

City of  
Bellevue



## MEMORANDUM

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      Direction  
      Information

**DATE:** February 4, 2016

**TO:** Mayor Stokes and Councilmembers

**FROM:** Keith Swenson, Chair, Environmental Services Commission

**SUBJECT:** Adoption of Bellevue's 2016 Water System Plan

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "K. Swenson", written over the "FROM:" line.

The Environmental Services Commission (Commission) has reviewed the 2016 Water System Plan (the Plan) and recommends City Council adoption of the Plan. The proposed 2016 Plan will supersede the adopted 2006 Water Comprehensive Plan.

The Plan is a requirement of the Washington State Department of Health and Washington Administrative Code (WAC 246-290-100). The Plan summarizes the City's existing water system assets, management and operations, water-related policies, and planning recommendations to maintain customer service levels and accommodate growth in conformance with the Growth Management Act (GMA).

Utilities staff initiated the Plan update in 2014. During development of the Plan, Utilities staff presented key elements of the Plan—policies, system conditions, evaluation criteria, and recommendations—to the Commission for review. Public comment was invited at each of these meetings and included a staff-hosted Open House event on November 19, 2015. The Commission received a draft of the Plan in October 2015 for review, and provided comments at the November 2015 Commission meeting. SEPA Determination of Non-Significance was issued in February.

The Plan includes new policies supported by the Commission:

- **Drinking Water Storage for Emergency Supply Outages.** This policy formalizes the City's longstanding practice of maintaining one day of emergency storage.
- **Green Buildings.** This policy supports development of innovative and sustainable buildings, while ensuring equitable treatment of existing and other new customers regarding costs to provide fire protection and redundant backup service.
- **Water Rights for Supply Redundancy.** This acknowledges the City's legacy water rights and allows for their development as emergency water supplies.
- **Regional Policy Development.** This policy guides Bellevue's role in influencing regional decision-making in the interests of the City and Bellevue's rate payers.

At the February 4, 2016 Environmental Services Commission meeting, the Commission voted unanimously to recommend City Council adoption of the 2016 Water System Plan.