



BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

AB 6281
June 6, 2023
Study Session

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 6281: Joint City Council and Utility Board Study Session: April Water Emergency Debrief	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Receive report. No action necessary.	

DEPARTMENT:	Public Works
STAFF:	Alaine Sommargren, Deputy Public Works Director Allen Hunter, Utilities Operations Manager
COUNCIL LIAISON:	Jake Jacobson
EXHIBITS:	1. SPU Pipeline Shutdown Presentation
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	n/a

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the joint City Council and Utility Board Study Session, Seattle Public Utilities will present information about the water emergency that took place during the week of April 17-21, 2023.

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. Each shutdown was planned to take no more than 44 hours to ensure that Mercer Island retained adequate water in its reservoirs to supply both Mercer Island utility customers and Shorewood Apartment residents. The City planned to recharge its reservoirs in a 24-hour period between the two shutdowns.

The planned shutdown of the pipeline to Mercer Island began at 12:30 am on April 17. Once SPU completed their work for the first shutdown, they were unable to open multiple valves that would allow the City to refill its reservoirs, and as a consequence, the City launched an emergency response and began water conservation measures.

The extensive repair work needed to restore water to the Mercer Island pipeline was completed on April 20 at approximately 1:30 pm, and the water conservation advisory was lifted early on April 22, once the reservoirs had refilled to normal operating levels.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

SPU staff will present information about the project that necessitated the planned shutdowns, a recap of the events that took place during the water emergency, and short- and long-term considerations for system and operational improvements (Exhibit 1).

NEXT STEPS

In addition to SPU's plans for improving the reliability of the water supply to Mercer Island, the City has contracted with Confluence Engineering to develop near- and long-term actions plans to reduce the risk of future water 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, costs, and timelines. The City Council and Utility Board will be updated on this work as it progresses.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Receive report. No action necessary.