

DATE: November 6, 2017

TO: Mayor Stokes and City Councilmembers

FROM: Nav Otal, Utilities Director  
Andrew Lee, Utilities Deputy Director

SUBJECT: Pikes Peak Reservoir and Pump Station Project—Siting and Public Involvement Process

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of this briefing is to report on the status of the Pikes Peak Reservoir and Pump Station Replacement project and the public involvement process that was implemented during the alternatives analysis phase of the project. This item covers the scope of the project, why it is necessary, the formation and implementation of a transparent and collaborative public involvement process, and the positive outcome that resulted for a challenging and high-profile project.

## **BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS**

The existing Pikes Peak 1.0-million-gallon steel reservoir located within Bridle Trails State Park (BTSP) needs to be replaced with a 1.25-million-gallon reservoir (based on the 2016 Water System Plan update). The existing reservoir is not up to current seismic standards, is nearing the end of its useful life, and does not have sufficient fire flow storage for the areas it serves. The Pikes Peak pump station located adjacent to the reservoir, is also nearing the end of its useful life and is not up to current safety standards, and is one of the City's higher priority pump stations for replacement. Both facilities were originally built in 1968, and they reside within an easement from Washington State Parks.

The recommendation is to proceed with replacing the existing steel reservoir with a concrete reservoir at the existing site within BTSP and consolidating the pump station with the Cherry Crest pump station. The main benefits of this alternative include:

- Two pump stations will be combined into one pump station at the existing Cherry Crest pump station site which reduces the frequency of operation and maintenance visits.
- There will be less long-term impacts to the users of BTSP because installation of a concrete reservoir (instead of steel) will eliminate the need for periodic re-painting.

To create an open, proactive, transparent and collaborative public involvement process, a Citizen's Advisory Group (CAG) was formed at the beginning of the alternatives analysis phase. The CAG consisted of members of key community groups that are very active in protecting the park and their neighborhood. They included the Bridle Trails Community Club, Bridle Trails Park Foundation, Lake Washington Saddle Club, Washington State Parks, and neighbors near the Pikes Peak and Cherry Crest sites. Utilities staff met with the CAG several times over the past year. In addition, both an in-person and an online Open House were held to invite a broader spectrum of the local community into the siting process.

Between December 2016 and September 2017, Utilities staff and the CAG moved methodically through the public involvement process which involved the following steps:

1. Agreeing on the need for the project
2. Sharing concerns and interests regarding the project
3. Developing criteria to evaluate alternatives
4. Identifying alternatives
5. Evaluating alternatives
6. Ranking alternatives

At the end of the process, Utilities staff and the CAG members independently ranked the alternatives and arrived at the same conclusion; to recommend constructing a concrete reservoir at the existing site within BTSP and consolidating the pump station with the Cherry Crest pump station. On October 4, Utilities staff and the CAG shared the recommended alternative with the community and received positive feedback on the alternative.

Overall, the response and feedback to Utilities' public involvement efforts have been positive, with general agreement that the process helped to build trust between and lead to a preferable outcome for all parties. Utilities plans to continue moving forward with design, permitting and construction of the projects using this model of public involvement to maintain the positive communication and level of trust that is needed to bring the project to a successful completion.

Both the reservoir and the pump station project will now proceed into the design and permitting process. Construction of the combined pump station at the Cherry Crest site should be completed in 2020, and the Pikes Peak reservoir on the BTSP site should be completed in 2021. With respect to budget, the projected budget for the recommended alternative is approximately \$12.4 million, which is about \$2.6 million more than the current approved budget. This is primarily due to an insufficient planning level estimate for the reservoir replacement in the approved budget. Based on the alternatives analysis, the recommended alternative is Utilities' lowest cost alternative. The difference between the current approved budget and the projected budget will be addressed as part of the forthcoming 2019-2025 Utilities CIP budget development process.