



DATE: November 22, 2021

TO: Mayor Robinson, Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis and Councilmembers

FROM: John Stokes, Councilmember

SUBJECT: Water Supply Development Fund of the Cascade Water Alliance

At the Council meeting this evening under Council Business, I will speak to the topic of a potential Water Supply Development Fund (WSDF) that the Board of the Cascade Water Alliance (Cascade) will soon consider. As the Board Chair of Cascade and liaison of this Council, I seek your input to inform my participation at the next Board meeting.

This occasion follows two previous Council meetings on the topic. On September 27, 2021, Ray Hoffman, Executive Director, and Ed Cebron, Chief Economist/Treasurer, of Cascade presented to the Council a long-term financial strategy for regional water supply. They provided the background and reasoning for potentially setting up a WSDF and wanted feedback from the Council as well as offering the opportunity to respond Council's questions on the subject. Mr. Hoffman and Mr. Cebron likewise presented to the councils of other member cities and water districts.

As a result of the discussion, the Council requested that City staff present at a future meeting, respond to specific questions and observations of Councilmembers, and bring a recommendation. On November 8, 2021, Nav Otal, Director of the Utilities Department, presented additional analysis in direct response to the Council and recommended an alternate path of waiting to decide establishing the WSDF for Cascade until contract negotiations were completed with Seattle Utilities and Tacoma Utilities.

With both presentations now heard, Councilmembers gave me feedback as intended and we were near the point of finalizing the conversation. I stated during the meeting that I needed some time to think about the information, and you graciously granted me that time. Thus, today I return to you in a public meeting and will share my perspective.

I look forward to hearing final thoughts from my fellow Councilmembers on reasons to either 1) support the original strategy to immediately set up the WSDF or 2) support the alternate strategy to delay the decision until after completion of new purveyor contracts.

Attachments: Agenda Materials [September 27, 2021](#)
Agenda Materials [November 8, 2021](#)