

March 9, 2015

## **CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION ITEM**

### **SUBJECT**

Bellevue Water System Plan—Update and Schedule for Development and Review

### **STAFF CONTACT**

Nav Ota, Director, 452-2041

Paul Bucich, Assistant Director of Engineering, 452-4596

*Utilities Department*

### **POLICY ISSUES**

#### **Department Practice:**

It is the Utilities Department practice to update the Water System Plan periodically, consistent with Washington State Department of Health requirements and City policy, to ensure Bellevue is prepared to meet the community's water needs now and in the future. The Water System Plan includes policies and practices relevant to providing water service, which are aligned with the Council's vision.

#### **City Comprehensive Plan Policies:**

- Capital Facilities Element Goal: To provide adequate public facilities which: Address past deficiencies and anticipate growth needs; Achieve acceptable levels of service; Use fiscal resources efficiently; and Meet realistic timelines.
- Policy UT-26. Ensure a cost-effective water supply that meets the needs of the City of Bellevue.
- Policy UT-27. Provide a water supply that meets all federal drinking water quality standards.
- Policy UT-28. Provide reliable water service for domestic use, fire flow protection, and emergencies.
- Policy UT-29. Promote conservation and the wise and efficient use of the public water supply and discourage the waste of this valuable resource.

#### **Waterworks Utility Financial Policies:**

- *Comprehensive Planning Policies:* The Water Utility System Plan shall be updated every six years as required by state statute.

### **DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL**

☐ Action

☒ Discussion

☒ Information

Council feedback and direction is requested regarding the Bellevue Water System Plan Interest Statement, which is intended to reflect Council's direction for Bellevue's Water Utility. The draft Interest Statement will inform the development of the Water System Plan update, which will be prepared in 2015. This Interest Statement will remain draft until the Water System Plan is reviewed and approved by Council, anticipated in the 4th quarter 2015.

### **BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS**

Bellevue's Water System Plan (WSP) is an essential document that defines water system policies, assesses the current state of the Utility's assets and practices, and establishes what will be needed to

meet the City's water needs over a 20-year planning horizon.

- Bellevue's most recent WSP was approved by the Washington State Department of Health in January 2009. DOH requires that the WSP be updated every 6 years.
- Updating the WSP provides an opportunity to review operational system policies that affect:
  - Customer Service, including service pressure and flow, system reliability, and emergency preparedness;
  - Facility Use, including how to abandon or repurpose water facilities that are no longer needed;
  - Fire Protection, including requirements for existing buildings and new development;
  - Service Area Limits, including service extensions and relationships with adjacent water service agencies;
  - Water Quality, including protection of the public water system; and
  - Bellevue's and Regional providers' roles, regarding water supply, water rights, appropriate use of water resources, and water shortage emergency response.
- This WSP will also focus on some specific areas of interest including:
  - Analysis of Bellevue's legacy water wells and their capability to supply water in emergencies. Past plans have remained silent regarding legacy water rights associated with wells Bellevue inherited from assumed water districts. This System Plan will include an assessment of potential uses for the wells, such as emergency supply, and the effect that could have in reducing the recommended volume of drinking water storage needed.
  - Revisions to water use projections that incorporate declining per capita consumption.
  - Analysis of system vulnerabilities to regional and local events such as earthquakes or drought.
  - An updated, field calibrated computer model of the water system that provides improved accuracy and substantial use efficiencies.
  - Recommended capital investments to maintain service while meeting the needs of a growing population and aging water assets.
  - Review of utility practices including system operations, asset management, and system maintenance.
- The WSP update provides an opportunity for Council to provide input about how Bellevue should manage its water system to ensure continued high quality reliable and affordable drinking water.
- To that end, the attached draft Interest Statement is provided to stimulate Council discussion about Bellevue's approach to providing water service to the community.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

1. Affirm draft Interest Statement regarding Bellevue's approach to providing water service to the community.

2. Do not affirm the Interest Statement, and provide alternative direction to staff.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Affirm the Interest Statement.

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

Draft Bellevue Council Interest Statement Water System Plan

**AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL DOCUMENT LIBRARY**

Bellevue Water System Plan (current edition)