



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

**AB 6154  
September 20, 2022  
Regular Business**

**AGENDA BILL INFORMATION**

<b>TITLE:</b>	AB 6154: 2022 Limited Water System Plan Update of the 2015 Water System Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resolution
<b>RECOMMENDED ACTION:</b>	Approve Resolution No. 1633, adopting the 2022 Limited Water System Plan Update of the City of Mercer Island’s 2015 Water System Plan.	

<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	Public Works
<b>STAFF:</b>	Jason Kintner, Chief of Operations/PW Director Patrick Yamashita, Deputy PW Director Clint Morris, Capital Division Manager Rona Lin, Utilities Engineer
<b>COUNCIL LIAISON:</b>	Lisa Anderl
<b>EXHIBITS:</b>	1. Resolution No. 1633
<b>CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:</b>	1. Prepare for the impacts of growth and change with a continued consideration on environmental sustainability.

<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 introduce the 2022 Limited Water System Plan update (see Exhibit 1) for City Council review and adoption.

- WAC 246-290 requires water purveyors such as Mercer Island to have a comprehensive Water System Plan approved by the Washington State Department of Health. Mercer Island’s Plan was approved in 2016 and is valid for a six-year period.
- Water System Plans must include the following:
  - Water system description
  - Planning data
  - Policies and criteria
  - System analysis
  - Water use efficiency
  - Operations and maintenance
  - Capital improvements
  - Financial information

- The regulatory requirements (WAC 246-290-100) were recently modified to allow the planning period for Water System Plans to be extended from six years to ten years.
- The Washington State Department of Health allows water system owners to extend their current Water System Plans through a limited water system plan update using a process called Appropriate Level of Planning.
- Staff and consultants began working on the limited plan update in 2021.
- The Department of Health has given preliminary approval of the Mercer Island Limited Water System Plan Update.
- The Limited Water System Plan was presented to the Utility Board at the July 12, 2022 meeting.
- Upon adoption by the City Council, the plan will be submitted to the Department of Health for final approval.
- The next update to the Water System Plan will occur in 2026.

## BACKGROUND

The Mercer Island community relies on its water distribution system to provide adequate quantity and quality of water with reliable operations. A water system plan, approved by the Washington Department of Health, serves as a standard guideline for system owners to ensure that their water utility infrastructure and operations are established and maintained to meet both short term and long term needs and demands.

The City's 2015 Water System Plan was approved by the Department of Health on July 12, 2016 and adopted by the City Council on October 4, 2016. The Water System Plan is valid for six years.

## ISSUE/DISCUSSION

The required water system planning period was modified by WAC 246-290-100 from six years to ten years following the 2016 adoption of the Water System Plan. During this transition period, water system owners are allowed to extend their current Water System Plan using a formal process called an Appropriate Level of Planning. This is an abbreviated water system plan update process. Using this process, the City prepared a limited update to the 2015 Water System Plan to extend the planning period from 2022 to 2026, focusing on the following required elements:

- Planning Data
- Water Forecast
- System Analysis
- Updated Capital Improvements Plan & Budget

The elements of the previously approved Water System Plan that are not updated in this document will remain valid through 2026. Documentation confirming compliance is included in Exhibit 1. The requirements include:

1. Make the Limited Water System Plan available for neighboring jurisdictions for review and comment.
2. Obtain confirmation from the local government planning department that the Limited Water System Plan is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan, land use, zoning, and development regulations.
3. State Environment Policy Act (SEPA) documentation.
4. Obtain review and comment by the Department of Health.
5. Host a public meeting and seek public comment on the Limited Water System Plan update prior to adoption.

There are no financial impacts or budgetary actions associated with the adoption of the 2022 Limited Water System Plan update.

## **NEXT STEPS**

Staff presented the 2022 Limited Water System Plan update to the Utility Board on July 12, 2022 and it is now ready for City Council review and adoption.

Following adoption by the City Council, the plan will be presented to the Department of Health for final approval.

## **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Approve Resolution No. 1633, adopting the City of Mercer Island 2022 Limited Water System Plan.