



BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

AB 6739
July 15, 2025
Consent Agenda

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 6739: Approval of Letter of Appreciation to 41 st Legislative District Delegation for Support of State Funding for Mercer Island Water Supply Pipeline	<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:	Authorize the Mayor to sign a letter of appreciation to 41 st Legislative District Delegation for support of state funding for Mercer Island Water Supply Pipeline.	

DEPARTMENT:	City Council
STAFF:	Salim Nice, Mayor Jessi Bon, City Manager Robbie Cunningham Adams, Senior Management Analyst
COUNCIL LIAISON:	n/a
EXHIBITS:	1. Letter of Appreciation to Senator Wellman 2. Letter of Appreciation to Representative Zahn 3. Letter of Appreciation to Representative Thai
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	n/a

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda item is to authorize the Mayor to sign letters of appreciation recognizing the 41st Legislative District Delegation for supporting the state funding request for the new Mercer Island Water Supply Pipeline. The adopted state capital budget ([SB 5195](#)) includes \$1.2 million for the Water Supply Pipeline Project. This funding will be applied to project construction costs and will reduce the financial impact to the City's water utility customers.

BACKGROUND

April 2024 Event

On April 3, 2024, the City learned that the Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) 24-inch water supply line to Mercer Island was leaking in the steep sloped area in the SE 40th Street public right-of-way, just north of where Mercerwood Drive meets SE 40th Street. Consequently, SPU crews significantly reduced and then shut off flow to the line, eliminating its use as the primary water supply line. Mercer Island received water through a

smaller backup pipeline beginning April 4, 2024, and implemented emergency conservation actions due to the constrained water supply.

SPU and its specialty contractor, in coordination and collaboration with the City, completed emergency repairs and testing, which restored flow through the SPU water supply line on August 1, 2024. The repaired section was slip-lined with approximately 1,300 feet of structural liner, reducing its diameter from 24-inches to 17.4-inches. This loss of carrying capacity was analyzed to determine the impact on the City's water supply and was deemed acceptable.

With the repair complete, the City Manager issued [Proclamation No. 344](#) ending the state of local emergencies related to the SPU water supply line leaks declared in [Proclamation No. 327](#) and [Proclamation No. 329](#).

New Water Supply Line Project

Given the overwhelming cost responsibility held by the City, and the importance of this water supply line, the City began exploring options to replace this segment of the SPU line with a stronger, earthquake resistant supply line in an alternative alignment. The City Council authorized staff to include design and construction of the new water supply line in the 2025-2030 Capital Improvement Plan ([AB 6530](#)).

The new City water supply line will improve water system resiliency through the replacement of 3,500 feet of concrete cylinder pipe with 4,800 feet of earthquake resistant ductile iron pipe in a new alignment. The scope includes several water infrastructure improvements, as well as roadway and pedestrian enhancements to improve efficiency, scheduling, and reduce overall construction impacts.

The estimated planning level cost for this replacement, together with the other related improvements, is approximately \$19 million. Design and permitting is anticipated to be completed this year, with construction scheduled to begin in late 2025 or early 2026.

2025 State Legislative Session

The 2025 Washington State legislative session began on Monday, Jan. 13, 2025, and ended on Sunday, April 27, 2025. On Nov. 19, 2024, the City Council adopted the City's legislative priorities for the 2025 Legislative Session ([AB 6557](#)). The City's only funding request was for the State to support the emergency replacement of the City's sole water source through a new water supply line. Council Leadership and staff, with the assistance of the offices of Senator Wellman and Representative Zahn, applied to the state capital budget for state funding.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

The adopted state capital budget ([SB 5195](#)) includes \$1.2 million for the new Mercer Island Water Supply Pipeline Project. This funding will be applied to project construction costs and will reduce the financial impact to the City's water utility customers.

Included as exhibits to this agenda bill are letters for City Council approval and signature by the Mayor, thanking the members of the 41st legislative district, Senator Wellman (Exhibit 1), Representative Zahn (Exhibit 2), and Representative Thai (Exhibit 3), for supporting this funding request.

NEXT STEPS

Following City Council authorization, the Mayor will sign the letters, and with the assistance of staff will deliver the letters to the 41st Legislative District Delegation.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Authorize the Mayor to sign the letters of appreciation for the 41st Legislative District Delegation acknowledging their support of the funding request for the new Mercer Island Water Supply Pipeline.