

The City of Bellevue Utilities Department (the Utility) drinking water policies are defined below. These policies complement the City’s Comprehensive Plan policies (the Utilities Element is attached as Appendix B), Water Utility Code (BCC 24.02, attached as Appendix D), and Water Engineering Standards (Volume 4).

Customer Service Policies

<u>Policy</u>	<u>Changes</u>
<p><u>Service Ownership/ Responsibility</u></p> <p>The Utility shall own and maintain all water facilities in public rights-of-way, all water facilities in easements dedicated to the public and accepted by the utility, and all service lines up to and including the meter, except to the extent that private ownership is otherwise indicated as a matter of record. For unmetered connections (fire sprinklers), City ownership ends at the customer side of the valve closest to the water main.</p> <p>The Utility shall require private ownership of facilities on private property that exclusively benefit the underlying property or a single adjacent property.</p> <p>Except meters and the service line upstream of the meter, all other water facilities located on private property are owned by the fee property owner(s), unless otherwise assigned or dedicated by easement to the city, except to the extent that public ownership is indicated as a matter of record. Property owners shall be responsible for the development, maintenance, and repair of all private water facilities, including pressure reducing valves, pumps, and backflow prevention assemblies on the customer side of the meter.</p>	<p>This policy was updated to be consistent with City Code (technical edit), to clarify existing practices regarding ownership of new facilities on private property (such as hydrants and mains), and to clarify where public ownership ends on service lines.</p>
<p><u>Emergency Preparedness</u></p> <p>The Utility will prepare and periodically update an Emergency Management Plan. The plan will include provisions for an organized response to the most likely kinds of emergencies that may endanger the health or safety of the general public, or jeopardize the operation of the public water system. The plan will also address issues related to long term system recovery for orderly and complete restoration of the water system after an emergency.</p>	<p>Minor stylistic edits.</p>
<p><u>Service Pressure and Flow</u></p>	<p>Minor clarifications (changed “maximum day” to “peak hour” to reflect actual</p>

<u>Policy</u>	<u>Changes</u>
The Utility shall provide domestic water to utility customers in sufficient quantity to meet peak hour demands and at a pressure that meets or exceeds applicable regulations.	practice and regulatory requirement; removed redundant text)
<u>Service Reliability</u> The Utility shall invest resources as necessary to construct, maintain and renew water system infrastructure and equipment such that Utility customers are provided consistent, reliable service, except during maintenance activities. Where practicable, the distribution system shall have operational redundancy. Connections with adjacent water systems should be encouraged to improve reliability and reduce vulnerability to loss of water service or improve distribution capability.	Minor clarifications (added “except during maintenance activities”; deleted unclear and undefined “100 percent”)
<u>!!!New!!! Drinking Water Storage for Emergency Supply Outages</u> The Utility shall construct and operate water storage facilities sufficient to keep a minimum volume of one average day’s water usage in reserve, for use in case of water supply disruption. This storage shall be in addition to the volume of storage used for daily operations and fire flow.	This new policy articulates the City’s longstanding practice of maintaining the Washington State Department of Health minimum recommended emergency storage volume, representing one average day of water use. This criteria is consistent with neighboring utilities. Additional storage would have negative community and water quality impacts, significant capital costs and ongoing maintenance requirements. Bellevue’s two water sources (SPU’s Tolt and Cedar) mitigate risk.
<u>!!!New!!! Green Buildings</u> The Utility should anticipate, investigate and prepare for the construction or use of buildings with zero net water usage. The Utility supports sustainable development consistent with existing policies, public safety and ratepayer equity.	This new policy supports development of “net-zero” and sustainable buildings, while ensuring equitable treatment of new and existing customers regarding the costs to provide fire protection and backup supply (where applicable) to these buildings.

Facility Abandonment Policies

<u>Policy</u>	<u>Changes</u>
<u>Facility Abandonment</u> When the Utility abandons a facility, it shall be done in a safe and environmentally sound manner, consistent with all applicable federal, state, and local regulations at the time of abandonment.	None
!!!New!!! Facility Repurposing If an abandoned utility facility would be appropriate for another use, it may be repurposed provided all costs and future liability are borne by the beneficiary of the facility, and provided opportunities for revenue are pursued as appropriate.	This new policy was added to augment the Facility Abandonment policy, to better explain these separate needs and respond to emerging issues.

Fire Protection Policies

<u>Policy</u>	<u>Changes</u>
<u>Fire System Responsibility</u> The Utility is responsible to provide and maintain the public water system infrastructure to deliver water for fire protection to currently served customers.	Added “the public” to clarify that the City does not maintain private infrastructure.
<u>Fire Flow Requirements For New Construction</u> The applicant or developer of new development or redevelopment is responsible to provide the minimum fire flow requirement established by the Fire Marshal for that development.	Minor clarification (add “The applicant or developer of...”)
<u>Fire Flow Requirements For Existing Construction</u> The minimum fire flow available to existing facilities shall be the fire flow requirements at the time of construction.	None
<u>Fire Flow Improvement Program</u> The Utility shall continue to make system improvements with the objective of providing a minimum fire flow of 1,000 gallons per minute throughout the distribution system.	Minor clarification (continue improvements rather than “implement a program”)

Service Area Policies

<u>Policy</u>	<u>Changes</u>
<p><u>Satellite/Remote Systems</u></p> <p>Satellite/Remote Systems are not allowed within Bellevue's service area. Requests for water service will be accommodated only through direct connection to Bellevue's water system.</p>	None
<p><u>Service Extension</u></p> <p>Water system service will be extended to unserved areas of the water service area, including potential annexation areas, if the city's costs are reimbursed and sufficient financial resources are available. Service will be extended only upon annexation to the City.</p>	Minor re-wording for consistency with the City's Comprehensive Plan.
<p><u>Requests for Assumption by Water Districts or Private Water Systems</u></p> <p>Bellevue may assume the operation of a water district or private water system at their request if the following conditions are met and subject to the approval of the Bellevue City Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The district or private system is adjacent to or within Bellevue's water service area. 2. The district's or private system's facilities meet Bellevue's performance criteria and engineering standards, or a plan is in place to assure they will be brought up to Bellevue's standards without adversely impacting Bellevue's existing customers financially or with regard to level of service. 3. The assumption of the district or private system is permitted by State law. 	None
<p><u>Bellevue Initiated Assumption of Water Districts</u></p> <p>Bellevue will seek to assume the operation of a water district when the City Council determines that the assumption is in the best interest of the City and the assumption is consistent with the City's Comprehensive Plan, and will do so as permitted by state law.</p>	None
<p><u>Water Sales Outside Bellevue's Service Area</u></p>	

<u>Policy</u>	<u>Changes</u>
<p>New requests for the sale of water outside of the Utility's service area will be considered only under the following circumstances:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The requestor first obtains a water supply agreement with the agency responsible for supplying Bellevue's water. 2. The provision of water does not compromise design and performance standards for existing water customers. 3. The sale of water does not result in any adverse financial impact to Bellevue's existing water customers. 	None

Water Quality Policies

<u>Policy</u>	<u>Changes</u>
<p><u>Water Quality Responsibility</u></p> <p>The Utility will rely on the agency supplying Bellevue's water, Cascade Water Alliance, to provide water that meets applicable water quality standards in accordance with the supply agreement. The Utility will take action necessary to ensure that applicable water quality standards are met to the point of delivery to the customer.</p>	Deleted "(typically the meter)" because utility responsibility for some contaminants extends to the customer tap per EPA regulations. Changed "all standards" to "applicable"; removed redundant text.
<p><u>Cross Connection Control</u></p> <p>The Utility shall administer a cross connection control program that protects the City's public water supply and users of the public water supply from backflow contamination, in accordance with federal, state and local requirements.</p>	Simplified language for readability.

Regional Policies

<u>Policy</u>	<u>Changes</u>
<p><u>Regional Policy Development</u></p> <p>The Utilities Department shall seek to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accomplish the City's environmental goals to promote a healthy environment, public safety and a strong economy, essential to maintaining the city's and region's quality of life; • Ensure reasonable and prudent fiscal policies on behalf of ratepayers; • Ensure regional, state and federal requirements are fiscally prudent and achievable; and • Maintain local control and flexibility in policy/program implementation. <p>The Utilities Department's role is to develop proposed guiding principles/interests for Council approval. Pursuant to Council direction, the Utilities Department role in monitoring, influencing, developing and implementing regional, state, and federal water utility requirements, policies and programs may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Influencing legislation through lobbying and written/verbal testimony; • Participating in rule-making; • Reviewing technical documents; • Serving on regional forums and coalitions, advisory committees and work groups; and • Providing technical and staff support for Council members serving on regional, state, or federal water utility committees 	<p>This new water system policy guides Bellevue's role in influencing regional decision-making in the interests of the City and Bellevue's rate payers. It is consistent with a similar policies adopted as part of the 2013 Wastewater System Plan</p>
<p><u>Water Supply Source</u></p> <p>The Utility will continue to partner with regional suppliers for water supply. The Utility will work cooperatively with Cascade Water Alliance, other purveyors, and other water supply agencies to assure a safe, reliable water supply at the lowest environmental and economic and social cost.</p>	<p>Simplified text for readability.</p>
<p><u>Conservation</u></p>	

<u>Policy</u>	<u>Changes</u>
The Utility will partner with regional suppliers to promote the wise and efficient use of water. The Utility will implement programs consistent with the Washington State Department of Health water use efficiency requirements, and intended to achieve conservation goals established cooperatively with regional water suppliers.	Language modified to clarify Bellevue's current practice and the role of Cascade Water Alliance to promote water conservation on behalf of the City.
<u>Reclaimed Water Use</u> Bellevue will consider supporting the use of reclaimed water where there is a demand for it, and where it provides an appropriate and cost effective alternative to Bellevue's potable water supply.	This policy was updated for relevancy, by removing commitment to support a study that has since been completed.
<u>Water Shortage Response</u> The Utility will maintain a local response plan for water supply shortages caused by a drought or supply interruption as part of its Emergency Management Plan for emergency preparedness. The Plan will be consistent with other regional purveyors' planned response(s), and with contractual agreements. The Plan's objectives will include ensuring that, to the extent possible, the essential needs of its customers are met.	Minor clarifications (referenced consistency with regional utilities as required by Cascade Water Alliance; simplified language regarding distribution of available supplies to "ensuring that... essential needs are met")
<u>!!!New!!! Water Rights for Supply Redundancy</u> The Utility should optimize use of existing water rights when it is in the best interest of rate payers and consistent with existing water supply agreements. Water rights should be used to provide resiliency in the event of a water supply emergency.	This new policy acknowledges the City's legacy groundwater rights and allows for their development as emergency water supplies

Financial Policies

<u>Policy</u>	<u>Changes</u>
Waterworks Utility Financial Policies	None (referenced policies adopted December 2012)