



## City Council

### Joint Study Session with the Tumwater City Council to Receive a Briefing on the Capitol Lake/Deschutes Estuary Long-term Planning Process

**Agenda Date:** 2/28/2017  
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#### Title

Joint Study Session with the Tumwater City Council to Receive a Briefing on the Capitol Lake/Deschutes Estuary Long-term Planning Process

#### Recommended Action

##### Committee Recommendation:

Not referred to a committee.

##### City Manager Recommendation:

Hold a joint study session with the Tumwater City Council and receive a briefing from the State Department of Enterprise Services staff about the Capitol Lake/Deschutes Estuary Long-term Planning Process.

#### Report

##### Issue:

In 2016, the Washington State Department of Enterprise Services hosted a series of meetings with key stakeholders to discuss the future options for Capitol Lake. Staff from DES will be at the study session to brief the City Councils of Olympia and Tumwater on this work and to describe proposed next steps.

##### Staff Contact:

Steve Hall, City Manager, (360) 753-8370  
Rich Hoey, Director, Public Works, (360) 753-8495  
Andy Haub, Line of Business Director, Public Works, (360) 570-3795

##### Presenter(s):

Bob Covington, Deputy Director, Department of Enterprise Services  
Jessi Massingale, Environmental Engineer/Oceanographer, Floyd|Snider

##### Background and Analysis:

More than 65 years ago, the State of Washington built a dam across the Deschutes River and

created Capitol Lake as an amenity to the State Capitol campus. Over time, numerous questions and debates have arisen about the lake's contribution to water quality concerns, fish run impediments, sedimentation, flood control and other issues.

For the past many years, State agencies, local governments, interest groups, the Squaxin Island Indian tribe, and various other individuals have discussed and debated whether the lake should continue or be restored to an estuary or some hybrid option.

In 2016, in response to a Legislative proviso, the State DES hosted a series of meetings toward creating a plan for the lake/estuary. Mayor Cheryl Selby and Councilmember Julie Hankins represented the City of Olympia on the Executive Work Group. City Manager Steve Hall and Public Works Director Rich Hoey participated on a Governance and Finance Committee. Water Resources Director Andy Haub served on a Technical Committee.

The unanimous recommendation of all parties at the table and all three committees was to move forward toward an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to provide valuable information about the impacts of the various lake/estuary options.

DES staff and consultants will summarize the work to date and proposed next steps.

**Neighborhood/Community Interests (if known):**

Various stakeholders and groups had input to the DES during 2016. DES staff can provide a list of those parties and the process used to gain input

**Options:**

Receive a briefing.

**Financial Impact:**

There are no costs associated with the briefing. Olympia residents may incur future costs depending on the State's decision related to the lake/estuary.

**Attachments:**

Presentation

Capitol Lake Factsheet

DES News Release - January 23, 2017

[Link to DES Capital Lake Report](#)

[Link to Long-Term Planning for Capitol Lake/Deschutes Estuary Website](#)