

# Agenda

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## ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMISSION MEETING

450 - 110<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE (City Hall)

6:30PM

Regular Meeting – 6:30PM

Conference Room 1E-113

Thursday, December 6, 2012

1. Call to Order – Brad Helland, Chair
2. Oral Communications  
Note: Three-minute limit per person, maximum of three persons for each side of topic.  
Additional presentation may be heard at Agenda Item 8.

	<u>Page No.</u>	<u>Action</u>
3. Approval of Agenda *	1	X
4. Approval of Minutes * <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• November 1, 2012</li></ul>	2 - 9	X
5. Reports & Summaries <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ESC Calendar/Council Calendar *</li><li>• Desk Packet Material (s)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Conservation &amp; Outreach Events &amp; Volunteer Opportunities #</li><li>▪ Invitation to Joint Boards / Commissioner Forum #</li></ul></li><li>• Draft NPDES Annual Report and Public Review Schedule*</li><li>• City Comprehensive Plan Updates *</li></ul>	10 - 12  14 - 19 20 - 29	X
6. New Business		
7. Director's Office Report		
8. Continued Oral Communications		
9. Executive Session		
10. Adjournment <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Materials included in packet</li><li># Materials separate from packet</li></ul>		

Wheelchair accessible. American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation available upon request by calling (425) 452-6466 (v) at least 48 hours in advance. Assistance for the hearing-impaired: Dial 711.

**CITY OF BELLEVUE  
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday  
November 1, 2012  
6:30 p.m.

Conference Room 1E-113  
Bellevue City Hall  
Bellevue, Washington

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Chair Helland; Commissioners Cowan, Mach, Morin Swenson, Weller

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:** Wang

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Wes Jorgenson, Lucy Liu, Bob Brooks, Councilmember Stokes<sup>1</sup>, Bob Mulvey

**MINUTES TAKER:** Laurie Hugdahl

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Helland at 6:30 p.m.

**2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:**

Councilmember Stokes gave an update on how the City is moving forward with the Phantom Lake situation. The hope is to facilitate discussion regarding a plan and to try to get this resolved. Any agreement will have to go before the Council. Staff is very supportive. He expressed appreciation for the work the ESC and other boards and commissions have done.

**3. INTRODUCE NEW DEPUTY DIRECTOR – UTILITIES DEPARTMENT**

Assistant Director Jorgenson introduced the new Deputy Director for Utilities, Bob Mulvey. Mr. Mulvey reviewed his background and stated he was very pleased to be here.

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Motion made by Commissioner Swenson, seconded by Commissioner Morin, to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).**

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<sup>1</sup> Councilmember Stokes left the meeting at 7:36.

5. **REVIEW 2013-2014 UTILITIES PROPOSED BUDGET & RATES – MEMO**

- **Utilities Budget Public Hearing**
- **Invite Public Comments**
- **Finalize Recommendation**

Lucy Liu and Bob Brooks gave an overview of the proposed budget, reviewed proposed rates and customer impacts.

Ms. Liu explained that the 2013-2014 Budget is not a status quo budget; it contains some significant cost containments which are a necessary response to increases in key cost drivers. The budget is driven by external costs (wholesale costs, taxes, and other financial obligations) and internal costs (capital investments and operational costs). The City is facing cost pressures in all of these areas. She reviewed specifics about the increased costs and rate impacts in each of the areas.

Ms. Liu continued to explain that a significant new budget challenge that Utilities is facing in the 2013-2014 Budget is declining water demand which has created a revenue shortfall. In response, staff has reset revenue projections and is proposing a one-time rate adjustment in order to reflect the fixed nature of wholesale water costs. In addition to the decline in water demand, Utilities is also facing other new costs. An example of this is the new NPDES permit. The cost in the 2013-2014 Budget only addresses the early implementation. Staff's goal is to limit rate increases by taking cost containment measures where feasible, including the elimination of four FTE positions.

Commissioner Morin asked a clarifying question about how Utilities purchases water. Mr. Brooks explained how this works. Assistant Director Jorgenson noted that the current block goes to 2025 and then declines over the next 20 years or so when the City would theoretically have its own supply at Lake Tapps.

Mr. Brooks explained that despite the cost containments, there is also a need for rate increases. He reviewed the impact of the proposed increases on a typical single-family residential monthly water bill. In 2013, the proposed total increase would be 12.2% increase (or \$5.47). In 2014 the total increase would be 7.6% (or \$3.79).

Chair Helland asked why the one-time wholesale cost adjustment was just in one year. Mr. Brooks explained that the bulk of it is in one year because staff is trying to make up the difference relatively quickly. If we don't, we will be below the minimum reserve level which will trigger an automatic rate increase per the financial policies. Chair Helland asked if this amount is the minimum that is required to stay above the minimum reserve level. Mr. Brooks replied that that would put us back toward the target level. It is the amount staff has calculated to

correct for the take-or-pay contract issue that has not been addressed in past years. Chair Helland asked about calculating to hit the minimum reserve level this year and then hit the target level next year. Mr. Brooks explained that it would be a much more significant increase if they did it that way because of the cumulative effect of the rate increase. Councilmember Stokes suggested that staff be prepared to provide more information about this question when they go before the Council.

Commissioner Morin asked if there are related savings on processing wastewater due to the decrease in water consumption. Mr. Brooks replied that there is some relationship, but those budgets are completely separate.

The proposed rate increases were reviewed. These increases amount to a 10.1% (\$12.45) overall increase in 2013 and 5.9% (\$8.06) in 2014 for an average single family total monthly bill. Mr. Brooks noted that Bellevue's rates in 2012 were very competitive relative to its neighbors. Because of Bellevue's policies regarding R&R, the expectation is that in the future Bellevue will be significantly more competitive as other utilities have to either issue debt or raise rates to cover their replacement needs.

Potential actions to reduce the local share of the rate increase to CPI include:

- Delay water AC Main ramp-up
- Don't fund sewer extensions
- Defer Sewer R&R contributions
- Defer increases for M&I Initiative
- Defer Storm R&R contributions.

Mr. Brooks explained that staff is not recommending that any of these cuts be taken as they are not sustainable and there would be customer service impacts.

Chair Helland asked about the costs associated with the cuts. Mr. Brooks explained that it would depend on which cuts were taken. Each would have different impacts. Assistant Director Jorgenson said there are two projects that do not have significant expenses associated with delaying them. Those are the sewer extensions and the M&I. The other three projects have significant implications.

Commissioner Morin recommended presenting these options to Council in a form that clearly shows the implications of each cut. Assistant Director Jorgenson encouraged the ESC to do that if they feel strongly about that. Chair Helland pointed out the ability of the ESC to stress the priorities and the downside in the presentation to the Council.

*The public hearing was opened at 7:12 p.m.*

Public Testimony: [See separate verbatim transcript of Public Comments]

David Plummer, 14414 NE 14<sup>th</sup> Place, Bellevue addressed the proposed budget and rates. He expressed concern about the lack of adequate information available to the public in a timely manner. He believes this hearing should be rescheduled to a later date so the public can have a reasonable amount of time to review the material. He urged that the rates and the budgets be reduced and some proposed projects be eliminated. Finally, it would be helpful if the public is provided information about how the ratepayers will be reimbursed for some of the costs of the acquisitions of the projects.

*Seeing no further public comments, the public hearing was closed at 7:19 p.m.*

Discussion:

Randy Cowan recommended reconsidering the proposed cuts to conservation programs.

Commissioner Swenson expressed concern about jeopardizing the City's ability to be ready for opportunities if increases for the M&I initiative are deferred. He stressed the importance of being able to take advantage of economic opportunities when they are presented. There was discussion about the details of the M&I Initiative. In a situation where there is an opportunity, but the City is not ready, Mr. Brooks stated that they would be able to borrow from R&R. Assistant Director Jorgenson added that, similarly, R&R could be used to address sewer extension issues if necessary, especially if there were health concerns involved. He expressed concern about setting the precedent of using the R&R for loans and the possibility of the R&R funds being used as a bank instead of its actual purpose.

Assistant Director Jorgenson summarized that there seemed to be general consensus regarding the sewer extension and the M&I if additional cuts need to be made, but the ESC would be opposed to any of the other cuts.

Commissioner Mach spoke in support of just going ahead and cutting the sewer extension. There was consensus to take this option to Council and let them decide.

Chair Helland said he would also like to see information included to the Council about the cost implications of making each cut. He suggested that the ESC summarize their recommendations as following:

1. Don't fund sewer extensions
2. Defer increases for M&I initiatives
3. Delaying Water AC main ramp up should be the last possible action on the list

Commissioner Cowan asked why the cuts to conservation were proposed early in the budget process when some of these other items were not. Assistant Director Jorgenson explained that the declining revenue due to declining usage is what is driving the rates up. He acknowledged that it is a struggle balancing the business model with conservation. Commissioner Cowan stated that he thinks conservation works well and he really supports it.

Assistant Director Jorgenson stated that if the Commission wanted to, they could recommend that the conservation and outreach programs not be cut.

Commissioner Swenson added that he does not think the conservation objectives have been met because the quality of Puget Sound continues to deteriorate. Chair Helland asked about applying for grants and alternative sources of funding for those programs. Ms. Liu stated that staff already explores grants and alternative funding options. Commissioner Cowan expressed support for continuing the conservation programs.

Chair Helland expressed support for spreading the wholesale cost adjustment more evenly over two years rather than just in a single year. There was discussion about how the City shoots for the targets and the implications of not meeting those targets.

Ms. Liu explained that the average bill would go up approximately 15 cents a month if the FTEs for the Water Conservation and Storm & Surface Water Pollution Prevention programs were restored. Water would go up approximately .2%. Storm would go up approximately .25%.

Commissioner Weller asked about other options for conservation programs. Assistant Director Jorgenson noted that the City still has conservation efforts going on. Bellevue will also be deferring to Cascade to do some of those efforts.

Chair Helland said he would endorse a budget that had the FTEs for the Water Conservation and Storm & Surface Water Pollution Prevention programs included back in it. He clarified that the Commission would still support the reduction of the other FTE in conservation for Solid Waste, Waste Prevention & Recycling. There was a majority of support for this action. Commissioner Weller spoke against maintaining the conservation programs. He thinks that there are other ways that conservation efforts can be achieved.

**Motion made by Commissioner Cowan, seconded by Commissioner Swenson, to recommend restoring FTEs for the Water Conservation and Storm and Surface Water Pollution Prevention programs to the budget. Motion carried (5-1).**

Commissioner Mach suggested putting conservation as an option on the list of cuts. Assistant Director Jorgenson said it would be listed specifically as a recommendation from the ESC.

#### Proposed Water Rate Increases and Impact on Typical Residential Bill

Chair Helland expressed a desire to more evenly distribute the wholesale costs over the two years to the degree that it is possible. Commissioner Swenson asked if changing the rate increase numbers would cause the actual amounts of the bills to be more unbalanced. Staff agreed that this would create a larger increase in 2014 than is currently proposed.

Chair Helland recommended that the wholesale cost adjustment be spread more evenly over two years. After some discussion, there was consensus to leave the Proposed Water Rate Increases and Impact on Typical Residential Bill as presented.

**Motion made by Commissioner Weller, seconded by Commissioner Morin, to support the rate proposals with the exception of the reduction of FTEs in Water Conservation and Storm and Surface Water Pollution Prevention. The ESC did not support the five additional cost reduction alternatives. Should Council wish to consider these options, the Commission ranked these in the following order from least to most objectionable:**

- 1. Don't fund sewer extensions**
- 2. Defer funding of MDI Initiative**
- 3. Defer Storm R&R contributions**
- 4. Defer Sewer R&R contributions**
- 5. Defer AC Main Ramp-up**

**The ESC Motion passed unanimously (6-0).**

#### **6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

##### October 4, 2012 Regular Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Cowan stated that the minutes should be corrected to indicate that he was not present at the October 4 meeting.

Commissioner Morin noted that the minutes should reflect that he was at the meeting. Also, Commissioner Morin pointed out that he had been referred to as *Councilmember* Morin on page 8.

Chair Helland referred to the second to last paragraph on page 11 and recommended that his comments be revised to read: "*Chair Helland noted that ~~he would even consider~~ is the only one that made sense to him would be the sewer extension option.*"

Commissioner Morin referred to the first paragraph at the top of page 11 and recommended changing the wording to “One alternative” and “Another alternative” instead of “strategy” to more accurately recommend what the ESC intended.

**Motion made by Commissioner Morin seconded by Commissioner Swenson to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously (6-0) as presented.**

**7. FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS/ANSWERS**

The information in the packet which addressed Commissioner Wang’s question about somebody’s assertion that the water revenues had actually gone up was reviewed. As a result of declining sales volumes, water service revenues have declined over the past seven years absent rate increases. Mr. Brooks explained that if you took the rate increase out of the picture, the revenue would go down. Even with rate increases, water service revenues have not kept pace with increases in expenses.

Commissioner Swenson commented that the presentation from Cascade at the meeting a few months ago was fascinating. He recommended that the presentation be provided to the ESC since several members were absent at that meeting.

Commissioner Cowan requested details about the amount and related cost of water that is typically purchased but unused in Bellevue.

**8. REPORTS AND SUMMARIES**

a. ESC Calendar/Council Calendar

Assistant Director Jorgenson noted that the December meeting is rather full so the schedule will probably be adjusted. He then pointed out that the management brief regarding the winter weather preparedness was included in the ESC packet. There was consensus among the Commission that the management brief regarding winter preparedness is sufficient and the staff presentation will not be necessary at all.

**9. NEW BUSINESS - None**

**10. DIRECTOR’S OFFICE REPORT**

Assistant Director Jorgenson expressed appreciation to the Commission for his time working with them. He explained that the December meeting will be his last meeting with the ESC as Deputy Director Mulvey will be taking his place after that.

Chair Helland recommended having a discussion at some point about the cost of contracting services versus doing them in-house.

11. **CONTINUED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS - None**
12. **EXECUTIVE SESSION - None**
13. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

DRAFT

# 2012-2013 Tentative Environmental Services Commission Calendar

November 12						
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## December

- 6** City Comprehensive Plan Updates (PCD/Pam)  
Draft NPDES Annual Report and Public Review Schedule (Paul/Phyllis)

May 13						
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## January

- 10** 2013 Workplan (Bob/Wes)  
Asset Management & Failures & Claims (Bill O&M)  
Meeting Protocols & Related Legal Issues Presentation by Matt Segal from Pacifica Law Group  
NPDES Update and Stormwater Management Program Public Meeting (Paul/Phyllis)

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## February

- 7** CIP Accomplishments (Scott/Regan)  
IDDE Overview (Mike G)  
NPDES Stormwater Management Program Recommendation (Paul/Phyllis)  
Solid Waste Contract - Annual Performance Review (Susan)  
Wastewater System Plan Findings & Recommendations (Pam)

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# 2012-2013 Tentative Council Calendar

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## December

**10** Budget & Rate Ordinance  
(Lucy)

## January

**7** Consent: Resolution authorizing Prof Svc Agrmt w/HDR for Wastewater PS Eval 2012/2013 (Wes)

Consent: Resolution authorizing Professional Services Agreement w/Osborn for Sanitary Swr Repairs Design 2013-2017(Wes)

**14** Consent: Motion to Award Construction for 2012 Trenchless Sanitary Sewer Repair and Rehabilitation (Wes)

Consent: Motion to Award Construction for AC Water Main Replacement 2013-Phase 1 (Wes)

**28** Study Session Solid Waste Contract (Lucy/Susan)

## March

**4** NPDES Annual Report - Management Brief under CM Rpts. in Regular Session (Paul/Phyllis)

**11** Consent: NPDES Annual Report Resolution (Paul/Phyllis)

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- Action  
 Information  
 Discussion

Date: December 6, 2012  
To: Environmental Services Commission  
From: Phyllis Varner, Utilities, NPDES Permit Manager

**Subject: Draft NPDES Annual Report and Public Review Schedule**

This transmittal memo is intended to provide the Commission and the public with a brief overview of the NPDES Annual Report and information on the upcoming public review of the 2013 Stormwater Management Program contained in the NPDES Annual Report.

The draft NPDES<sup>1</sup> Municipal Stormwater Permit Annual Report (NPDES Annual Report) will be provided to the Commission at the December meeting. Copies will also be available to the public at the meeting and on the City's website at <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/stormwater-runoff-management.htm>.

*No action is required of the Commission at this meeting.*

Draft NPDES Annual Report & Schedule

The NPDES Permit requires submittal to Ecology of an Annual Report by March 31 of each year of the permit term.

This will be Bellevue's sixth NPDES Annual Report. To initially prepare these required documents, staff conducted a city-wide analysis of existing programs, codes, standards and processes in 2007 and identified actions necessary for compliance as the Permit requirements were phased-in over the 5-year permit term (2007-2012). Phasing-in of all requirements in the NPDES Permit was completed in August 2011. Attachment A contains a list of significant Permit requirements.

In 2012, Ecology:

- Extended the existing Permit to July 31, 2013 with no new permit conditions, and;
- Issued a new 5-year NPDES Permit (2013-2018) that will take effect August 1, 2013.

The 2013 Stormwater Management Program document in the draft NPDES Annual Report covers the extended Permit term and states that Bellevue will continue implementation of the Stormwater Management Program required by the existing Permit until the new permit is in effect.

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<sup>1</sup> NPDES = National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

The NPDES Annual Report consists of a:

1. **A Stormwater Management Program (Program)** document which is developed by the City and summarizes the current and planned city-wide Permit implementation activities to assure continued NPDES Permit compliance for the coming year (2013). The 2013 Program document will cover January through July 2013 of the reissued Permit.

The draft Program is reviewed by the Environmental Services Commission (Commission). The general public has an opportunity to comment on the draft Program at a public meeting hosted by the Commission.

2. **A Compliance Report** which is a specific “fill in the blanks” spreadsheet provided by Ecology and documents the City’s NPDES Permit activities for the preceding year. The Compliance Report is very prescriptive and is completed administratively by citywide staff. This year’s compliance report will be for calendar year 2012. The Compliance Report located in Appendix D of the draft annual report document is from the previous annual report (for calendar year 2011) and will be revised in January 2013 to reflect 2012 actions.

No action is required of ESC regarding the Compliance Report.

The Commission’s recommendations and public comments on the Program are provided to City Council along with the NPDES Annual Report for review. After consideration, the Council authorizes the City Manager to sign and certify the NPDES Annual Report on behalf of the City for submittal to the Washington State Department of Ecology by March 31.

The public review schedule for the NPDES Annual Report is noted below and in Attachment B.

- December 6 ESC      Draft Report provided to Commission and public
- January 10 ESC      NPDES update presentation and public meeting on the draft 2013 Stormwater Management Program
- February 7 ESC      Commission action – make a recommendation to City Council on the 2013 Stormwater Management Program. The 2012 Annual Compliance Report will be provided to the Commission for their information only (no action required).
- March 4 CC            Commission recommendation and public meeting comments provided to City Council in agenda memo with draft NPDES Annual Report
- March 11 CC          NPDES Annual Report resolution provided to City Council (resolution authorizes the City Manager to sign and submit the Report to Ecology)

## Attachment A

### NPDES PHASE II MUNICIPAL STORMWATER PERMIT List of Significant Permit Requirements

Implementation of the Permit requirements is phased throughout the 5-year permit term (2007-2012). Below is a list of the most significant permit requirements, including ongoing and one-time Permit requirements. This list does not include stormwater programs and activities that are not mandated by the Permit, such as Bellevue's stormwater capital improvement program, municipal storm system repair and replacement program, locates and telemetry programs, monitoring, emergency flood response, customer billing, and administration.

#### *Ongoing Activities*

- Continuing existing City programs and activities that implement good management practices and other Permit requirements
- Implementing and adaptively managing Permit-required modifications and new requirements to existing programs and activities as they phase in over the permit term
- Keeping records of inspections, maintenance, and enforcement actions
- Coordinating city-wide, consistent implementation of the Permit's Stormwater Management Program and other requirements; including the annual NPDES report (Compliance Report and Stormwater Management Program document)
- Implementing Permit-required response toward long-term water quality improvement when aware of a potential violation of Water Quality Standards in receiving waters
- Revising information systems to enable tracking and reporting of all Permit requirements in the annual Compliance Reports
- Providing opportunities for public involvement on the Stormwater Management Program document and other Permit requirements such as code amendments

#### *2009 Activities*

- Completed amendments to three City codes related to control of illicit discharges and new stormwater regulations for development, redevelopment and construction
- Adopted the 2005 Ecology Stormwater Manual citywide for new development, redevelopment and construction projects, effective January 1, 2010
- Completed revisions to storm engineering standards, clearing and grading standards, and development review and inspection processes and procedures to implement the new stormwater regulations for both private and public development projects
- Revised illicit discharge enforcement processes and procedures for citywide consistency and implementation of the new escalating enforcement code provisions
- Increased levels of information tracking for construction site inspection and enforcement and post-construction private drainage system inspection and maintenance
- Expanded training for City field staff on illicit discharge detection and elimination and development review and inspection

### *2010 Activities*

- Began implementing a stormwater outfall discharge screening and source control program as part of the citywide Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination Program
- Continue ongoing refinement of the existing public stormwater system inspection and maintenance procedures to meet the new maintenance standards and inspection and maintenance schedule requirements
- Modified existing private stormwater system inspection program to meet the new maintenance standards and inspection and maintenance schedule requirements
- Manage increasing levels of information tracking for maintenance of public and private stormwater management facilities (utilizing new Maximo O&M database)
- Modified existing City processes and procedures to minimize the potential for illicit discharges from municipal operations (e.g., Fire Department training, water main flushing, etc.)
- Developed and implemented uniform processes and procedures for preventing stormwater pollution related to road, landscape and facility maintenance activities
- Developed Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans for six City-owned or operated heavy equipment maintenance or materials handling facilities
- Implemented Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (for City-owned facilities) including on-going operational best management practices and one-time structural improvements (such as a wash station which discharges to the wastewater system)
- Refining public education and outreach activities to meet Permit requirements and support City activities
- Prepared one-time report on low impact development (LID) practices and challenges for 2010 Compliance Report
- Prepared one-time general stormwater and Program effectiveness monitoring submittals for 2010 Compliance Report

### *2011 Activities*

- Completed screening of outfalls in three watersheds for illicit connections and discharges and continue assessing outfalls in one new watershed annually
- Began assessing adjustments necessary to maintenance schedule for public stormwater system facilities for submittal with the 2012 Compliance Report
- Developed a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan for a recently acquired City facility
- Prepared a report on the Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) public education efforts for submittal with the 2011 Compliance Report

### *2012 Activities*

- Prepare maintenance schedule report for public stormwater system facilities for submittal with the 2012 Compliance Report
- Continue implementing all Permit requirements; adaptively manage as needed

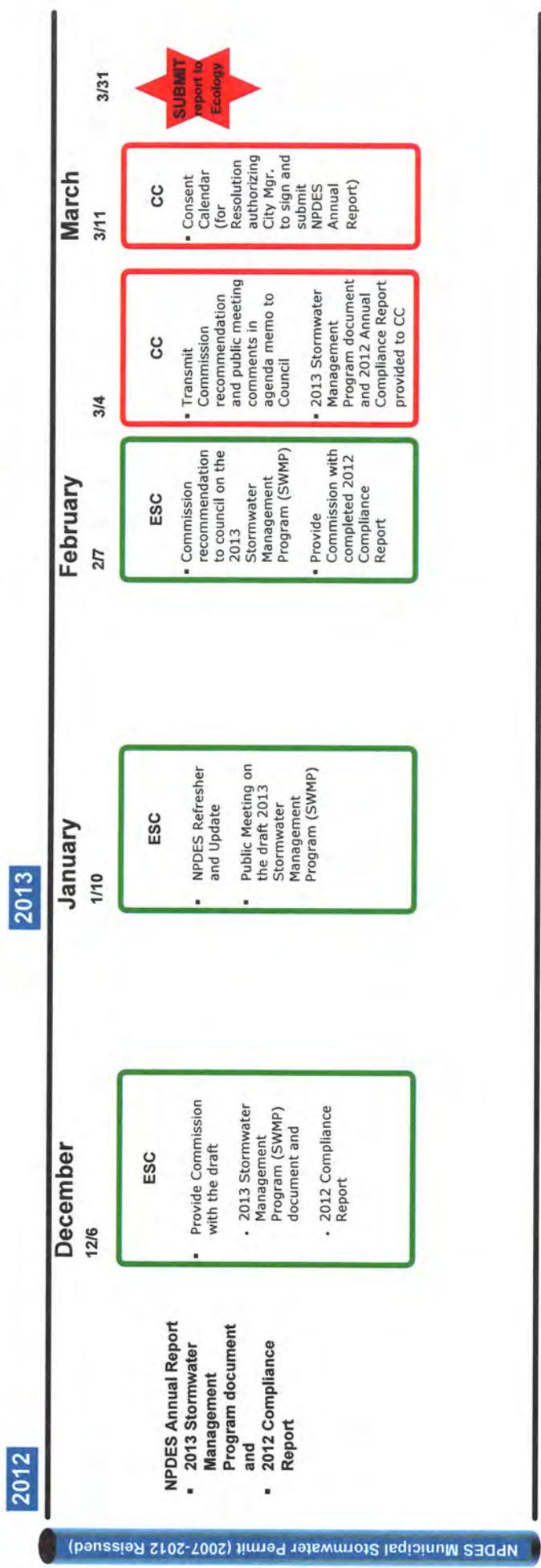
### *2013 Activities*

- Continue implementing all Permit requirements; adaptively manage as needed

# Attachment B 2012-2013 Schedule for NPDES Permit Annual Report

## LEGEND

-  City Council Mtg.
-  Environmental Services Commission Mtg.
-  Submittal Deadline



2012

2013

- NPDES Annual Report
- 2013 Stormwater Management Program document and
- 2012 Compliance Report





DATE: November 29, 2012

TO: Environmental Services Commission

FROM: Paul Inghram, AICP, Comprehensive Planning Manager  
*Planning and Community Development*  
Pam Maloney, Water Resources Planning Manager  
*Utilities Department*  
David Pyle, Sr. Land Use / Environmental Planner  
*Development Services Department*

SUBJECT: Bellevue's Comprehensive Plan Update

Bellevue is periodically required to update its Comprehensive Plan to ensure continued compliance with the state Growth Management Act and, just as important, to ensure it reflects the dynamic changes and trends that have and will continue to affect the growth of the community. The City Council initiated the 2014 update of the Comprehensive Plan at its meeting on October 22, 2012.

Staff will be available at the upcoming Environmental Services Commission briefing to explain a bit about the Comprehensive Plan, discuss the update process, and invite you to a forum of the city's boards and commissions scheduled to occur at City Hall on January 24, 2013, from 5:30 to 8:00pm.

### **What is the Comprehensive Plan?**

The Comprehensive Plan captures the community's vision for the future of Bellevue, sets policy that directs City actions and decisions, and guides capital investments. With the Comprehensive Plan, the City plans for people, places to live and recreate, how to get around town, jobs and a strong local economy, schools and colleges, and a healthy environment. The current plan is on-line at:

[http://www.bellevuewa.gov/comprehensive\\_plan.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/comprehensive_plan.htm)

The Comprehensive Plan is the city's primary tool to forecast future growth, setting 20-year projections for population and jobs, and to plan for how to meet the demand for services related to growth. The plan addresses a wide range of topics, including land use, housing, transportation, utilities, parks, economic development and human services. The plan consists of three key components:

- The Community Vision statement outlines fourteen vision points that illustrate the city we hope to become;

- Plan “Elements” that include goals and policies that direct City actions; and
- Subarea Plans for each of fourteen geographic areas in the city.

The “Elements” of the current plan that are most closely aligned with the ESC’s charter are the Utilities Element, Environmental Element, and the Capital Facilities Element.

The Comprehensive Plan works in concert with the City’s “functional plans” including the Water, Wastewater, and Storm & Surface Water System Plans, which the ESC reviews and recommends for Council adoption. The Comprehensive Plan provides the overall policy structure that helps ensure consistency between the City’s various plans as well as coordinating them with the City’s plans for growth. The Comprehensive Plan tends to include broad, citywide policies that frame the fundamental management of land uses and city resources. Functional plans tend to provide much more detail, additional data and analysis, and project-level specifics that aid in planning and managing specific systems.

### **What is the scope of the update?**

The City’s Comprehensive Plan last underwent a major review and update in 2004. Thus, with adoption of this update scheduled for 2014, this will be a 10-year update of Bellevue’s Comprehensive Plan. Much has changed over the past ten years. During the update staff will collect and analyze data, such as recent census figures, and other information about how the city has changed. The update will need to include, at a minimum, recognition of population and job growth, recently annexed areas, new population forecasts and targets, and consistency with changes in state law and regional plans that have occurred since 2004.

The project will update the Bellevue Comprehensive Plan to ensure that it:

- Fully captures the community’s vision;
- Remains relevant to the community, decision makers and staff;
- Comprehensively addresses long-term needs of the community, economy and environment;
- Provides a strong policy foundation for City decisions and actions, especially related to infrastructure investments, neighborhoods, land use, environment and economic development;
- Includes up to date information about the community; and
- Is consistent with state law, regional plans and court decisions.

Over the course of the next few months the City will engage residents, businesses, city staff, organizations, and the City’s volunteer boards and commissions about the scope of the update. The project team will ask what needs to be changed or added to the Comprehensive Plan during the update process. Staff’s perception is that the

Comprehensive Plan currently works well and that this is an opportunity to identify areas that may need additional review or emphasis.

The Comprehensive Plan touches on the full array of City functions and responsibilities. Development of the update will involve staff from a number of City departments and it will be important to engage multiple boards and commissions. It is anticipated that initial review of specific sections will be directed to the appropriate commission (e.g. utilities policies will be directed to the Environmental Services Commission) and that the Planning Commission will review the full document near the end of the process to ensure that the plan as a whole functions and works as an integrated document.

In addition to briefing each the City's boards and commissions about the update, the City anticipates holding a forum of board and commission members. The forum will be an opportunity for the various boards and commissions to engage each other and help define the scope of the update. Do you have suggestions for how the plan could be improved? Or have ideas about the future of the community? Great, bring those ideas to the forum.

**Joint Boards/Commission Forum  
Comprehensive Plan Update Scoping  
January 24 – 5:30 to 8:00  
City Hall room 1E- 108**

As members of the Environmental Services Commission you may want to focus attention on aspects of utility service, while also providing your viewpoints and expertise on other plan topic areas. It is important to recognize the interaction between various topics, such as how land use or economic development might affect how the City implements its utilities plans.

The update is also an opportunity for members of the community to suggest changes to City policies and land use maps. A public open house event (not yet scheduled) will likely follow shortly after the January Boards/Commission Forum. The public would benefit from commissioners attending that event as well, allowing you to hear from the public and discuss the update with them. City staff will prepare outreach materials, a web site and other media to gather comments from the public and other stakeholders.

In early 2013 staff will return to the City Council with information about the scoping process and a summary of commission, public and stakeholder comments, and will ask for Council direction on the scope of the update. At that time Council will also be asked for direction on project principles and a more detailed outreach plan following this early engagement with the public.

## Timing

The City is providing a two-year window for updating the Comprehensive Plan. This will allow sufficient time to hear from the community and craft a relevant and effective plan that meets their expectations.

### General schedule for the Comprehensive Plan Update

2012	2013	2014
Review of existing Comp Plan		
Data collection		
Council initiation		
Scoping		
	Analysis and development	
	Draft and review potential amendments	
		Public Hearing
		Council adoption
Community outreach		

## Next Steps

To engage the community on the question of the scope of the update, this fall and winter the City will conduct a series of activities with the community, boards, commissions, and other stakeholders. In addition to this project briefing for the Environmental Services Commission, briefings are planned with the Arts Commission, Parks & Community Services Board, the Transportation Commission, Planning Commission, Human Services Commission, Youth Link, and the Network on Aging.

A joint board and commission forum on the scope of the update is planned for January 24<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 to 8:00, at City Hall.

Staff will return to the Environmental Services Commission with a more detailed request for participation after the scope of work for the update is approved by the City Council.

In the meantime, we encourage you to think about the future of Bellevue. What features of the community are important to preserve? What elements should we seek to add to make Bellevue a more vibrant and welcoming community? How does the city's anticipated growth of residents and jobs relate to strategies for mobility?

## ATTACHMENT

Adopted Bellevue Vision  
 Invitation to Joint Boards / Commissioner Forum

# MEETING THE CHALLENGES FOR TOMORROW

## Bellevue 2025

### Imagine the Year 2025

The following is a mental picture of Bellevue's ideal future, assuming the goals and policies of this Comprehensive Plan are successfully realized.

#### A "City in a Park"

Bellevue's open space network reinforces its reputation as a City in a Park, providing abundant access to the natural environment, continued development of community parks, and newer neighborhood and mini-parks. An extensive waterfront park opens Meydenbauer Bay to Downtown and other parts of West Bellevue and, on the other side of the city, a major park provides swimming and boat access to Lake Sammamish. The city's open spaces are linked with trails and greenways that provide wildlife corridors, pedestrian routes, neighborhood connections, and access to magnificent views of the lakes and mountains.

#### A dedicated steward of environmental quality, where key natural features are preserved and restored

Bellevue takes the lead in promoting a quality, sustainable urban environment. Growth is occurring without harm to environmentally sensitive land and water resources. Many wetlands, riparian corridors and shorelines are protected in their natural state; others are being restored so they provide higher quality fish and wildlife habitat. As a result, more salmon are found in local creeks and streams, fish are spawning in several locations. The urban forest is recovering, and in many parts of Bellevue the tree canopy is increasing. These gains have been achieved through a combination of city programs, incentives, education, and regulations.

#### A model of superior urban design and "people places"

Commitment to urban design has helped make Bellevue a city of distinction, with "people places" that nurture a sense of community and neighborhoods that retain their unique character despite growth



*Sidewalk cafes and retail shops bring local residents and business people to Old Bellevue.*

and change. Key historic features are preserved, linking us to our past. Bellevue has completed the annexation of land within its urban growth boundary, and all development now occurs under the city's design and environmental protection guidelines.

## **A community of diverse and vibrant neighborhoods**

High quality neighborhoods make Bellevue a "great place to live." Individual homes are well maintained, as are the public facilities that serve the residents. Remodeling and upgrading have made older neighborhoods attractive to young families, while respectful development has enabled these neighborhoods to retain their character. At the other end of the spectrum, new, higher density neighborhoods thrive in the Downtown and in mixed-use areas like Factoria.



*The Crossroads Park serves a diverse community.*

Neighborhood shopping centers have redeveloped to meet the needs of nearby residents, and all Bellevue neighborhoods are now linked to schools, parks, and commercial areas by a complete pedestrian system of sidewalks and trails.

## **A city that meets the housing needs of all citizens**

The diversity of housing types and densities reflects the variety of needs in the community and Bellevue's changing demographics. The city has options for families with children, couples, singles, and seniors. Some of these options are innovative, such as transit-oriented development, cottages and other small-lot single family housing, and accessory dwelling units. Bellevue's support of regional efforts to create affordable housing has paid off, and people who work in Bellevue can afford to live here. Affordable housing options are available for retail and personal service workers, a significant part of Bellevue's workforce, and for residents with low incomes or special needs.

## **A regional economic center with a strong and diverse economy**

Bellevue's economy is dynamic and resilient, due in part to its highly educated workforce. Firms employ people in such fields as technology, health care, finance,

law, professional services and international trade. Attracted to the quality of life in this community, energetic and talented workers create a culture of innovation and new companies offer solid family-wage jobs. Retail employment continues to be another strong focus, and tourism is an expanding industry as entertainment and cultural amenities flourish.

## **A city with a great Downtown—viable, livable, and memorable**

Downtown Bellevue is the hub of the Eastside’s economy, with a vibrant mix of office and retail employment, arts and cultural attractions, hotels, and housing, linked to the Puget Sound region by regional freeways and the High Capacity Transit system. More than 60,000 people work here, and almost 14,000 live in high quality apartments and condominiums. Vital residential neighborhoods surround the core and, in the southwest corner, Old Bellevue thrives as a unique area with a strong sense of Bellevue’s past. The entire Downtown is pedestrian-friendly, and is humming with activity in a variety of public places, including the NE 6<sup>th</sup> Street Pedestrian Corridor and Bellevue Way’s “grand shopping street.” Restaurants, theaters, museums, nightclubs, a major performing arts center and other attractions bring Downtown alive 18 hours a day.



*Mixed-use developments offer additional housing choices for residents.*

## **The Eastside’s transportation hub, offering an array of mobility choices**

The city’s transportation system is based on moving people and goods rather than moving cars. Auto dependency has been reduced by convenient and workable alternatives, including connections to the High Capacity Transit system, frequent neighborhood transit service, enhanced use of carpools, and an integrated pedestrian and bicycle system. Emphasis is on balance, not on the use of one mode to the exclusion of others. Both land use and transportation work together to provide mobility and to shape a high quality urban environment, less dominated by the auto and more sensitive to air quality, energy conservation, and protection of livable neighborhoods.

## **The center of arts and culture for the Eastside**

Supported by strong leadership in both the public and private sectors, Bellevue has a national reputation for the visibility and strength of its arts and cultural offerings and the capacity of its cultural institutions. Unique and dynamic cultural districts have emerged in Downtown, Crossroads, and Eastgate/Factoria, which enhance the vitality of these mixed use neighborhoods.



*The Bellevue Arts & Crafts fair draws more than 300,000 visitors to Bellevue each July.*

Based on these attractions, and its ability to celebrate its ethnic and cultural diversity through the arts, Bellevue is known as a “must visit” place in the region. This enhances the city’s attractiveness to workers and residents of all ages seeking creativity and innovation.

## **A community that cares for people and families in need**

Bellevue is a community that cares for and nurtures all of its people. The city plays an active role in shaping and supporting a system of human services which not only assists people in times of need, but also promotes the development of healthy individuals and families. The city is a recognized leader in engaging both public and private partners throughout the region to respond to the changing needs of its people, including youth and seniors and individuals with special needs. Overlake Hospital provides “state of the art” medical care.

## **A safe and secure community**

Bellevue residents continue to feel secure and safe, as the city places the highest priority on protecting the community and preventing crime. Preparedness remains a major focus to assure that the city can respond effectively in an emergency.

## **A city served by outstanding community facilities and services**

Public infrastructure is in excellent shape. The city has built new streets, sidewalks, utilities and other facilities as needed, and has restored much of its older infrastructure. All of this has been done in a way that is sensitive to and helps reinforce the character and quality of the city's neighborhoods. Bellevue has financed these maintenance, restoration and construction projects by carefully prioritizing needs, making the most efficient use of limited funding, and in some



*The Eastgate Park & Ride garage provides parking for transit users along I-90.*

cases finding innovative new funding sources and partnerships. The Bellevue School District has a national reputation as one of the best public school systems in the country. Bellevue Community College educates workers in the latest job skills and enriches Eastside residents with its continuing education offerings.

## **A leader in meeting regional challenges**

Jurisdictions across the Eastside and the Central Puget Sound region have realized they must work together more effectively if the region is to make headway on such pressing issues as transportation, water supply, and environmental protection. Bellevue is recognized and valued as a leader in finding common ground and effective solutions to these interjurisdictional issues. The region continues to work together on growth management, resulting in closer-in, transit-friendly development that is less expensive to serve with public infrastructure. Farms, forests and open space are protected, and a highly valued part of this region's character.

## An active and engaged community

Bellevue enjoys high levels of civic engagement as community groups, businesses and individuals work with city staff to identify and achieve community goals. The city makes citizen involvement a high priority, and Bellevue residents feel an increasing interconnectedness and sense of community. People

get involved, volunteer, and vote. The development of more community gathering places facilitates public discourse and interaction. There is an increasing capacity in Bellevue neighborhoods to participate in matters of interest, to help shape the community, and to engage in problem-solving.



*Citizens in Bellevue get involved.*