



**DATE:** June 3, 2021  
**TO:** Environmental Services Commission  
**FROM:** Doug Lane, Utilities Department Senior Engineer  
**SUBJECT:** Emergency Water Supply Master Plan Update

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## **ACTION REQUIRED**

No action required

## **BACKGROUND / ANALYSIS**

Bellevue's drinking water infrastructure is vulnerable to potentially disruptive emergencies, including earthquakes, that could result in a significant drinking water outage for Bellevue. In an effort to improve overall resiliency of the water supply, Utilities is evaluating options for emergency sources of water and developing an Emergency Water Supply Master Plan (Master Plan). The Master Plan will summarize water supply risks and vulnerabilities, present technical analysis of emergency impacts, propose new policies specific to water supply emergencies, and recommend short- and long-term mitigation actions. Following completion of the draft Master Plan, Council's concurrence or other direction will be requested to guide strategy and future investment.

At the October 2020 ESC meeting, staff described the objectives of the Master Plan, including (1) public awareness and consent, (2) policies for disaster mitigation, and (3) guidance for future investment. Staff also provided an outline of the proposed document, and presented draft policy language. Proposed policies include the following topics:

- Health Care Providers
- Alternative Fire Fighting Methods
- Personal Preparedness
- Shelters and Points of Distribution
- Business Continuity
- Inter-Dependent Sector Coordination
- Emergency Mitigation Investments
- Post-Event Level of Service (PE-LOS) Goals
- Groundwater Supplies Resilience
- Well Head Protection

On June 3, staff will present a public engagement strategy for the Master Plan. Targeted outreach has already been conducted with partners and customers integral to community response and recovery, such as hospitals and Bellevue School District. However, a broad public engagement effort is planned to reach the larger customer base.

The objectives for public engagement include:

- Build awareness and informed consent
- Understand the values, needs, and sensitivities of various customers
- Identify and reach customers who may be under-represented
- Engage the business community
- Solicit feedback to inform prioritization
- Improve the effectiveness of the Master Plan and the proposed improvements

The proposed outreach includes a focus on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion. This will involve partnership with interested community-based organizations (CBOs), and translation of materials into 5 languages. This is intended to reach customers who may be underserved, marginalized, or hesitant to engage with government. In addition, CBO relationships may inform strategy and outreach on future projects.

The scope of the plan includes:

- Two surveys:
  - Statistically relevant (5,000 random invitations)
  - Open, system-wide (advertised in social media, It's Your City, etc.)
- Workshop and follow-up interviews with CBOs
- Interviews with business organizations and local business representatives (to be determined)

Business engagement will target large employers, and business organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Association. We will also seek to engage representative customers included on the Governor's "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" proclamation, due to their role in "ensuring continuity of functions critical to public health and safety, as well as economic and national security". Understanding the impacts of water disruption to specific types of businesses may inform prioritization of emergency mitigation and response actions.

### **POLICY ISSUES**

Engagement will inform strategy and recommendations to implement the proposed policies presented at the October 2020 ESC meeting.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

The proposed public engagement will be funded through the current operating budget.

### **ATTACHMENTS & AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS**

None