



City of Mercer Island, Washington

EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION

DECLARING A LOCAL EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the City of Mercer Island (City) is a non-charter code city organized under title 35A RCW; and

WHEREAS, RCW 38.52.070 has authorized the creation of local organizations for emergency management within the City; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Ordinance 95C-007, the City established an Emergency Management Organization and designated the Police Chief (or Emergency Manager as designee) to administer the Emergency Management Organization; and

WHEREAS, the City Manager and Emergency Manager have reported to the City Council that a state of emergency exists within the city of Mercer Island based on certain impairments to Seattle Public Utilities' (SPU) primary water supply pipeline to Mercer Island that has reduced the supply of incoming potable water to Mercer Island; and

WHEREAS, SPU is the sole supplier of potable water to Mercer Island; and

WHEREAS, SPU has taken its primary water supply pipeline to Mercer Island offline until repairs thereto can be safely completed; and

WHEREAS, it is reasonably expected that repairs to SPU's primary water supply pipeline will be ongoing throughout this summer; and

WHEREAS, meanwhile, a smaller backup water supply pipeline is being used to supply potable water to Mercer Island; and

WHEREAS, the smaller backup water supply pipeline's capacity to supply potable water to Mercer Island is lower than SPU's primary supply pipeline's capacity; and

WHEREAS, the smaller backup water supply pipeline's capacity to reliably supply potable water to Mercer Island is 2.73 million gallons per day; and

WHEREAS, Mercer Island's daily potable water demand during summer months averages 2.83 million gallons (3.11 million gallons in July); and

WHEREAS, City reservoirs need to be maintained above 61.4% capacity to meet firefighting requirements; and

WHEREAS, water conservation and other measures may be needed to ensure that (1) Mercer Island's water demand does not exceed the supply provided by the backup pipeline; and (2) City reservoirs can continue to meet resident needs while sustaining water quality, safety, and firefighting requirements; and

WHEREAS, this proclamation declaring a local emergency is necessary to preserve the public health, safety and welfare of Mercer Island;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED AS FOLLOWS:

1. **Emergency Declaration.** A state of emergency, specifically under Chapter 38.52 RCW, exists within the city of Mercer Island, Washington, because of reduction in the supply of incoming potable water to Mercer Island caused by certain impairments to SPU’s primary water supply pipeline to Mercer Island. This emergency impacts public health, safety and welfare of those living and working at Mercer Island, as well as continuity of government operations.
2. **Emergency Powers.** All pertinent emergency powers and authority set forth in RCW 38.52.070 are hereby invoked, including without 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).
3. **Limitations.** This emergency proclamation is not intended as a “proclamation of civil emergency” under MICC 9.40.010 or as a finding of “public danger” under RCW 35A.13.030.

DATED this 1st day of May 2024



Jessi Bon
City Manager