

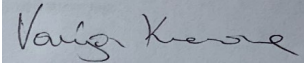


City of Bellevue

MEMO

DATE: September 1, 2023

TO: Mayor Robinson and City Councilmembers

FROM: Vanja Knezevic, Chair, Environmental Services Commission 

SUBJECT: Recommendation to Adopt the Emergency Water Supply Master Plan

The Environmental Services Commission (Commission) is charged with reviewing and providing input on the Utilities Department's short and long-term planning and policy development. As part of this charge, the Commission has conducted a detailed review of the Utilities Department's proposed Emergency Water Supply Master Plan (Master Plan) together with supporting studies. This review included briefings by the Utilities Department over the past five years regarding the purpose and benefits of the Master Plan, information on earthquake hazards, and recommendations on how to responsibly address identified risks and impacts for the City of Bellevue. **The Commission fully supports and recommends Council adoption of the Master Plan.**

Background

The Commission has received information on Bellevue's vulnerability to severe earthquakes, originating from the Seattle Fault and from the Cascadia Subduction Zone Fault. Also provided was the risk of damage to our water infrastructure and the risk of economic losses to Bellevue, due to failure of the water system and lack of water availability due to these severe earthquakes.

To mitigate these risks, the Master Plan proposes new policies that will drive actions to improve community and economic resilience by reducing water service interruptions and better preparing the community for earthquake events. These include policies to:

- Prioritize water service restoration to customers that serve immediate life safety and community recovery functions.
- Invest in water system improvements to meet established earthquake mitigation and water system reliability goals.
- Conduct outreach and education to residents and businesses on how to prepare for water service interruptions in the event of an earthquake.

Additionally, the Master Plan requires coordination between City departments and across agencies in multiple levels of government for effective response to an earthquake emergency. This includes addressing roles and responsibilities, agreements, inter-dependencies, and shared resources across agencies, and how these factors can affect mitigation and response activities.



Process

The Commission was engaged in the Master Plan development through nine successive presentations starting in 2018. Utilities Department staff presented the results of an emergency well evaluation, a water distribution system seismic vulnerability assessment, and incremental updates on the Master Plan. Questions and feedback from the Commission informed the Master Plan's direction. The Master Plan outlines strategies to reduce the risk to the water supply from earthquakes through water system planning and strategic capital investments for earthquake mitigation.

Conclusion

The Master Plan recommends mitigation of severe community impacts due to real potential disasters, using a risk-based, customer-focused rationale. The recommended actions are proposed with the goal of balancing responsiveness, attainability, and affordability within a reasonable timeframe. The Commission unanimously recommends Council adoption of the Master Plan. Thank you for your consideration.