



**BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND**

**AB 6466
May 7, 2024
Consent Agenda**

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 6466: Ratification of Local Emergency Orders Issued by the City Manager	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Ratify and confirm the Local Emergency Orders issued by the City Manager in April 2024.	

DEPARTMENT:	City Attorney
STAFF:	Bio Park, City Attorney Amanda Keverkamp, Emergency Manager
COUNCIL LIAISON:	n/a
EXHIBITS:	1. Proclamation No. 327
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	n/a

AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE	\$ n/a
AMOUNT BUDGETED	\$ n/a
APPROPRIATION REQUIRED	\$ n/a

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On April 3, the City issued [Proclamation No. 327](#) (Exhibit 1) Declaring a Local Emergency in response to the Seattle Public Utilities leaking water main. The City Council will ratify the Proclamation to continue the emergency for the duration until the repair can be completed.

BACKGROUND

On April 3, 2024, the City of Mercer Island learned of a leaking underground Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) water main. The leak created unstable soil conditions, which could have resulted in dangerous flooding if the soil were to move substantially and break the water main, putting homes at risk. After a geotechnical engineer reviewed the soil conditions, the City of Mercer Island notified residents in approximately 20 homes near 95th Court SE to evacuate their property.

As of April 4, all affected residents were allowed back in their homes after City and SPU crews were able to reduce or eliminate flows in the two water mains adjacent to the unstable slope, mitigating the risk of property damage if either water main were to break.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

In response to the situation, on April 3, the City declared an emergency and activated its Emergency Operations Center (EOC) while plans for a repair are developed.

The declaration of local emergency authorizes the City to commit all available resources to preserve public health, safety, and welfare, and provide relief to those impacted. The declaration invokes all emergency powers and authority set forth in RCW 38.52.070 including limitation to the right to enter into contract, employ temporary workers, and incur obligations without regard to time-consuming procedures and formalities prescribed by law (except mandatory constitutional requirements).

City Manager Jessi Bon conferred with the City Council about the emergency and the declaration on April 3, which shall be ratified and confirmed by the City Council until the emergency has been declared over.

NEXT STEPS

Staff will continue to work with SPU on a resolution for repairing the water main and ending the emergency.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Ratify and confirm the Local Emergency Orders issued by the City Manager on April 3, 2024 in Proclamation No. 327 for the emergency declaration to remain in effect until the SPU water main repair can be completed.