



October 5, 2023

Olympia City Council
PO Box 1967
Olympia, WA 98507

Dear Mayor Selby and Council Members:

SUBJECT: UAC Support of the Draft Water System Plan (2021-2026)

At our recent September 7, 2023, meeting the City's Utility Advisory Committee (UAC) received a briefing and discussed with Drinking Water Utility staff their latest update of the City's, "Draft Water System Plan, 2021 – 2026." At the end of our discussion, we voted unanimously to approve and recommend to City Council the Draft Plan.

I would also like to note that the UAC previously received staff briefings and engaged in discussions regarding the Draft Plan as it progressed over the course of the past two and half years. From November 2020 to September 2023, the UAC received six updates that were based on an internal cross-sectional writing team that conducted and updated the Draft. The review and update process also included consulting services that provided support with water demand projections, capital project identification and prioritization, hydraulic modeling, and a financial review.

Our September briefing, which served as a comprehensive review of the Draft, noted the process used for public engagement, including local, state agencies and tribal interests. The most recent update of the Draft included minor revisions by City staff to address comments received from the Washington State Department of Health.

As Council may recall, the Washington Administrative Code (WAC 246-290-100) requires water utilities with 1,000 or more connections to develop Water Systems Plans every 6 to 10 years. These system plans are reviewed and approved by the Washington State Department of Health and are developed to demonstrate a utility's operational, technical, managerial, and financial capability to achieve and remain in compliance with relevant local, state and federal regulations. The Draft Plan, which runs through 2026, also includes the goals of providing an adequate supply of water into the future, ongoing efforts in protecting the environment, responsibly maintaining the Drinking Water Utility's infrastructure, and managing the utility in a fiscally responsible manner.

The "Water System Plan – 2021 – 2026," includes the following information which the UAC provides its support for approving:

- Goals, objectives and strategies for the Drinking Water Utility's programs and infrastructure over the next six (6) years.
- Customer and water demand forecasts for the next fifty (50) years.

- An analysis of the Drinking Water Utility's supplies, storage and distribution system, which go beyond Washington State Department of Health minimum requirements.
- A Capital Improvements Program to strategically invest in capital projects over a 20-year planning horizon.
- The financial policies and funding needed to implement the Water System Plan.

In addition to making our recommendation for the Draft Plan, the UAC would also like to thank the City's Utility staff, in particular Susan Clark, Engineering and Planning Supervisor, Water Resources, for the briefings and significant effort taken to update the Plan over the past couple of years. The Water Systems Plan will not only help guide the City's Drinking Water Utility over the next six years but helps to re-confirm the City's Drinking Water Utility efforts and provides direction and guidance for years to come.

A public hearing, which will also serve as a required "consumer meeting", is scheduled for October 30, 2023 and you will be asked to approve the Final Draft 2021-2026 Water System Plan on November 14, 2023 for forwarding to the Washington State Department of Health.

Please feel free to contact me at dbloom@ci.olympia.wa.us if you have questions or would like to discuss this further.

Sincerely,



DENNIS BLOOM

Chair, Utility Advisory Committee

cc. UAC Members
Mike Vessey, Drinking Water Utility Director
Susan Clark, Engineering and Planning Supervisor