

**DATE:** November 3, 2022

**TO:** Environmental Services Commission

**FROM:** Angela Chung, Sr. Engineer, Utilities Planning  
Linda De Boldt, Assistant Director, Utilities Engineering Division

**SUBJECT:** Lake Washington Sewer Lake Lines Management Plan

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## **ACTION REQUIRED**

No action is required at this time. This is an informational briefing to provide a progress update on the Lake Washington Sewer Lake Lines Management Plan.

## **BACKGROUND / ANALYSIS**

The City of Bellevue's Sewer Lake Lines are sewer pipes that are located along the shorelines of Lake Washington and Lake Sammamish and are either underwater or are on land adjacent to the lakes. Approximately 14.6 miles of the Lake Lines run along the Lake Washington shoreline, through the waterfronts of Bellevue, Medina, Hunts Point, Yarrow Point, Beaux Arts Village, and a small portion of unincorporated King County. The Lake Washington Lake Lines system includes fifteen pump stations and eight flush stations. Most of the Lake Washington Lake Lines were constructed in the 1950s – 60s to prevent raw sewage from being directly discharged into the lake. These sewer pipes are aging, and their location creates challenges for repair and replacement.

Without advance planning, the Lake Lines will begin to fail, potentially causing loss of service to residents and risk to the sensitive lake environment and those who enjoy it.

This project is to create a Lake Washington Sewer Lake Line Management Plan, which will inform future repair and replacement strategies for these sewer lines that serve more than 1,000 community members in Bellevue Utilities' service area. This management plan is needed to identify, prioritize, and address key system issues and will drive both operational strategies and capital improvement projects. This, in turn will drive short- and long-term financial strategies for funding the Lake Lines program for many decades to come. The plan will help ensure we can continue to provide safe and reliable sewer service to the community and protect public health and the delicate Lake Washington ecosystem.

During 2020-2021, the project accomplished the following:

1. Located and compiled existing Lake Line as-builts and data
2. Defined Lake Line service areas for the study
3. Studied criticality for prioritization of the reaches
4. Developed a toolbox of rehabilitation/replacement options for each Lake Lines reach
5. Develop a Public Engagement Plan and outreach materials: a Lake Lines web page, an online open house forum, and informational mailers
6. Organized and ran multi-agency workshops to engage and share ideas with other agencies that own underwater wastewater lines

7. Developed the strategy for compliance with the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) to include an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) integrated with the Management Plan effort

#### **Major Project Developments in 2022:**

The Lake Lines Management Plan Project made substantial progress in 2022, particularly regarding State required environmental assessment and review. The project team has accomplished the following:

1. Started the Bellevue SEPA process in concert with development of the Management Plan
2. Refined the alternatives for replacing the Lake Lines for the SEPA EIS process and the Management Plan
3. Revised the Public Outreach Plan to incorporate the SEPA EIS
4. Completed the first round of Public Outreach for both the SEPA/EIS and the Management Plan which included:
  - a. Project website & SEPA/EIS website
  - b. A project presentation to the public works staff for Yarrow Point, Hunts Point, Medina, Beaux Arts, King County and Renton
  - c. A project presentation to the City of Medina City Council
  - d. Postcards, mailers, and social media announcing the project and the SEPA/EIS component
  - e. Online open house with live presentation for the EIS Scoping meeting

#### **POLICY ISSUES**

No policy issues are included in this briefing; however, future ESC briefings on the Lake Washington Sewer Lake Line Management Plan resulting from the study, may include policy issues.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

The Lake Washington Sewer Lake Line Management Plan is an approved project in the 2021-2027 Utilities Capital Investment Plan, S-58 Lake Lines Program.

#### **ATTACHMENTS & AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS**

N/A