

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 5, 2026

TO: Environmental Services Commission

FROM: Emily Flanagan, Utilities Planning Senior Engineer
Eric LaFrance, Utilities Planning Manager

SUBJECT: Wastewater System Plan Update

ACTION REQUIRED

No action required; this is an informational briefing.

BACKGROUND / ANALYSIS

The Wastewater System Plan was last adopted by Bellevue City Council in 2014. The City, County, and State code dictate the content of the wastewater system plan, which is typically updated about every 10 years. The Utilities department is working on updating the plan and is scheduled to have it completed mid-2027.

In November 2024, staff provided ESC with an introduction to the Storm, Water, and Wastewater System Plans. Since then, a team of staff and a consultant, Jacobs, have been working to gather background information needed for the wastewater system analysis.

The Wastewater System Plan typically includes a description of the existing system, policies, projected projects, etc.

The system plan will also include descriptions of the work that has been accomplished since the last plan including dozens of capital projects, development of the Asset Management Program, the Lake Washington Lake Lines Management Plan, and the Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) studies.

As part of this system plan, we are updating the hydraulic models for the entire sewer system. This update will be calibrated with 20 flow gages we have installed around the City. The model will be run with existing flows, as well as, projected future flows based on the Bellevue Comprehensive Plan 2044. This will help us identify existing and future capacity issues in the sewer system.

An important part of the system plan is the development of 20+ year capital strategic plan. This plan will include projects based on capacity needs identified during modeling, Asset Management recommendations, utility initiatives like the Septic to Sewer Program, and the Lake Lines Replacement Program. The projected budget for the 20+ year capital strategic plan will be used for financial planning.

For this meeting staff will continue to provide information and summary of the Wastewater System Plan and current activities. Additional discussion on policies, findings and recommendations will occur in a future ESC meeting, following an in-depth analysis of the wastewater system.

POLICY ISSUES

Policies related to managing the wastewater system will be found in Chapter 2 of the future Wastewater System Plan currently under development and complement those in the Utilities section of the Comprehensive Plan and other sections. The wastewater system policies can be grouped into categories: customer service,

wastewater service area, water quality, regional coordination, and financial policies. Wastewater system policies are developed by the utility management and reviewed by the Environment Services Commission as part of the Wastewater System Plan update. As necessary, modifications or additions to existing policies will be brought to ESC for discussion and review.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no direct fiscal impact of this work on the Utility at this time. The plan may recommend policies, programs, or projects that would need to be approved separately in future budgeting process.

ATTACHMENTS & AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS

- A. [Wastewater System Plan | City of Bellevue](#) (The complete current Wastewater System Plan can be found on the City's webpage)
- B. [Bellevue 2044 Comprehensive Plan Utilities](#) (Utilities Element of the Comprehensive Plan)
- C. [Ch. 24.04 Sewer Utility Code | Bellevue City Code](#) (Bellevue's Sewer Utility Code)