction Income. Any gain that we realize on the sale of any property held as inventory or otherwise held primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of business, including our share of any such gain realized through our subsidiary partnerships and disregarded entities for U.S. federal income tax purposes, will be treated as income from a prohibited transaction that is subject to a 100% penalty tax. Under existing law, whether property is held as inventory or primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of a trade or business is a question of fact that depends on all the facts and circumstances surrounding the particular transaction. However, we will not be treated as a dealer in real property with respect to a property we sell for the purposes of the 100% tax if (i) we have held the property for at least two years (or, for sales on or prior to July 30, 2008, four years) for the production of rental income prior to the sale, (ii) capitalized expenditures on the property in the two years (or, for sales on or prior to July 30, 2008, four years) preceding the sale are less than 30% of the net selling price of the property, and (iii) we (a) have seven or fewer sales of property for the year of sale or (b) either (I) the aggregate tax basis of property sold during the year of sale is 10% or less of the

Table of Contents

aggregate tax basis of all of our assets as of the beginning of the taxable year, or (II) for sales after July 30, 2008, the aggregate fair market value of property sold during the year of sale is 10% or less of the aggregate fair market value of all of our assets as of the beginning of the taxable year, and (III) in the case of either (I) or (II), substantially all of the marketing and development expenditures with respect to the property sold are made through an independent contractor from whom we derive no income. The sale of more than one property to one buyer as part of one transaction constitutes one sale for purposes of this safe harbor. For purposes of either (iii)(a) or (iii)(b), certain property obtained through foreclosure is generally not included in determining whether the asset tests are satisfied.

Penalty Tax. Any redetermined rents, redetermined deductions or excess interest we generate will be subject to a 100% penalty tax. In general, redetermined rents are rents from real property that are overstated as a result of services furnished by one of our taxable REIT subsidiaries to any of our tenants, and redetermined deductions and excess interest represent amounts that are deducted by a taxable REIT subsidiary for payments to us that are in excess of the amounts that would have been deducted based on arm's-length negotiations. Rents we receive will not constitute redetermined rents if they qualify for the safe harbor provisions contained in the Code. Safe harbor provisions are provided where:

amounts are excluded from the definition of impermissible tenant service income as a result of satisfying the 1% de minimis exception;

a taxable REIT subsidiary renders a significant amount of similar services to unrelated parties and the charges for such services are substantially comparable;

rents paid to us by tenants who both are leasing at least 25% of the net leasable space in the relevant property and also are not receiving such services from the taxable REIT subsidiary are substantially comparable to the rents paid by our tenants leasing comparable space who are receiving such services from the taxable REIT subsidiary and the charge for the services is separately stated; or

the taxable REIT subsidiary's gross income from the service is not less than 150% of the taxable REIT subsidiary's direct cost of furnishing the service.

While we anticipate that any fees paid to a taxable REIT subsidiary for tenant services will reflect arm's-length rates, a taxable REIT subsidiary may under certain circumstances provide tenant services which do not satisfy any of the safe-harbor provisions described above. Nevertheless, these determinations are inherently factual, and the IRS has broad discretion to assert that amounts paid between related parties should be reallocated to clearly reflect their respective incomes. If the IRS successfully made such an assertion, we would be required to pay a 100% penalty tax on the redetermined rent, redetermined deductions or excess interest, as applicable.

Asset Tests Applicable to REITs. At the close of each quarter of our taxable year, we must satisfy four tests relating to the nature and diversification of our assets:

(1) At least 75% of the value of our total assets must be represented by real estate assets, cash, cash items and government securities. For purposes of this test, real estate assets include our allocable share of real estate assets held by entities that are treated as partnerships or that are disregarded for U.S. federal income tax purposes, as well as stock or debt instruments that are purchased with the proceeds of an offering of shares or a public offering of debt with a term of at least five years, but only for the one-year period beginning on the date we receive such proceeds.

(2) Not more than 25% of our total assets may be represented by securities, other than those securities includable in the 75% asset class (e.g., securities that qualify as real estate assets and government securities);

Table of Contents

(3) Except for equity investments in REITs, debt or equity investments in qualified REIT subsidiaries and taxable REIT subsidiaries, and other securities that qualify as real estate assets for purpose of the 75% test described in clause (1):

the value of any one issuer's securities owned by us may not exceed 5% of the value of our total assets;

we may not own more than 10% of any one issuer's outstanding voting securities; and

we may not own more than 10% of the total value of the outstanding securities of any one issuer, other than securities that qualify for the straight debt exception discussed below; and

(4) Not more than 25% of the value of our total assets may be represented by the securities of one or more taxable REIT subsidiaries (20% for our taxable years prior to 2009).

Securities for purposes of the asset tests may include debt securities. However, the Code specifically provides that the following types of debt will not be taken into account for purposes of the 10% value test: (1) securities that meet the straight debt safe-harbor, as discussed in the next paragraph; (2) loans to individuals or estates; (3) obligations to pay rent from real property; (4) rental agreements described in Section 467 of the Code; (5) any security issued by other REITs; (6) certain securities issued by a state, the District of Columbia, a foreign government, or a political subdivision of any of the foregoing, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; and (7) any other arrangement as determined by the IRS. In addition, for purposes of the 10% value test only, to the extent we hold debt securities that are not described in the preceding sentence, (a) debt issued by partnerships that derive at least 75% of their gross income from sources that constitute qualifying income for purposes of the 75% gross income test, and (b) debt that is issued by any partnership, to the extent of our interest as a partner in the partnership, are not considered securities.

Debt will meet the straight debt safe harbor if (1) neither we, nor any of our controlled taxable REIT subsidiaries (i.e., taxable REIT subsidiaries more than 50% of the vote or value of the outstanding stock of which is directly or indirectly owned by us), own any securities not described in the preceding paragraph that have an aggregate value greater than one percent of the issuer's outstanding securities, as calculated under the Code, (2) the debt is a written unconditional promise to pay on demand or on a specified date a sum certain in money, (3) the debt is not convertible, directly or indirectly, into stock, and (4) the interest rate and the interest payment dates of the debt are not contingent on the profits, the borrower's discretion or similar factors. However, contingencies regarding time of payment and interest are permissible for purposes of qualifying as a straight debt security if either (1) such contingency does not have the effect of changing the effective yield of maturity, as determined under the Code, other than a change in the annual yield to maturity that does not exceed the greater of (i) 5% of the annual yield to maturity or (ii) 0.25%, or (2) neither the aggregate issue price nor the aggregate face amount of the issuer's debt instruments held by the REIT exceeds \$1,000,000 and not more than 12 months of unaccrued interest can be required to be prepaid thereunder. In addition, debt will not be disqualified from being treated as straight debt solely because the time or amount of payment is subject to a contingency upon a default or the exercise of a prepayment right by the issuer of the debt, provided that such contingency is consistent with customary commercial practice.

We currently own approximately 18% of the outstanding common stock of PS Business Parks, Inc., which has elected to be taxed as a REIT for U.S. federal income tax purposes (as well as a substantial portion of the outstanding common units of limited partnership interest of PS Business Parks, L.P., which may be exchangeable for shares of PS Business Parks, Inc.'s common stock). As a REIT, PS Business Parks, Inc. is subject to the various REIT qualification requirements. We believe that PS Business Parks, Inc. has been organized and has operated in a manner to qualify for taxation as a REIT for U.S. federal income tax purposes and will continue to be organized and operated in this manner. If PS Business Parks, Inc. were to fail to qualify as a REIT, our stock investment in PS Business Parks, Inc. would cease to be a qualifying real estate asset for purposes of the 75% gross asset test and would become subject to the 5% asset test, the 10% voting securities test, and the 10% value test generally applicable to our ownership in corporations (other than REITs, qualified REIT subsidiaries and taxable REIT subsidiaries). If PS Business Parks, Inc. failed to qualify as a REIT, we would not meet the 10% voting securities test and the 10% value test with respect to our interest in PS Business Parks, Inc., and accordingly, we also would fail to qualify as a REIT.

Table of Contents

We believe that the aggregate value of our interests in our taxable REIT subsidiaries does not exceed, and in the future will not exceed, 25% of the aggregate value of our gross assets (20% for our taxable years prior to 2009). As of each relevant testing date prior to the election to treat each corporate subsidiary of Public Storage or any other corporation in which we own an interest as a taxable REIT subsidiary, we believe we did not own more than 10% of the voting securities of any such entity. In addition, we believe that as of each relevant testing date prior to the election to treat each corporate subsidiary of Public Storage or any other corporation in which we own an interest as a taxable REIT subsidiary of Public Storage, our pro rata share of the value of the securities, including debt, of any such corporation or other issuer did not exceed 5% of the total value of our assets.

With respect to each issuer in which we currently own an interest that does not qualify as a REIT, a qualified REIT subsidiary or a taxable REIT subsidiary, we believe that our pro rata share of the value of the securities, including debt, of any such issuer does not exceed 5% of the total value of our assets and that it complies with the 10% voting securities test and 10% value test with respect to each such issuer. However, no independent appraisals have been obtained to support these conclusions. In this regard, however, we cannot provide any assurance that the IRS might not disagree with our determinations.

The asset tests must be satisfied not only on the last day of the calendar quarter in which we, directly or through pass-through subsidiaries, acquire securities in the applicable issuer, but also on the last day of the calendar quarter in which we increase our ownership of securities of such issuer, including as a result of increasing our interest in pass-through subsidiaries. After initially meeting the asset tests at the close of any quarter, we will not lose our status as a REIT for failure to satisfy the 25%, 25% TRS (20% for our taxable years prior to 2009), or 5% asset tests solely by reason of changes in the relative values of our assets. If failure to satisfy the 25%, 25% TRS (20% for our taxable years prior to 2009) or 5% asset tests results from an acquisition of securities or other property during a quarter, we can cure this failure by disposing of sufficient non-qualifying assets within 30 days after the close of that quarter. We intend to maintain adequate records of the value of our assets to ensure compliance with the asset tests and to take any available action within 30 days after the close of any quarter as may be required to cure any noncompliance with the 25%, 25% TRS (20% for our taxable years prior to 2009) or 5% asset tests. Although we plan to take steps to ensure that we satisfy such tests for any quarter with respect to which testing is to occur, there can be no assurance that such steps will always be successful. If we fail to timely cure any noncompliance with the asset tests, we would cease to qualify as a REIT, unless we satisfy certain relief provisions described in the next paragraph.

The failure to satisfy the asset tests can be remedied even after the 30-day cure period under certain circumstances. If the total value of the assets that caused a failure of the 5% asset test, the 10% voting securities test or the 10% value test does not exceed either 1% of our assets at the end of the relevant quarter or \$10,000,000, we can cure such a failure by disposing of sufficient assets to cure such a violation within six months following the last day of the quarter in which we first identify the failure of the asset test. For a violation of any of the asset tests not described in the prior sentence (including the 75%, 25% and the 25% TRS (20% for our taxable years prior to 2009) asset tests), we can avoid disqualification as a REIT if the violation is due to reasonable cause and we dispose of an amount of assets sufficient to cure such violation within the six-month period described in the preceding sentence, pay a tax equal to the greater of \$50,000 or the highest corporate tax rate multiplied by the net income generated by the nonqualifying assets during the period of time that the assets were held as nonqualifying assets, and file in accordance with applicable Treasury regulations a schedule with the IRS that describes the assets. The applicable Treasury regulations are yet to be issued. Thus, it is not possible to state with precision under what circumstances we would be entitled to the benefit of these provisions.

Annual Distribution Requirements Applicable to REITs. To qualify as a REIT, we are required to distribute dividends, other than capital gain dividends, to our shareholders each year in an amount at least equal to the sum of:

90% of our REIT taxable income, computed without regard to the dividends paid deduction and our net capital gain; and

90% of our after tax net income, if any, from foreclosure property; *minus*

the excess of the sum of certain items of non-cash income over 5% of our REIT taxable income.

Table of Contents

In addition, for purposes of this test, non-cash income includes a portion of the income attributable to leveled stepped rents, original issue discount included in our taxable income and certain income attributable to an investment in a residual interest in a REMIC, in both cases without the receipt of a corresponding payment, cancellation of indebtedness, and income from a like-kind exchange that is later determined to be taxable (provided, in this last case, that the failure to qualify as a like-kind exchange was due to reasonable cause and not willful neglect). We must pay these distributions in the taxable year to which they relate, or in the following taxable year if they are declared during the last three months of the taxable year, payable to shareholders of record on a specified date during such period and paid during January of the following year. Such distributions are treated as paid by us and received by our shareholders on December 31 of the year in which they are declared. In addition, at our election, a distribution for a taxable year may be declared before we timely file our tax return for such year and paid on or before the first regular dividend payment date after such declaration, provided such payment is made during the twelve-month period following the close of such year. These distributions are taxable to our shareholders, other than tax-exempt entities, in the year in which paid. This is so even though these distributions relate to the prior year for purposes of our 90% distribution requirement. In addition, in order to be taken into account for purposes of satisfying the distribution requirement, the amount distributed must not be preferential i.e., every shareholder of the class of shares with respect to which a distribution is made must be treated the same as every other shareholder of that class, and no class of shares may be treated otherwise than in accordance with its dividend rights as a class. To the extent that we either do not distribute all of our net capital gain or we distribute at least 90%, but less than 100%, of our REIT taxable income, as adjusted, we will be required to pay tax on that amount at regular corporate tax rates. We intend to make timely distributions sufficient to satisfy these annual distribution requirements.

In years prior to 1990, we made distributions in excess of our REIT taxable income. During 1990, we reduced the level of distributions to our shareholders. As a result, distributions paid by us in 1990 were less than 95% of our REIT taxable income for 1990. The same circumstance existed with respect to each year through 2011, with the exception of 2003, 2004 and 2006. We satisfied the REIT distribution requirements for 1990 through 2011 where necessary by attributing distributions in 1991 through 2012 to the prior year's taxable income. We may be required to continue this pattern of making distributions after the close of a taxable year that are attributed to the prior year for this purpose, but shareholders will be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes as having received such distributions in the taxable years in which they actually are made. The extent to which we will be required to attribute distributions to the prior year will depend on our operating results and the level of distributions as determined by the board of directors. As noted below, reliance on subsequent year distributions could cause us to be subject to an excise tax, although we intend to comply with the 85% current distribution requirement under the excise tax in an effort to avoid or minimize any effect of that tax.

We intend to make timely distributions sufficient to satisfy our annual distribution requirements. Although we anticipate that our cash flow will permit us to make those distributions, it is possible that, from time to time, we may not have sufficient cash or other liquid assets to meet these distribution requirements. In this event, we may find it necessary to arrange for short-term, or possibly long-term, borrowings to fund required distributions or to pay dividends in the form of taxable dividends of our shares.

Under some circumstances, we may be able to rectify an inadvertent failure to meet the distribution requirement for a year by paying deficiency dividends to our shareholders in a later year, which may be included in our deduction for dividends paid for the earlier year. Thus, we may be able to avoid being taxed on amounts distributed as deficiency dividends. However, we will be required to pay interest to the IRS based upon the amount of any deduction claimed for deficiency dividends.

Table of Contents

We will be subject to a 4% nondeductible excise tax on the excess of the required distribution over the sum of amounts actually distributed, excess distributions from the preceding tax year and amounts retained for which U.S. federal income tax was paid if we fail to make the required distribution by the end of a calendar year (taking into account certain distributions declared in the last three months of a calendar year and paid prior to the end of January of the following calendar year). The required distribution for each calendar year is equal to the sum of:

85% of our REIT ordinary income for the year;

95% of our REIT capital gain net income for the year; and

any undistributed taxable income from prior taxable years.

A REIT may elect to retain rather than distribute all or a portion of its net capital gains and pay the tax on the gains. In that case, a REIT may elect to have its shareholders include their proportionate share of the undistributed net capital gains in income as long-term capital gains and receive a credit for their share of the tax paid by the REIT. For purposes of the 4% excise tax described above, any retained amounts would be treated as having been distributed.

Record-Keeping Requirements. We are required to comply with applicable record-keeping requirements. Failure to comply could result in monetary fines.

Failure of Public Storage to Qualify as a REIT. If we fail to comply with one or more of the conditions required for qualification as a REIT (other than asset tests and the income tests that have the specific savings clauses discussed above in *Asset Tests Applicable to REITs*, and *Income Tests Applicable to REITs*), we can avoid termination of our REIT status by paying a penalty of \$50,000 for each such failure, provided that our noncompliance was due to reasonable cause and not willful neglect. If we fail to qualify for taxation as a REIT in any taxable year and the statutory relief provisions do not apply, we will be subject to tax, including any applicable alternative minimum tax, on our taxable income at regular corporate rates. Distributions to shareholders in any year in which we fail to qualify will not be deductible by us, and we will not be required to distribute any amounts to our shareholders. As a result, our failure to qualify as a REIT would significantly reduce the cash available for distribution by us to our shareholders. In addition, if we fail to qualify as a REIT, all distributions to shareholders will be taxable as dividends to the extent of our current and accumulated earnings and profits, whether or not attributable to capital gains earned by us. Under current law, for taxable years beginning prior to 2013, non-corporate shareholders would be taxed on these dividends at capital gains rates; corporate shareholders may be eligible for the dividends-received deduction with respect to such dividends. Unless entitled to relief under specific statutory provisions, we will also be disqualified from taxation as a REIT for the four taxable years following the year during which we lost our qualification. There can be no assurance that we would be entitled to any statutory relief.

Tax Liabilities Inherited from Shurgard. In connection with the Shurgard merger, our indirect subsidiary (*Merger Sub*) succeeded to the tax and other liabilities of Shurgard. If Shurgard failed to qualify as a REIT in any taxable year, it would have been subject to U.S. federal income tax (including any applicable alternative minimum tax) on its taxable income at regular corporate rates. Unless statutory relief provisions apply, Shurgard would be disqualified from treatment as a REIT for the four taxable years following the year during which it lost qualification. *Merger Sub*, as successor to Shurgard, would be required to pay this tax. As is the case with Public Storage, qualification as a REIT required Shurgard to satisfy numerous requirements, some on an annual basis, others on a quarterly basis and still others on an ongoing basis, established under highly technical and complex Code provisions. As a condition to closing, tax counsel to Shurgard rendered an opinion relating to Shurgard's REIT status and related tax matters.

We have assumed, based on public filings and due diligence performed in connection with our acquisition of Shurgard, that Shurgard qualified as a REIT and that we would be able to continue to qualify as a REIT following the Shurgard merger. If Shurgard failed to qualify as a REIT, however, we generally would have succeeded to or incurred significant tax liabilities, and possibly lose our REIT status should disqualifying activities of Shurgard continue after the Shurgard merger.

Table of Contents

If Shurgard did not qualify as a REIT at the time of the merger, Shurgard would have incurred a U.S. federal corporate income tax liability in connection with the merger, which would have been treated as a taxable asset sale by Shurgard for U.S. federal income tax purposes. The resulting gain subject to tax would have been equal to the excess of the value of the merger consideration and the Shurgard liabilities assumed by Merger Sub at the time of the merger over Shurgard's adjusted tax basis in its assets at that time. Merger Sub, as the successor to Shurgard, would be obligated to pay this tax.

In addition, if Shurgard did not qualify as a REIT at any time during the 10 years preceding the Shurgard merger, even if it qualified as a REIT at the time of the merger, Shurgard would have incurred a U.S. federal corporate income tax liability on an amount equal to the built-in gain that existed with respect to its assets at the time it requalified as a REIT prior to the merger. Again, Merger Sub, as the successor to Shurgard, would be obligated to pay this tax.

Taxation of U.S. Shareholders

As used in the remainder of this discussion, the term "U.S. shareholder" means a beneficial owner of a Public Storage common share that is, for U.S. federal income tax purposes:

a citizen or resident, as defined in Section 7701(b) of the Code, of the U.S.;

a corporation, partnership, limited liability company or other entity treated as a corporation or partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes that was created or organized in or under the laws of the United States or of any State thereof or in the District of Columbia unless, in the case of a partnership or limited liability company, Treasury regulations provide otherwise;

an estate the income of which is subject to U.S. federal income taxation regardless of its source; or

in general, a trust whose administration is subject to the primary supervision of a U.S. court and which has one or more U.S. persons who have the authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust. Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, to the extent provided in the Treasury regulations, certain trusts in existence on August 20, 1996, and treated as U.S. persons prior to this date that elect to continue to be treated as U.S. persons, shall also be considered U.S. shareholders.

If you hold our common shares and are not a U.S. shareholder, you are a non-U.S. shareholder. If a partnership holds our common shares, the tax treatment of a partner in the partnership will generally depend upon the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. If you are a partner of a partnership holding our common shares, you should consult your tax advisor regarding the tax consequences of the ownership and disposition of our common shares.

Distributions by Public Storage - General. As long as we qualify as a REIT, distributions out of our current or accumulated earnings and profits that are not designated as capital gains dividends or, for taxable years beginning before 2013, qualified dividend income will be taxable to our taxable U.S. shareholders as ordinary income and will not be eligible for the dividends-received deduction in the case of U.S. shareholders that are corporations. For purposes of determining whether distributions to holders of common shares or equity shares are out of current or accumulated earnings and profits, our earnings and profits will be allocated first to our outstanding Preferred Shares and then to our outstanding common shares and equity shares.

To the extent that we make distributions in excess of our current and accumulated earnings and profits, these distributions will be treated first as a tax-free return of capital to each U.S. shareholder. This treatment will reduce the adjusted tax basis that each U.S. shareholder has in its shares for tax purposes by the amount of the distribution, but not below zero. Distributions in excess of a U.S. shareholder's adjusted tax basis in its shares will be taxable as capital gains, provided that the shares have been held as a capital asset, and will be taxable as long-term capital gain if the shares have been held for more than one year. Dividends we declare in October, November, or December of any year that are payable to a shareholder of record on a specified date in any of these months shall be treated as both paid by us and received by the shareholder on December 31 of that year, provided we actually pay the dividend on or before January 31 of the following calendar year.

Table of Contents

Capital Gain Distributions. We may elect to designate distributions of our net capital gain as capital gain dividends. Distributions that we properly designate as capital gain dividends will be taxable to our taxable U.S. shareholders as gain from the sale or disposition of a capital asset to the extent that such gain does not exceed our actual net capital gain for the taxable year. Designations made by us will only be effective to the extent that they comply with Revenue Ruling 89-81, which requires that distributions made to different classes of shares be composed proportionately of dividends of a particular type. If we designate any portion of a dividend as a capital gain dividend, a U.S. shareholder will receive an IRS Form 1099-DIV indicating the amount that will be taxable to the shareholder as capital gain. Corporate shareholders, however, may be required to treat up to 20% of some capital gain dividends as ordinary income.

Instead of paying capital gain dividends, we may designate all or part of our net capital gain as undistributed capital gain. We will be subject to tax at regular corporate rates on any undistributed capital gain. A U.S. shareholder will include in its income as long-term capital gains its proportionate share of such undistributed capital gain and will be deemed to have paid its proportionate share of the tax paid by us on such undistributed capital gain and receive a credit or a refund to the extent that the tax paid by us exceeds the U.S. shareholder's tax liability on the undistributed capital gain. A U.S. shareholder will increase the basis in its common shares by the difference between the amount of capital gain included in its income and the amount of tax it is deemed to have paid. A U.S. shareholder that is a corporation will appropriately adjust its earnings and profits for the retained capital gain in accordance with Treasury regulations to be prescribed by the IRS. Our earnings and profits will be adjusted appropriately.

We will classify portions of any designated capital gain dividend or undistributed capital gain as either:

- (1) a 15% rate gain distribution, which would be taxable to non-corporate U.S. shareholders at a maximum rate of 15% (20% for taxable years beginning after 2012); or
- (2) an unrecaptured Section 1250 gain distribution, which would be taxable to non-corporate U.S. shareholders at a maximum rate of 25%.

We must determine the maximum amounts that we may designate as 15% and 25% rate capital gain dividends by performing the computation required by the Code as if the REIT were an individual whose ordinary income were subject to a marginal tax rate of at least 28%.

Recipients of capital gain dividends from us that are taxed at corporate income tax rates will be taxed at the normal corporate income tax rates on those dividends.

See the section below entitled *Sunset of Reduced Tax Rate Provisions* with regard to the expiration of reduced tax rates applicable to ordinary income, qualified dividend income and capital gains.

Qualified Dividend Income. With respect to shareholders who are taxed at the rates applicable to individuals, we may elect to designate a portion of our distributions paid to shareholders as qualified dividend income. A portion of a distribution that is properly designated as qualified dividend income is taxable to non-corporate U.S. shareholders as capital gain, provided that the shareholder has held the common shares with respect to which the distribution is made for more than 60 days during the 121-day period beginning on the date that is 60 days before the date on which such common shares become ex-dividend with respect to the relevant distribution (or, in the case of Preferred Shares, for more than 90 days during the 181-day period beginning on the date that is 90 days before such ex-dividend date where the dividend is attributable to a period or periods aggregating in excess of 366 days). The maximum amount of our distributions eligible to be designated as qualified dividend income for a taxable year is equal to the sum of:

- (1) the qualified dividend income received by us during such taxable year from non-REIT C corporations (including our corporate subsidiaries, other than qualified REIT subsidiaries, and our taxable REIT subsidiaries);

Table of Contents

(2) the excess of any undistributed REIT taxable income recognized during the immediately preceding year over the U.S. federal income tax paid by us with respect to such undistributed REIT taxable income; and

(3) the excess of any income recognized during the immediately preceding year attributable to the sale of a built-in-gain asset that was acquired in a carry-over basis transaction from a non-REIT C corporation over the U.S. federal income tax paid by us with respect to such built-in gain.

Generally, dividends that we receive will be treated as qualified dividend income for purposes of (1) above if the dividends are received from a domestic corporation (other than a REIT or a regulated investment company) or a qualified foreign corporation and specified holding period requirements and other requirements are met. A foreign corporation (other than a passive foreign investment company) will be a qualified foreign corporation if it is incorporated in a possession of the United States, the corporation is eligible for benefits of an income tax treaty with the United States that the Secretary of Treasury determines is satisfactory, or the stock of the foreign corporation on which the dividend is paid is readily tradable on an established securities market in the United States. We generally expect that an insignificant portion, if any, of our distributions will consist of qualified dividend income. If we designate any portion of a dividend as qualified dividend income, a U.S. shareholder will receive an IRS Form 1099-DIV indicating the amount that will be taxable to the shareholder as qualified dividend income. The reduced tax rates applicable to qualified dividend income do not apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2012. See the section below entitled "Sunset of Reduced Tax Rate Provisions" with regard to the expiration of reduced tax rates applicable to ordinary income, qualified dividend income and capital gains.

Sunset of Reduced Tax Rate Provisions. The applicable provisions of the U.S. federal income tax laws relating to the 15% rate of capital gain taxation and the applicability of capital gain rates for designated qualified dividend income of REITs are currently scheduled to sunset or revert back to provisions of prior law effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2012. Upon the sunset of the current provisions, all dividend income of REITs and non-REIT corporations would be taxable at ordinary income rates (of up to 39.6%) and the maximum capital gain tax rate for gains other than unrecaptured section 1250 gains would be increased (from 15% to 20%). The impact of this reversion is not discussed herein. Consequently, shareholders should consult their tax advisors regarding the effect of sunset provisions on an investment in common shares.

Other Tax Considerations. Distributions we make and gain arising from the sale or exchange by a U.S. shareholder of our shares will not be treated as passive activity income. As a result, U.S. shareholders generally will not be able to apply any passive losses against this income or gain. Distributions we make, to the extent they do not constitute a return of capital, generally will be treated as investment income for purposes of computing the investment interest limitation. A U.S. shareholder may elect, depending on its particular situation, to treat capital gain dividends, capital gains from the disposition of shares and income designated as qualified dividend income as investment income for purposes of the investment interest limitation, in which case the applicable capital gains will be taxed at ordinary income rates. We will notify shareholders regarding the portions of our distributions for each year that constitute ordinary income, return of capital and qualified dividend income. U.S. shareholders may not include in their individual income tax returns any of our net operating losses or capital losses. Our operating or capital losses would be carried over by us for potential offset against future income, subject to applicable limitations.

Sales of Shares. If a U.S. shareholder sells or otherwise disposes of its shares in a taxable transaction, it will recognize gain or loss for U.S. federal income tax purposes in an amount equal to the difference between the amount of cash and the fair market value of any property received on the sale or other disposition and the holder's adjusted basis in the shares for tax purposes. This gain or loss will be a capital gain or loss if the shares have been held by the U.S. shareholder as a capital asset. The applicable tax rate will depend on the U.S. shareholder's holding period in the asset (generally, if an asset has been held for more than one year, such gain or loss will be long-term capital gain or loss) and the U.S. shareholder's tax bracket. A U.S. shareholder who is an individual or an estate or trust and who has long-term capital gain or loss will be subject to a maximum

Table of Contents

capital gain rate, which is currently 15% (20% for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2012). The IRS has the authority to prescribe, but has not yet prescribed, regulations that would apply a capital gain tax rate of 25% (which is generally higher than the long-term capital gain tax rates for noncorporate shareholders) to a portion of capital gain realized by a noncorporate shareholder on the sale of REIT shares that would correspond to the REIT's unrecaptured Section 1250 gain. In general, any loss recognized by a U.S. shareholder upon the sale or other disposition of common shares that have been held for six months or less, after applying the holding period rules, will be treated by such U.S. shareholders as a long-term capital loss, to the extent of distributions received by the U.S. shareholder from us that were required to be treated as long-term capital gains. Shareholders are advised to consult their tax advisors with respect to the capital gain liability. See the section above entitled "Sunset of Reduced Tax Rate Provisions" with regard to the expiration of reduced tax rates applicable to ordinary income, qualified dividend income and capital gains.

Expansion of Medicare Tax. The Health Care and Reconciliation Act of 2010 requires, in certain circumstances, certain U.S. Shareholders that are individuals, estates and trusts to pay a 3.8% tax on net investment income, which includes, among other things, dividends on and gains from the sale or other disposition of stock, effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2012. Prospective investors should consult with their own tax advisors regarding this legislation.

New Legislation Relating To Foreign Accounts. Under newly enacted legislation, certain payments made after December 2013 to foreign financial institutions in respect of accounts of U.S. shareholders at such financial institutions may be subject to withholding at a rate of 30%. Prospective investors should consult their own tax advisors regarding the effect, if any, of this new legislation on their ownership and disposition of their common shares. See "Taxation of Non-U.S. Shareholders" Withholding on Payments to Certain Foreign Entities.

Taxation of Tax-Exempt Shareholders

Provided that a tax-exempt shareholder, except certain tax-exempt shareholders described below, has not held its common shares as debt-financed property within the meaning of the Code and the shares are not otherwise used in its trade or business, the dividend income from us and gain from the sale of our common shares will not be unrelated business taxable income, or UBTI to a tax-exempt shareholder. Generally, debt-financed property is property, the acquisition or holding of which was financed through a borrowing by the tax-exempt shareholder.

For tax-exempt shareholders that are social clubs, voluntary employee benefit associations, supplemental unemployment benefit trusts, or qualified group legal services plans exempt from U.S. federal income taxation under Sections 501(c)(7), (c)(9), (c)(17) or (c)(20) of the Code, respectively, or single parent title-holding corporations exempt under Section 501(c)(2) and whose income is payable to any of the aforementioned tax-exempt organizations, income from an investment in Public Storage will constitute unrelated business taxable income unless the organization is able to properly claim a deduction for amounts set aside or placed in reserve for certain purposes so as to offset the income generated by its investment in our shares. These prospective investors should consult with their tax advisors concerning these set aside and reserve requirements.

Notwithstanding the above, however, a portion of the dividends paid by a pension-held REIT are treated as UBTI if received by any trust which is described in Section 401(a) of the Code, is tax-exempt under Section 501(a) of the Code and holds more than 10%, by value, of the interests in the REIT. A pension-held REIT includes any REIT if:

at least one of such trusts holds more than 25%, by value, of the interests in the REIT, or two or more of such trusts, each of which owns more than 10%, by value, of the interests in the REIT, hold in the aggregate more than 50%, by value, of the interests in the REIT; and

it would not have qualified as a REIT but for the fact that Section 856(h)(3) of the Code provides that shares owned by such trusts shall be treated, for purposes of the not closely held requirement, as owned by the beneficiaries of the trust, rather than by the trust itself.

Table of Contents

The percentage of any REIT dividend from a pension-held REIT that is treated as UBTI is equal to the ratio of the UBTI earned by the REIT, treating the REIT as if it were a pension trust and therefore subject to tax on UBTI, to the total gross income of the REIT. An exception applies where the percentage is less than 5% for any year, in which case none of the dividends would be treated as UBTI. The provisions requiring pension trusts to treat a portion of REIT distributions as UBTI will not apply if the REIT is able to satisfy the not closely held requirement without relying upon the look-through exception with respect to pension trusts. As a result of certain limitations on the transfer and ownership of our shares contained in our organizational documents, we do not expect to be classified as a pension-held REIT, and accordingly, the tax treatment described above should be inapplicable to our tax-exempt shareholders.

U.S. Taxation of Non-U.S. Shareholders

The following discussion addresses the rules governing U.S. federal income taxation of the ownership and disposition of our common shares by non-U.S. shareholders. These rules are complex, and no attempt is made herein to provide more than a brief summary of such rules. Accordingly, the discussion does not address all aspects of U.S. federal income taxation and does not address state, local or foreign tax consequences that may be relevant to a non-U.S. shareholder in light of its particular circumstances.

Distributions by Public Storage. As described in the discussion below, distributions paid by us with respect to our common shares will be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes as either:

ordinary income dividends;

long-term capital gain; or

return of capital distributions.

This discussion assumes that our shares will continue to be considered regularly traded on an established securities market located in the U.S. for purposes of the FIRPTA provisions described below. If our shares are no longer regularly traded on an established securities market located in the U.S., the tax considerations described below would differ.

Ordinary Income Dividends. A distribution paid by us to a non-U.S. shareholder will be treated as an ordinary income dividend if the distribution is paid out of our current or accumulated earnings and profits and:

the distribution is not attributable to our net capital gain; or

the distribution is attributable to the sale of U.S. real property interests and the non-U.S. common shareholder owns 5% or less of our common shares at all times during the one-year period ending on the date of the distribution.

Ordinary dividends that are effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business of the non-U.S. shareholder will be subject to tax on a net basis (that is, after allowance for deductions) at graduated rates in the same manner as U.S. shareholders (including any applicable alternative minimum tax), except that a non-U.S. shareholder that is a corporation also may be subject to a branch profits tax at a rate of 30% (or lower applicable treaty rate).

Generally, we will withhold and remit to the IRS 30% of dividend distributions (including distributions that may later be determined to have been made in excess of current and accumulated earnings and profits) that could not be treated as capital gain distributions with respect to the non-U.S. shareholder (and that are not deemed to be capital gain dividends for purposes of the FIRPTA withholding rules described below) unless:

Edgar Filing: Public Storage - Form 424B5

a lower treaty rate applies and the non-U.S. shareholder files an IRS Form W-8BEN evidencing eligibility for that reduced treaty rate with us; or

the non-U.S. shareholder files an IRS Form W-8ECI with us claiming that the distribution is income effectively connected with the non-U.S. shareholder's trade or business.

Table of Contents

Return of Capital Distributions. A distribution in excess of our current and accumulated earnings and profits will be taxable to a non-U.S. shareholder, if at all, as gain from the sale of common shares to the extent that the distribution exceeds the non-U.S. shareholder's basis in its common shares (and, as a general matter, subject to U.S. federal income tax as described below in the section entitled "Sale of Common Shares"). A distribution in excess of our current and accumulated earnings and profits will reduce the non-U.S. shareholder's basis in its common shares and will not be subject to U.S. federal income to the extent it reduces such non-U.S. shareholder's basis in its common shares.

We may be required to withhold at least 10% of any distribution in excess of our current and accumulated earnings and profits, even if a lower treaty rate applies and the non-U.S. shareholder is not liable for tax on the receipt of that distribution. Moreover, if we cannot determine at the time a distribution is made whether or not the distribution will exceed our current and accumulated earnings and profits, we will withhold on the distribution at a rate not less than that applicable to ordinary income dividends. However, as a general matter, the non-U.S. shareholder may seek a refund of these amounts from the IRS if the non-U.S. shareholder's U.S. tax liability with respect to the distribution is less than the amount withheld.

Capital Gain Dividends. A distribution paid by us to a non-U.S. shareholder will be treated as long-term capital gain if the distribution is paid out of our current or accumulated earnings and profits and:

the distribution is attributable to our net capital gain (other than from the sale of U.S. real property interests) and we timely designate the distribution as a capital gain dividend; or

the distribution is attributable to the sale of U.S. real property interests and the non-U.S. shareholder owns more than 5% of the value of the shares at any time during the one-year period ending on the date of the distribution.

Long-term capital gain that a non-U.S. shareholder is deemed to receive from a capital gain dividend that is not attributable to the sale of U.S. real property interests generally will not be subject to U.S. tax in the hands of the non-U.S. shareholder unless:

the non-U.S. shareholder's investment in our common shares is effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business of the non-U.S. shareholder, in which case the non-U.S. shareholder will be subject to the same treatment as U.S. shareholders with respect to any gain, except that a non-U.S. shareholder that is a corporation also may be subject to the branch profits tax at a rate of 30% (or lower applicable treaty rate); or

the non-U.S. shareholder is a nonresident alien individual who is present in the United States for 183 days or more during the taxable year and has a tax home in the United States in which case the nonresident alien individual will be subject to a 30% tax on his capital gains.

Under the Foreign Investment in Real Property Tax Act, referred to as FIRPTA, distributions that are attributable to net capital gain from the sales by us of U.S. real property interests and paid to a non-U.S. shareholder that owns more than 5% of the value of the relevant class of shares at any time during the one-year period ending on the date of the distribution will be subject to U.S. tax as income effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business. The FIRPTA tax will apply to these distributions whether or not the distribution is designated as a capital gain dividend.

Any distribution paid by us that is treated as a capital gain dividend or that could be treated as a capital gain dividend with respect to a particular non-U.S. shareholder that owns more than 5% of the value of the relevant class of shares at any time during the one-year period ending on the date of the distribution will be subject to special withholding rules under FIRPTA. We will be required to withhold and remit to the IRS 35% of any distribution that could be treated as a capital gain dividend with respect to the non-U.S. shareholder, whether or not the distribution is attributable to the sale by us of U.S. real property interests. The amount withheld is creditable against the non-U.S. shareholder's U.S. federal income tax liability or refundable when the non-U.S. shareholder properly and timely files a tax return with the IRS.

Table of Contents

Undistributed Capital Gain. Although the law is not entirely clear on the matter, it appears that amounts designated by us as undistributed capital gains in respect of our shares held by non-U.S. shareholders generally should be treated in the same manner as actual distributions by us of capital gain dividends. Under that approach, the non-U.S. shareholder would be able to offset as a credit against its U.S. federal income tax liability resulting therefrom its proportionate share of the tax paid by us on the undistributed capital gains treated as long-term capital gain to the non-U.S. shareholder, and generally to receive from the IRS a refund to the extent its proportionate share of the tax paid by us were to exceed the non-U.S. shareholder's actual U.S. federal income tax liability on such long-term capital gain. If we were to designate any portion of our net capital gain as undistributed capital gain, a non-U.S. shareholder should consult its tax advisor regarding the taxation of such undistributed capital gain.

Sale of Common Shares. Gain recognized by a non-U.S. shareholder upon the sale or exchange of our common shares generally would not be subject to U.S. taxation unless:

- (1) the investment in our common shares is effectively connected with the non-U.S. shareholder's United States trade or business, in which case the non-U.S. shareholder will be subject to the same treatment as domestic shareholders with respect to any gain, except that a non-U.S. shareholder that is a corporation also may be subject to a branch profits tax at a rate of 30% (or lower applicable treaty rate);
- (2) the non-U.S. shareholder is a nonresident alien individual who is present in the United States for 183 days or more during the taxable year and has a tax home in the United States, in which case the nonresident alien individual will be subject to a 30% tax on the individual's net capital gains from United States sources for the taxable year; or
- (3) our common shares constitute a U.S. real property interest within the meaning of FIRPTA, as described below.

Our common shares will not constitute a U.S. real property interest if we are a domestically controlled REIT. We will be a domestically controlled REIT if, at all times during a specified testing period, less than 50% in value of our common shares is held directly or indirectly by non-U.S. shareholders.

We believe that we will be a domestically controlled REIT and, therefore, that the sale of our common shares by a non-U.S. shareholder would not be subject to taxation under FIRPTA. Because our common shares are publicly traded, however, we cannot guarantee that we are or will continue to be a domestically controlled REIT.

Even if we do not qualify as a domestically controlled REIT at the time a non-U.S. shareholder sells our common shares, gain arising from the sale still would not be subject to FIRPTA tax if:

- (1) the class or series of shares sold is considered regularly traded under applicable Treasury regulations on an established securities market, such as the New York Stock Exchange; and
- (2) the selling non-U.S. shareholder owned, actually or constructively, 5% or less in value of the outstanding class or series of shares being sold throughout the shorter of the period during which the non-U.S. shareholders held such class or series of shares or the five-year period ending on the date of the sale or exchange.

Specific wash sale rules applicable to sales of shares in a domestically-controlled REIT could result in gain recognition, taxable under FIRPTA, upon the sale of our common shares even if we are a domestically-controlled qualified investment entity. These rules would apply if a non-U.S. shareholder (1) disposes of our common shares within a 30-day period preceding the ex-dividend date of a distribution, any portion of which, but for the disposition, would have been taxable to such non-U.S. shareholder as gain from the sale or exchange of a U.S. real property interest, (2) acquires, or enters into a contract or option to acquire, other common shares during the 61-day period that begins 30 days prior to such ex-dividend date, and (3) if our common shares are regularly traded on an established securities market in the United States, such non-U.S. shareholder has owned more than 5% of our outstanding common shares at any time during the 1-year period ending on the date of such distribution.

Table of Contents

If gain on the sale or exchange of our common shares by a non-U.S. shareholder were subject to taxation under FIRPTA, the non-U.S. shareholder would be subject to regular U.S. federal income tax with respect to any gain on a net basis in the same manner as a taxable U.S. shareholder, subject to any applicable alternative minimum tax and special alternative minimum tax in the case of nonresident alien individuals. In addition, the transferee of such stock may, in certain circumstances, be required to withhold at least 10% of the proceeds of any such sale or exchange. However, the non-U.S. shareholder may seek a refund of these amounts from the IRS if the non-U.S. shareholder's U.S. tax liability with respect to the distribution is less than the amount withheld.

Withholding on Payments to Certain Foreign Entities. The Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment Act (the HIRE Act), which was enacted in 2010, imposes a 30% withholding tax on certain types of payments made to foreign financial institutions and certain other non-U.S. entities unless certain due diligence, reporting, withholding, and certification obligations requirements are satisfied. The portion of the HIRE Act that provides for this withholding tax and related provisions is known as the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act or FATCA.

On February 8, 2012, the Treasury Department issued proposed regulations relating to FATCA and has since issued subsequent guidance. As a general matter, FATCA imposes a 30% withholding tax on dividends on, and gross proceeds from the sale or other disposition of, our shares if paid to a foreign entity unless (i) if the foreign entity is a foreign financial institution, the foreign entity undertakes certain due diligence, reporting, withholding, and certification obligations, (ii) if the foreign entity is not a foreign financial institution, the foreign entity identifies certain of its U.S. investors, or (iii) the foreign entity is otherwise excepted under FATCA. Under the proposed regulations and subsequent guidance, withholding is required (i) with respect to dividends on our shares beginning on January 1, 2014, and (ii) with respect to gross proceeds from a sale or other disposition of our shares that occurs on or after January 1, 2016.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the proposed regulations and subsequent guidance will not be effective until issued in final form. There can be no assurance either as to when final regulations relating to FATCA will be issued or as to the particular form that those final regulations might take. If withholding is required under FATCA on a payment related to our shares, investors that otherwise would not be subject to withholding (or that otherwise would be entitled to a reduced rate of withholding) on such payment generally will be required to seek a refund or credit from the IRS to obtain the benefit of such exemption or reduction (provided that such benefit is available). We will not pay any additional amounts in respect of amounts withheld under FATCA. Prospective investors should consult their tax advisors regarding the effect of FATCA in their particular circumstances.

Information Reporting and Backup Withholding Tax Applicable to Shareholders

U.S. Shareholders. In general, information-reporting requirements will apply to payments of distributions on our common shares and payments of the proceeds of the sale of our common shares to some U.S. shareholders, unless an exception applies. Further, the payer will be required to withhold backup withholding tax on such payments at the rate of 28% if:

- (1) the payee fails to furnish a taxpayer identification number, or TIN, to the payer or to establish an exemption from backup withholding;
- (2) the IRS notifies the payer that the TIN furnished by the payee is incorrect;
- (3) there has been a notified payee under-reporting with respect to interest, dividends or original issue discount described in Section 3406(c) of the Code; or
- (4) there has been a failure of the payee to certify under the penalty of perjury that the payee is not subject to backup withholding under the Code.

Some shareholders, including corporations, may be exempt from backup withholding. Any amounts that we withhold under the backup withholding rules may be refunded or credited against the U.S. shareholder's U.S. federal income tax liability if certain required information is timely furnished to the IRS.

Table of Contents

Non-U.S. Shareholders. Generally, information reporting will apply to payments of distributions on our common shares, and backup withholding described above for a U.S. shareholder will apply, unless the payee certifies that it is not a U.S. person or otherwise establishes an exemption.

The payment of the proceeds from the disposition of our common shares to or through the U.S. office of a U.S. or foreign broker will be subject to information reporting and, possibly, backup withholding as described above for U.S. shareholders, or the withholding tax for non-U.S. shareholders, as applicable, unless the non-U.S. shareholder certifies as to its non-U.S. status or otherwise establishes an exemption, provided that the broker does not have actual knowledge that the shareholder is a U.S. person or that the conditions of any other exemption are not, in fact, satisfied. The proceeds of the disposition by a non-U.S. shareholder of our common shares to or through a foreign office of a broker generally will not be subject to information reporting or backup withholding. However, if the broker is a U.S. person, a controlled foreign corporation for United States tax purposes, or a foreign person 50% or more of whose gross income from all sources for specified periods is from activities that are effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business, a foreign partnership 50% or more of whose interests are held by partners who are U.S. persons, or a foreign partnership that is engaged in the conduct of a trade or business in the U.S., then information reporting generally will apply as though the payment was made through a U.S. office of a U.S. or foreign broker unless the broker has documentary evidence as to the non-U.S. shareholder's foreign status and has no actual knowledge to the contrary.

Applicable Treasury regulations provide presumptions regarding the status of shareholders when payments to the shareholders cannot be reliably associated with appropriate documentation provided to the payer. If a non-U.S. shareholder fails to comply with the information reporting requirement, payments to such person may be subject to the full withholding tax even if such person might have been eligible for a reduced rate of withholding or no withholding under an applicable income tax treaty. Because the application of these Treasury regulations varies depending on the shareholder's particular circumstances, you are urged to consult your tax advisor regarding the information reporting requirements applicable to you.

Backup withholding is not an additional tax. Any amounts that we withhold under the backup withholding rules may be refunded or credited against the non-U.S. shareholder's U.S. federal income tax liability if certain required information is timely furnished to the IRS. Non-U.S. shareholders should consult with their tax advisors regarding application of backup withholding in their particular circumstances and the availability of and procedure for obtaining an exemption from backup withholding under current Treasury regulations.

Other Tax Consequences for Public Storage and Our Shareholders

We may be required to pay tax in various state or local jurisdictions, including those in which we transact business, and our shareholders may be required to pay tax in various state or local jurisdictions, including those in which they reside. Our state and local tax treatment may not conform to the U.S. federal income tax consequences discussed above. In addition, a shareholder's state and local tax treatment may not conform to the U.S. federal income tax consequences discussed above. Consequently, prospective investors should consult with their tax advisors regarding the effect of state and local tax laws on an investment in our common shares.

A portion of our income is earned through our taxable REIT subsidiaries. The taxable REIT subsidiaries are subject to U.S. federal, state and local income tax at the full applicable corporate rates and to applicable foreign taxes for our foreign subsidiaries. In addition, a taxable REIT subsidiary will be limited in its ability to deduct interest payments in excess of a certain amount made directly or indirectly to us. To the extent that our taxable REIT subsidiaries and we are required to pay foreign, U.S. federal, state or local taxes, we will have less cash available for distribution to shareholders.

Table of Contents

Legislative or Other Actions Affecting REITs

The present U.S. federal income tax treatment of REITs may be modified, possibly with retroactive effect, by legislative, judicial or administrative action at any time. The REIT rules are constantly under review by persons involved in the legislative process and by the IRS and the U.S. Treasury Department, which may result in statutory changes as well as revisions to regulations and interpretations. Changes to the U.S. federal tax laws and interpretations thereof could adversely affect an investment in our securities.

Tax Shelter Reporting

If a holder recognizes a loss as a result of a transaction with respect to our shares of at least (i) for a holder that is an individual, S corporation, trust or a partnership with at least one noncorporate partner, \$2 million or more in a single taxable year or \$4 million or more in a combination of taxable years, or (ii) for a holder that is either a corporation or a partnership with only corporate partners, \$10 million or more in a single taxable year or \$20 million or more in a combination of taxable years, such holder may be required to file a disclosure statement with the IRS on Form 8886. Direct shareholders of portfolio securities are in many cases exempt from this reporting requirement, but shareholders of a REIT currently are not excepted. The fact that a loss is reportable under these regulations does not affect the legal determination of whether the taxpayer's treatment of the loss is proper. Shareholders should consult their tax advisors to determine the applicability of these regulations in light of their individual circumstances.

Table of Contents

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

The selling shareholder may, from time to time, sell any or all of the common shares registered hereby on any stock exchange, market or trading facility on which the shares are traded, or in private transactions. These sales may be at fixed or negotiated prices. The selling shareholder may use any one or more of the following methods when selling common shares:

ordinary brokerage transactions and transactions in which the broker-dealer solicits purchasers;

block trades in which the broker-dealer will attempt to sell the shares as agent but may position and resell a portion of the block as principal to facilitate the transaction;

purchases by a broker-dealer as principal and resale by the broker-dealer for its account;

an exchange distribution in accordance with the rules of the applicable exchange;

privately negotiated transactions;

settlement of short sales;

broker-dealers may agree with the selling shareholder to sell a specified number of such shares at a stipulated price per share;

a combination of any such methods of sale;

through the writing or settlement of options or other hedging transactions, whether through an options exchange or otherwise; or

any other method permitted pursuant to applicable law.

The selling shareholder may also sell shares under Rule 144 under the Securities Act, if available, rather than under this prospectus.

Broker-dealers engaged by the selling shareholder may arrange for other broker-dealers to participate in sales. Broker-dealers may receive commissions or discounts from the selling shareholder (or, if any broker-dealer acts as agent for the purchaser of shares, from the purchaser) in amounts to be negotiated. The selling shareholder does not expect these commissions and discounts relating to such sales of shares to exceed what is customary in the types of transactions involved.

In connection with the sale of our common shares or interests therein, the selling shareholder may enter into hedging transactions with broker-dealers or other financial institutions, which may in turn engage in short sales of our common shares in the course of hedging the positions they assume. The selling shareholder may also sell our common shares short and deliver these securities to close out their short positions, or loan or pledge the common shares to broker-dealers that in turn may sell these securities. The selling shareholder may also enter into option or other transactions with broker-dealers or other financial institutions or the creation of one or more derivative securities which require the delivery to such broker-dealer or other financial institution of shares offered by this prospectus, which shares such broker-dealer or other financial institution may resell pursuant to this prospectus (as supplemented or amended to reflect such transaction).

Edgar Filing: Public Storage - Form 424B5

The selling shareholder and any broker-dealers or agents that are involved in selling the shares may be deemed to be underwriters within the meaning of the Securities Act in connection with such sales. In such event, any commissions received by such broker-dealers or agents and any profit on the resale of the shares purchased by them may be deemed to be underwriting commissions or discounts under the Securities Act. The selling shareholder has informed us that it does not have any agreement or understanding, directly or indirectly, with any person to distribute the common shares.

Table of Contents

Because the selling shareholder may be deemed to be an underwriter within the meaning of the Securities Act, it will be subject to the prospectus delivery requirements of the Securities Act. In addition, any securities covered by this prospectus which qualify for sale under Rule 144 under the Securities Act may be sold under Rule 144 rather than under this prospectus. The selling shareholder has advised us that it has not entered into any agreements, understandings or arrangements with any underwriter or broker-dealer with regarding the sale of the common shares. There is no underwriter or coordinating broker acting in connection with the proposed sale of the common shares by the selling shareholder.

The common shares will be sold only through registered or licensed brokers or dealers if required under applicable state securities laws. In addition, in certain states the shares may not be sold unless they have been registered or qualified for sale in the applicable state or an exemption from the registration or qualification requirement is available and complied with.

Under applicable rules and regulations under the Exchange Act, any person engaged in the distribution of the common shares may not simultaneously engage in market making activities with respect to the common shares for the applicable restricted period prior to the commencement of the distribution. In addition, the selling shareholder will be subject to applicable provisions of the Exchange Act and the rules and regulations thereunder, including Regulation M, which may limit the timing of purchases and sales of the common shares by the selling shareholder or any other person. We will make copies of this prospectus available to the selling shareholder and have informed the selling shareholder of the need to deliver a copy of this prospectus to each purchaser at or prior to the time of the sale.

The selling shareholder will receive all of the net proceeds from the sale of common shares. See [Use of Proceeds](#) and [Selling Shareholder](#).

Table of Contents

LEGAL OPINIONS

Certain legal matters relating to the common shares registered for resale hereunder and certain U.S. federal income tax matters will be passed upon for Public Storage by Hogan Lovells US LLP. Hogan Lovells US LLP has represented Public Storage and its affiliates on unrelated matters.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of Public Storage appearing in Public Storage's Annual Report (Form 10-K) for the year ended December 31, 2011 (including the schedule appearing therein), and the effectiveness of Public Storage's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2011, have been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, as set forth in their reports thereon included therein, and incorporated herein by reference. Such consolidated financial statements and schedule are incorporated herein by reference in reliance upon such reports given on the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

Table of Contents

712,400 Shares
PUBLIC STORAGE

Common Shares

Prospectus Supplement

November 26, 2012

BofA Merrill Lynch