



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

**AB 6471
May 21, 2024
Consent Agenda**

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 6471: Ratification of Proclamation of Emergency 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 Proclamation of Emergency issued by the City Manager on May 1, 2024.	

DEPARTMENT:	City Manager
STAFF:	Jessi Bon, City Manager Bio Park, City Attorney Amanda Keverkamp, Emergency Manager
COUNCIL LIAISON:	n/a
EXHIBITS:	1. Emergency Proclamation No. 329
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	n/a

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On May 1, the City Manager issued [Proclamation No. 329](#) (Exhibit 1) Declaring a Local Emergency because of the reduction in the supply of incoming potable water to Mercer Island caused by a leak in the Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) primary water supply pipeline to Mercer Island. The City Council is asked to ratify the Proclamation until the repair can be completed and the supply of potable water is restored to normal.

BACKGROUND

Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) is the sole provider of potable water to Mercer Island. On April 3, 2024, the City of Mercer Island (City) learned that the SPU primary water supply pipeline to Mercer Island was leaking. The leak could potentially cause a landslide on the slope holding the pipeline, which could in turn lead to a larger pipe failure. To prevent this risk, SPU crews significantly reduced water flow in the pipeline, eliminating its use as the primary supply line. Mercer Island has been receiving water through a smaller backup water line since April 4.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

Since April 4, the City and SPU staff have been working to identify a solution to repair the primary water supply pipeline. The pipeline, however, is located in a challenging area, and it is reasonably expected that repairs will not be completed until late summer.

Until repairs are completed, SPU is supplying potable water to Mercer Island via a smaller backup water supply line, which can reliably supply approximately 2.73 million gallons of potable water to Mercer Island per day. By comparison, Mercer Island water demand during summer months historically averages 2.83 million gallons per day, peaking at over 3 million gallons in July. Additionally, the City must keep its reservoirs at or above 62% capacity to meet firefighting requirements.

Because summer water demand will exceed water supply, a local water emergency has been declared in Proclamation No. 329. The Proclamation 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).

Prior to issuance of Emergency Proclamation No. 329, the City Council was notified of the local water emergency, and its impact on both public health, safety and welfare, and continuity of government operations, by City Manager Bon.

NEXT STEPS

Staff will continue to work with SPU on a resolution for repairing the SPU primary water supply pipeline and restoring the normal supply of potable water to Mercer Island. The City is anticipating water conservation measures will be needed until the repair is complete and will be rolling out a water conservation program in early June.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Ratify and continue the ratification of Emergency Proclamation No. 329, issued by the City Manager on May 1, 2024 declaring a local water emergency, until the same is rescinded by the City Manager after the supply of potable water to Mercer Island is restored to normal levels.