



# BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

**AB 6361**  
**October 17, 2023**  
**Study Session**

## AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

<b>TITLE:</b>	AB 6361: Water System Reliability Action Plan Check-In with Confluence Engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
<b>RECOMMENDED ACTION:</b>	Receive report. No action necessary.	

<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	Public Works
<b>STAFF:</b>	Jason Kintner, Chief of Operations Alaine Sommargren, Deputy Public Works Director
<b>COUNCIL LIAISON:</b>	Jake Jacobson
<b>EXHIBITS:</b>	1. Water System Reliability Action Plan Presentation
<b>CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:</b>	n/a

<b>AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE</b>	\$ n/a
<b>AMOUNT BUDGETED</b>	\$ n/a
<b>APPROPRIATION REQUIRED</b>	\$ n/a

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda bill is to provide an update on the evaluation of near and long-term actions that have been identified following the water emergency that took place during the week of April 17-21, 2023. These action items, referred to as the Water System Reliability Action Plan (Plan), include potential opportunities to build resiliency within the City’s water system to reduce the risk of future similar water supply emergencies.

## BACKGROUND

Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) coordinated with the City to conduct two water supply shutdowns the week of April 16, 2023, to complete the disconnection of a 30” pipeline in Mercer Slough that is no longer serviceable. The planned shutdown was unexpectedly extended by several days due to multiple valve failures, which prevented the City from refilling its reservoirs, and prompting the City to launch an emergency response and water conservation measures.

Following this event, the City retained Confluence Engineering (Confluence) to develop near and long-term actions to reduce the risk of future water supply emergencies. Their project scope includes working with City staff to identify challenges and potential opportunities (including future capital projects), develop high priority action plans, and outline implementation steps, estimated costs, and timelines.

## **ISSUE/DISCUSSION**

Following the event, Confluence reviewed the emergency event data, met with City staff, and reviewed resiliency activities in other jurisdictions and the water industry. Confluence has developed a preliminary list of actions to improve resiliency and is working to finalize the evaluation criteria used to assess these actions. The Utility Board was briefed on September 12, 2023 and a sub-committee of board members was formed to aid in the evaluation of these actions and the draft Action Plan.

On Tuesday night, Confluence will provide the City Council with an update and solicit early input regarding draft action items and the evaluation criteria identified to help with prioritization of this Plan.

## **NEXT STEPS**

Utility Board Members, Public Works staff, City Leadership, and Fire staff will work to refine the evaluation criteria to develop the Action Plan. It is anticipated that the Final Plan, including implementation steps, high-level cost estimates, and timelines, will be completed in Q1 2024, with the Utility Board providing a formal recommendation to the City Council in Q2 2024. Any City Council approved action(s) will be added to the Public Works Department Work Plan and Capital Improvement Program for implementation.

## **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Receive report. No action necessary.