



DATE: October 7, 2021
TO: Environmental Services Commission
FROM: Angela Chung, Sr. Engineer, Utilities Planning
SUBJECT: Lake Washington Sewer Lake Line Management Plan Update

Action Required at this Time

None. This is an informational briefing.

Background / Analysis

The City of Bellevue's "Lake Lines" are a portion of the sewer system in which sewer pipes are located along the shorelines of Lake Washington and Lake Sammamish and are either underwater or are on land adjacent to the lakes. Approximately 14.6 miles of the Lake Lines run along the Lake Washington shoreline, through the waterfronts of Bellevue, Medina, Hunts Point, Yarrow Point, Beaux Arts Village and a small portion of unincorporated King County. The Lake Washington Lake Line system includes 18 pump stations. Most of the Lake Washington Lake Lines were constructed in the 1950s – 60s to prevent raw sewage from being directly discharged into the lake.

This project is to create a Lake Washington Sewer Lake Line Management Plan (Lake Line Management Plan). This is a strategic plan, needed to understand, identify, and prioritize key issues regarding the Lake Lines and phase future repair, replacement, and continued condition assessment of this critical infrastructure. This, in turn will drive short- and long-term financial strategies for funding the Lake Lines program for many decades to come and will drive both operational strategies and capital improvement projects.

The Lake Line Management Plan team has made substantial progress in 2020-2021; this includes the following:

1. Located and compiled existing Lake Line as-builts and data
2. Defined Lake Line service areas for the study
3. Began studying criticality for prioritization of the many Lake Line segments
4. Developed a toolbox of rehabilitation/replacement options for each segment of the Lake Line
5. Develop a Public Engagement Plan and outreach materials: a Lake Line web page, an online open house forum, and informational mailers
6. Organized and ran multi-agency workshops to engage and share ideas with other agencies that own underwater wastewater lines
7. Developed a comprehensive strategy for compliance with the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)

Project Developments

The project team worked with Development Services Department to evaluate and understand the SEPA requirements associated with the Lake Line Management Plan. Specifically, implementation of this plan may include in-water and shoreline construction and may therefore have significant environmental impacts to Lake Washington and its shoreline. As a result of these consultations, development of the Lake Line Management Plan will need to include a program-wide Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to consider alternatives for replacement of different segments of the Lake Line, identify environmental impacts and mitigation strategies for these alternatives, and include a transparent public involvement process to receive and respond to public comments. Utilities and Development Services staff have worked collaboratively to integrate the scope and schedule of the EIS requirements with the technical and public engagement scope of the Lake Line Management Plan.

Policy Issues

No policy issues are included in this briefing; however, future ESC briefings on the Lake Line Management Plan resulting from the study, may include policy issues.

Fiscal Impact

The Lake Line Management Plan is an approved Sewer Fund project in the 2021-2027 Utilities Capital Investment Plan, S-58 Lake Lines Program.

Attachments

N/A