

## CITY OF MERCER ISLAND UTILITY BOARD SPECIAL VIDEO MEETING

Thursday, October 13, 2022, at 4:30 PM

### **BOARD MEMBERS:**

Tim O'Connell, Chair Me Stephen Milton, Vice Chair Stephen Majewski, George Marshall, Meredith Lehr, Will Quantz, and William Pokorny

### LOCATION & CONTACT

Mercer Island Community & Event Center – Zoom Meeting 8236 SE 24th Street | Mercer Island, WA 98040 Phone: 206.275.7706 | www.mercerisland.gov

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, those requiring accommodation for meetings should notify the Staff Liaison at least 24 hours prior to the meeting at 206.275.7706.

The virtual meeting will be broadcast live on Zoom and recorded and saved on the City Council's YouTube Channel

Registering to Speak: Individuals wishing to speak live during Appearances will need to register their request with the City Clerk at 206.275.7793 or email the <u>City Clerk</u> and leave a message before 4 PM on the day of the Utility Board meeting. Please reference "Appearances" on your correspondence and state if you would like to speak either in person at Mercer Island Community & Event Center or remotely using Zoom. Each speaker will be allowed three (3) minutes to speak.

Join by Telephone at 4:30 PM: To listen to the meeting via telephone, please call 253.215.8782 and enter Webinar ID 869 0002 8763 and Password 363425 when prompted.

Join by Internet at 4:30 PM: To watch the meeting over the internet via your computer, follow these steps:

- 1) Click this link
- 2) If the Zoom app is not installed on your computer, you will be prompted to download it.
- 3) If prompted for Webinar ID, enter 869 0002 8763; Enter Password 363425

Join in person at Mercer Island Community & Event Center at 4:30 PM: 8236 SE 24th Street

### CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL, 4:30 PM

### **PUBLIC APPEARANCES**

### **REGULAR BUSINESS**

- 1. Approval of Minutes for the September 13, 2022, Regular Video Meeting **Recommended Action:** Approve minutes.
- Storm Budget & Rate Discussion/Recommendation Recommended Action: Discuss and provide feedback.
- Sewer Budget & Rate Discussion/Recommendation Recommended Action: Discuss and provide feedback.
- 4. Water Budget & Rate Discussion/Recommendation **Recommended Action:** Discuss and provide feedback.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

- 5. 2022 Workplan
- 6. Next Meeting December 13, 2022

### ADJOURNMENT



### UTILITY BOARD MINUTES REGULAR VIDEO MEETING September 13, 2022

### CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Chair Tim O'Connell called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm from a remote location.

Board Members Tim O'Connell, Stephen Milton, Stephen Majewski, George Marshall, William Pokorny, and Will Quantz participated remotely using a video teleconferencing platform by Zoom. Council Liaison Lisa Anderl was also present.

Board Member Meredith Lehr was absent.

Jason Kintner, Chief of Operations, and other staff members participated remotely.

### **PUBLIC APPEARANCES**

There were no public appearances.

#### **REGULAR BUSINESS**

#### Approval of Minutes for the following meetings:

July 12, 2022, Minutes

It was moved by Milton; seconded by Pokorny to: Approve the minutes as presented. Passed 6-0

#### **EMS Rate Discussion/ Recommendation**

Financial Analyst Ben Schumacher presented the proposed 2023 EMS rates.

The Board received the report and asked questions of staff.

It was moved by Pokorny; seconded by Majewski to: Approve the proposed EMS rate increase of 5.43%. Passed 6-0

#### **Special Meeting Discussion**

Chief of Operations Jason Kintner reviewed the workplan updates, Proposal to cancel October 11<sup>th</sup> meeting and hold a special meeting to review rates.

#### **Utility Board Workplan**

Board reviewed the workplan, the next meeting is a special meeting October 13<sup>th</sup> starting at 4:30 (November Recess).

#### ADJOURNMENT

#### 2

There being no additional business, the meeting adjourned at 5:21 pm.

Attest: Tim O'Connell, Chair

Jen Matsuda, CIP Administrative Assistant

3



## <u>Memorandum</u>

CITY OF MERCER ISLAND, FINANCE DEPARTMENT 9611 S.E. 36th St. • Mercer Island, WA 98040-3732 www.mercergisland.gov

Date:	October 13, 2022
То:	Utility Board
From:	Ben Schumacher, Financial Analyst
Re:	Utility Board Meeting – Storm Water

The preliminary 2023-2024 operating and capital budgets were released to the Public and City Council on September 28, 2022. As part of the biennial budget development process, staff seeks a recommendation from the Utility Board regarding the Storm Water Utility rate adjustment for the upcoming two years, based on rate modeling work completed over the past three months. The Utility Board's recommended storm water rate adjustment will directly inform the final 2023-2024 biennial budget, scheduled for City Council adoption December 6, 2022.

Rate

### 2023-2024 Operating Budget

The operating budget for the Storm Water Utility is presented in the table below.

Description	2021	2022	2023	2024	Percent	Change
(\$ in thousands)	Actual	Forecast	Budget	Budget	20-21	21-22
<b>Budgeted Operating Expenditures</b>						
Salary & Benefits	\$760	\$776	\$977	\$1,042	25.8%	6.7%
Contractual Services	\$325	\$353	\$375	\$425	6.3%	13.3%
Other Services and Charges	\$318	\$384	\$340	\$347	-11.6%	2.0%
Total Operating Expenditures	\$1,403	\$1,513	\$1,691	\$1,814	11.8%	7.3%

Some highlights from the preliminary budget:

- The combined total for **salary and benefit** costs in 2023 are increasing 25.8% as compared to the 2022 budget. The increase is a result of the current pace of inflation which has led to atypically high cost-of-living adjustments (COLA), per the City's collective bargaining agreements as well as an increase in staffing. The COLA in 2023 is 6.0% and is estimated at 6.0% for the 2024 budget.
- The salaries budget includes two new positions: a **Capital Project Inspector** which will work across all three utilities and some general government projects and a 0.5 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) increase to the **Stormwater Quality Technician**. Existing staffing of the Stormwater utility includes three FTEs in Public Works dedicated to the operation and maintenance of the stormwater system, as well as administrative oversight, utility billing and customer service, utility inspections of private development, and GIS (geographic information system) support. The total dollar impact to the

Stormwater Utility for the two new positions is \$99,428 in 2023 and \$101,536 in 2024, which represents 25% of the full cost of the CIP Inspector and 100% of the cost of the Stormwater Quality Technician.

- Contractual services for 2023 reflects anticipated costs for Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) stormwater pipe video inspections, catch basin cleaning & repairs, storm pipe replacement & slip lining repairs.
- Other Services and Charges include all other costs of operations including supplies, insurance, and City administration costs. Administration costs include the Stormwater Fund's share of administrative support provided by the City Attorney's Office, City Manager's Office, Finance and Human Resources staff. An overhead cost allocation model is used to determine the Stormwater Utility's proportionate share of these internal services.

### **Summary Capital Reinvestment Projects**

Planned capital reinvestment work in 2023 and 2024 is shown in the table below. Capital investment costs are the primary driver of the proposed Stormwater rate increases for 2023-2028.

Project ID	Storm Water Utility Capital Program 2023-2024 Description	(\$ in thousands) 2023	2024
SW0109	Sub basin 24a.1 Watercourse Stablization	\$18	\$62
SW0110	Sub basin 39a.2 Watercourse Stablization	17	44
SW0111	Sub basin 46a.3 Watercourse Stabilization	52	406
SW0112	Sub basin 34.1 Watercourse Stabilization		27
SW0113	Sub basin 45b.4 Watercourse Stabilization		31
SW0114	Sub basin 29.3 Watercourse Stabilization		49
SW0127	Stormwater Trunkline Condition and Capacity Assessments	250	250
SW0128	Basin 18C Drainage Improvement	185	
SW0129	Basin 25B Neigborhood Drainage Improvements	173	
SW0130	Basin 32B - SE 72nd St Drainage Capacity Improvement		189
SW0132	Sub-Basin 22.1 Watercourse Stabilization - Final Design and Construction	149	
SW0133	Sub-Basin 25b.2 Watercourse Stabilization - Final Design and Construction	155	
SW0134	Emergency Stormwater Conveyance Repairs	50	50
SW0135	Conveyance System Assessments (Basin Specific)	50	50
SW0137	Street Related Storm Drainage Improvements	100	100
Stormwa	ater Utility CIP Total	\$1,200	\$1,257

#### **Storm Water Rate Proposal**

The 2023 Storm Water rate proposal is based on the 2023-2024 operating budget, the 2023-2028 Capital Plan, and the corresponding debt financing needs. The rate model proposes a smoothed rate increase of 8.0% for 2023-2028. **Staff recommends an 8.0% increase to the storm water utility rates for 2023 as proposed in the 2023-2028 smoothed rate model.** Staff will return during the 2023-2024 mid-biennial budget process with new information as it becomes available to inform potential rate adjustments for fiscal year 2024.

Revenue Requirement		2022		2023		2024		2025		2026	2027	2028
Pre-Rate Revenues												
Revenues												
Rate Revenues Under Existing Rates	\$	2,243,300	\$	2,243,300	\$	2,243,300	\$	2,243,300	\$	2,243,300	\$ 2,243,300	\$ 2,243,300
Non-Rate Revenues	_	51,439		51,453		51,477		51,183		51,186	 51,252	 51,258
Total Revenues	\$	2,294,739	\$	2,294,753	\$	2,294,777	\$	2,294,483	\$	2,294,486	\$ 2,294,552	\$ 2,294,558
Expenses												
Cash Operating Expenses	\$	1,479,724	\$	1,791,401	\$	1,915,282	\$	1,917,617	\$	2,021,476	\$ 2,026,905	\$ 2,133,951
Existing Debt Service		-		-		-		-		-	-	-
New Debt Service		-		-		-		-		-	192,453	192,453
System Reinvestment Funding		600,000		675,000		750,000		825,000		900,000	900,000	1,200,000
Total Expenses	\$	2,079,724	\$	2,466,401	\$	2,665,282	\$	2,742,617	\$	2,921,476	\$ 3,119,358	\$ 3,526,404
Net Surplus (Deficiency)	\$	215,015	\$	(171,647)	\$	(370,505)	\$	(448,134)	\$	(626,990)	\$ (824,806)	\$ (1,231,846)
Annual Rate Increase				8.00%		8.00%		8.00%		8.00%	8.00%	8.00%
Cumulative Rate Increase				8.00%		16.64%		25.97%		36.05%	46.93%	58.69%
Post Rate Revenues												
Revenues After Rate Increases	\$	2,243,300	\$	2,422,764	\$	2,616,585	\$	2,825,912	\$	3,051,985	\$ 3,296,144	\$ 3,559,835
Additional Taxes from Rate Increase	-	-	-	3,141	-	6,532	-	10,196	-	14,152	18,425	23,039
Net Cash Flow After Rate Increase	\$	215,015	\$	4,676	\$	(3,752)	\$	124,282	\$	167,543	\$ 209,613	\$ 61,650
Sample Residential Bill	\$	39.81		\$42.99		\$46.43		\$50.15		\$54.16	\$58.49	\$63.17
Bi-Monthly Increase (\$)				\$3.18		\$3.44		\$3.71		\$4.01	\$4.33	\$4.68

Fund Balance	2022	2023	2024	2025		2026		2027	2028
Operating Reserve									
Beginning Balance	\$ 575,659	\$ 290,674	\$ 295,350	\$ 236,518	\$	237,224	\$	250,480	\$ 251,637
plus: Net Cash Flow after Rate Increase	215,015	4,676	(3,752)	124,282		167,543		209,613	61,650
less: Transfer of Surplus to Capital Fund	 (500,000)	 	 (55,080)	 (123,576)	_	(154,287)		(208,456)	 (47,926)
Ending Balance	\$ 290,674	\$ 295,350	\$ 236,518	\$ 237,224	\$	250,480	\$	251,637	\$ 265,361
Actual Days of O&M	72 days	60 days	45 days	45 days		45 days		45 days	45 days
Capital Reserve									
Beginning Balance	\$ 3,630,311	\$ 3,279,445	\$ 2,682,790	\$ 1,768,639	\$	1,108,276	\$	214,702	\$ 1,969,447
plus: System Reinvestment Funding	600,000	675,000	750,000	825,000		900,000		900,000	1,200,000
plus: Transfers from Operating Fund	500,000	-	55,080	123,576		154,287		208,456	47,926
plus: Capital Grants / Other Resources	-	50,000	-	50,000		-		50,000	-
plus: LTGO Proceeds	-	-	-	-		-		2,500,000	-
plus: Interest Earnings	 9,076	 16,397	 13,414	 8,843	_	5,541	_	1,074	 9,847
Total Funding Sources	\$ 4,739,386	\$ 4,020,843	\$ 3,501,284	\$ 2,776,058	\$	2,168,104	\$	3,874,231	\$ 3,227,220
less: Capital Expenditures	 (1,459,941)	 (1,338,052)	 (1,732,645)	 (1,667,783)	_	(1,953,402)		(1,904,784)	 (2,086,720)
Ending Capital Fund Balance	\$ 3,279,445	\$ 2,682,790	\$ 1,768,639	\$ 1,108,276	\$	214,702	\$	1,969,447	\$ 1,140,500
Minimum Target Balance	\$ 128,611	\$ 141,992	\$ 159,318	\$ 175,996	\$	195,530	\$	214,578	\$ 235,445
Combined Beginning Balance	\$ 4,205,970	\$ 3,570,119	\$ 2,978,140	\$ 2,005,157	\$	1,345,499	\$	465,182	\$ 2,221,084
Combined Ending Balance	\$ 3,570,119	\$ 2,978,140	\$ 2,005,157	\$ 1,345,499	\$	465,182	\$	2,221,084	\$ 1,405,862

A summary table comparing the proposed rates from the most recent rate model updates (2020-2022) as compared to the current rate recommendation is presented below.

Description	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
2020 Rate Update	3.20%	3.20%	3.20%	3.20%				
2021-2022 Rate Update	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%		
2023-2024 Rate Proposal			8.00%	8.00%	8.00%	8.00%	8.00%	8.00%

Staff will be available at the Utility Board meeting to answer questions regarding the proposed operating and capital budgets, as well as the proposed 2023 sewer utility rate increases.

The 2023 Storm Water Utility rate resolution is on the City Council planning schedule for review and adoption on November 15, 2022.

7



## **Utility Board Workshop**

## Water, Sewer, and Stormwater Utility Rate Update

Angie Sanchez, Vice President / Principal Chase Bozett, Senior Analyst

October 13, 2022



Item 2.





- FCS GROUP retained to complete a water, sewer, and stormwater rate update
  - » Previously assisted the City in 2020
- Focus of today's meeting
  - » Overview of the rate setting process
  - » Present key data inputs and assumptions
  - » Summary of utility findings
- Next steps
- Questions



## • Total 2023-2024 CIP Preliminary Budget expenditures are \$67.1M

» \$43.6M, or 65%, tied to the Utility Funds

## • Reinvestment in the City's aging water distribution system

- » Most of City's distribution system was constructed in the 1950's-1960's with an expected useful life of 50-75 years (dependent on material type).
- » Replacements prioritized using a combination of factors.
- » E.g., asbestos cement main replacements are prioritized due to material and age.

### • Sewer conveyance system faces similar challenges with aging infrastructure

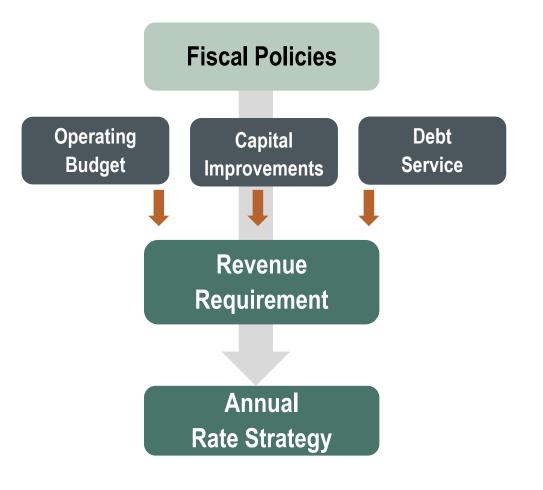
» SCADA System Replacement to come online in 2023.

10

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» Pump Station rehabilitation and subsequent Lakeline work will follow.





- Evaluates sufficiency of current rates to meet all utility financial obligations on a <u>stand-</u> <u>alone</u> basis
- Develop rate plan to balance financial needs and minimize customer impacts
- Multi-year rate plan with rate focus on 2023-2024



Policy	Purpose	Target
Operating Reserve	To provide sufficient cash flow to meet daily operating expenses (short-term, annual revenue cycles)	Water: 90 days of O&M Sewer: 30 days of O&M Stormwater: 45 days of O&M
Capital Reserve	To provide a source of funding for emergency repairs, unanticipated capital, and project cost overruns.	1.0% of capital assets
Rate Funded System Reinvestment (RFSR)	To ensure ongoing system integrity through reinvestment in the system.	Based on previous study fiscal policies
Capital Funding Decisions	To provide a basis of determining how capital projects should be funded by the utility	Cash fund projects under \$2M Seek alternative funding methods for projects over \$2M to mitigate rate impacts
Debt Service Coverage	To ensure compliance with existing loan/debt covenants and maintain credit worthiness for future debt issuance.	Minimum Requirement 1.25 Target 2.0
Rate Equity	To establish rates and charges, which equitably recover the cost of service from each utility's customers.	Each utility meets all utility financial obligations on a stand-alone basis

Item 2.



- Study period: 2023-2028
  - » Focus on 2023-2024 for rate-setting

### • Rate revenue

- » Water: 2022 year-end forecast
- » Sewer and Stormwater: 2022 budget maintained as revenue is more stable

### • Operating expenses

- » Based largely on 2023 and 2024 preliminary budget figures
- » SPU purchases and King County treatment cost forecasted independently

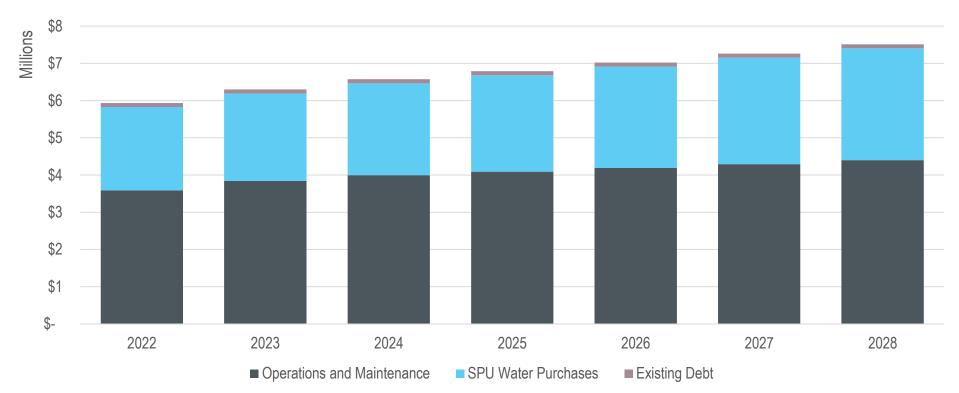
## • Incorporated City provided capital improvement plan

» Focus is on prioritizing critical infrastructure



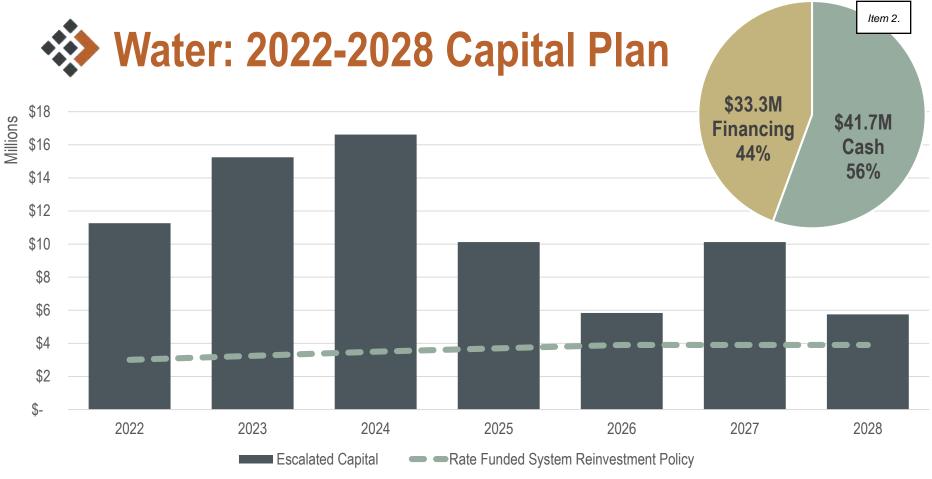
## Water Revenue Requirement





## • Total Operational Costs: \$5.9 to \$7.5M

- » Operations and Maintenance: \$3.6 to \$4.4M
- » SPU Water Purchases: \$2.2 to \$3.0M
- » Existing Annual Debt Service: \$110,000



\$75.0M in capital spending

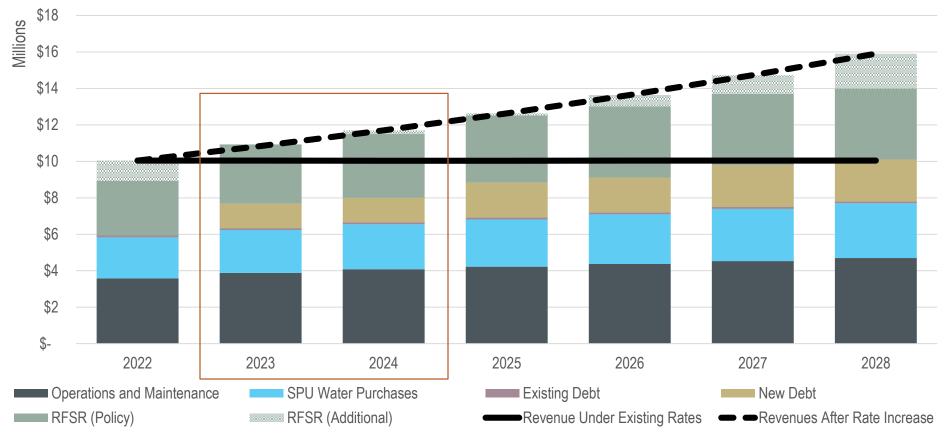
16

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- Annual AC Main Replacement: \$21.4M **》**
- Annual Main Replacement: \$14.6M **》**
- Pressure Reducing Valve Station: \$7.8M **》**
- AMI Meter Replacement: \$7.4M **》**
- Reservoir Improvements: \$6.0M **》**

- **Funding sources** 
  - \$41.7M cash funded »
  - \$33.3M debt financed **》** 
    - \$19.1M in 2023
    - \$8.1M in 2025
    - \$6.1M in 2027
    - \$1.4 to \$2.6M new annual debt service Slide 9





- Existing revenue is sufficient to cover all operational cost through 2027
- 8.0% annual rate increases driven by the RFSR policy and additional financing to execute the capital program

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Item 2.



Bimonthly	Existing 2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Sample Bimonthly Bill	\$122.15	\$131.92	\$142.48	\$153.87	\$166.18	\$179.48	\$193.84
Bimonthly Increase		\$9.77	\$10.55	\$11.40	\$12.31	\$13.29	\$14.36
Percent Increase		8.00%	8.00%	8.00%	8.00%	8.00%	8.00%

Monthly	Existing 2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Sample Monthly Bill	\$61.08	\$65.97	\$71.24	\$76.94	\$83.10	\$89.74	\$96.92
Monthly Increase		\$4.89	\$5.27	\$5.70	\$6.16	\$6.64	\$7.18
Percent Increase		8.00%	8.00%	8.00%	8.00%	8.00%	8.00%

\*Assumes ¾" meter and 14 ccf bimonthly usage



### • Rate increases needed in 2023 and 2024 of 8.0%

- » Average single-family bill impact: \$4.89 per month in 2023
- » Mid-biennial review for 2024 rate adjustment

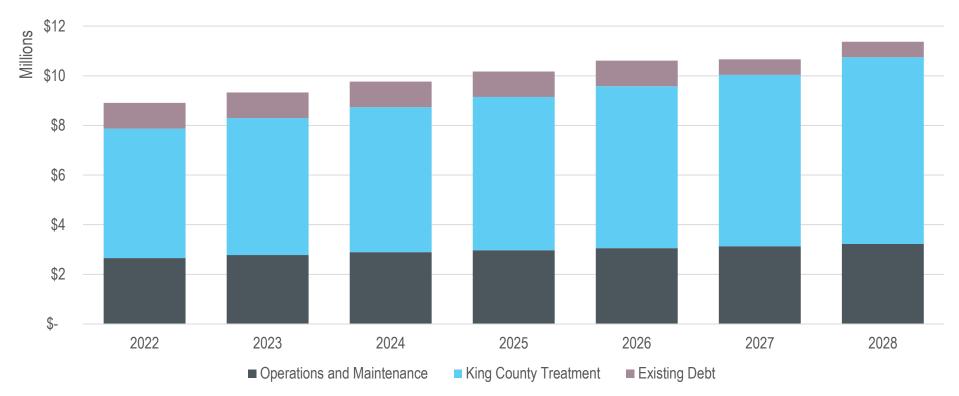
## • Key drivers:

- » Near term capital reinvestment needs
- » Increased recent inflation
- » Higher financing needs to fund capital program



## Sewer Revenue Requirement



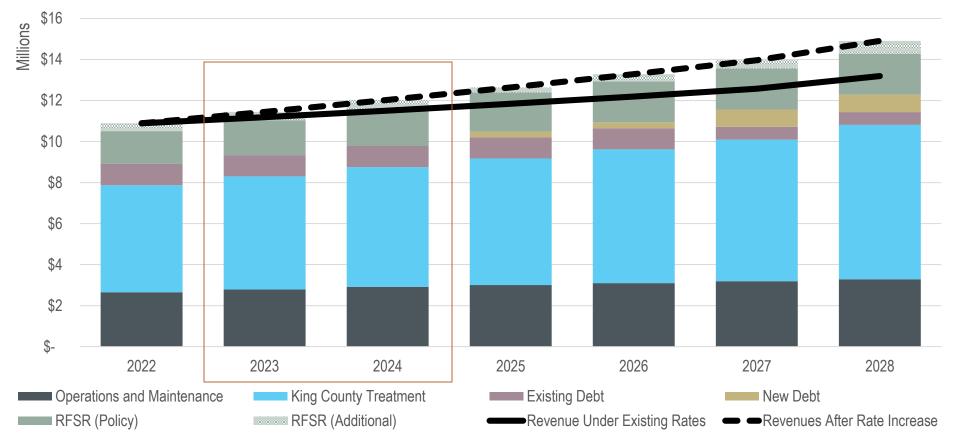


### • Total Operational Costs: \$8.9 to \$11.4M

- » Operations and Maintenance: \$2.6 to \$3.2M
- » King County Treatment Costs: \$5.2 to \$7.5M
- » Existing Annual Debt Service: \$1.0M reducing to \$600,000 in 2027







- Existing rates are sufficient to cover all operational cost through the forecast
- 4.5% annual local rate increases driven by the RFSR policy and additional financing to execute the capital program

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Monthly	Existing 2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Sample Monthly Local Bill	\$31.34	\$32.75	\$34.22	\$35.76	\$37.37	\$39.05	\$40.81
Monthly Increase		\$1.41	\$1.47	\$1.54	\$1.61	\$1.68	\$1.76
Percent Increase		4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%
Sample Monthly Treatment Bill	\$ 49.27	\$52.11	\$55.11	\$58.28	\$61.64	\$65.19	\$71.06
Monthly Increase		\$2.84	\$3.00	\$3.17	\$3.36	\$3.55	\$5.87
Percent Increase		5.75%	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%	9.00%
Sample Monthly Bill (Total)	\$ 80.61	\$84.86	\$89.33	\$94.04	\$99.01	\$104.24	\$111.87
Monthly Increase		\$4.25	\$4.47	\$4.71	\$4.97	\$5.23	\$7.63
Percent Increase		5.27%	5.27%	5.27%	5.28%	5.28%	7.32%

\*Bimonthly bill details can be found in the appendix

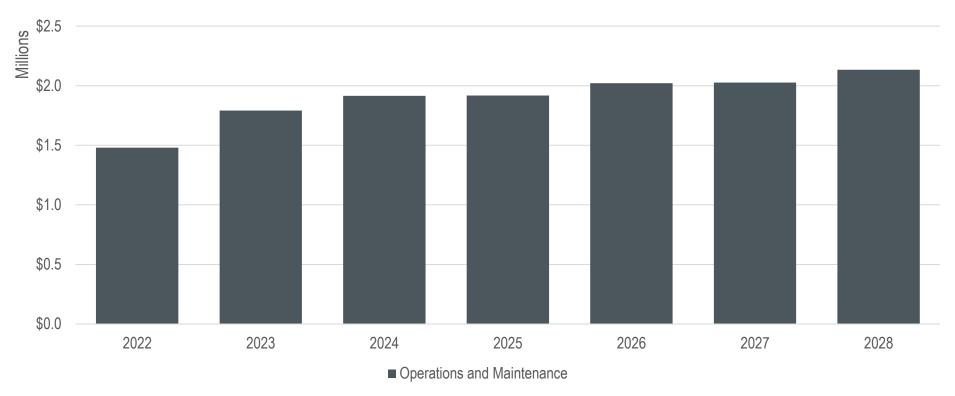


- Local rate increases needed in 2023 and 2024 of 4.5%
  - » Average single-family bill impact: \$1.41 per month in 2023
- King County Treatment increases forecasted at 5.75% in 2023 and 2024
  - » Average single-family monthly bill impact: \$2.84 in 2023
- Mid-biennial review for 2024 local rate adjustment
- Key drivers:
  - » System capital reinvestment needs
  - » Increased recent inflation
  - » Higher financing needs to fund capital program

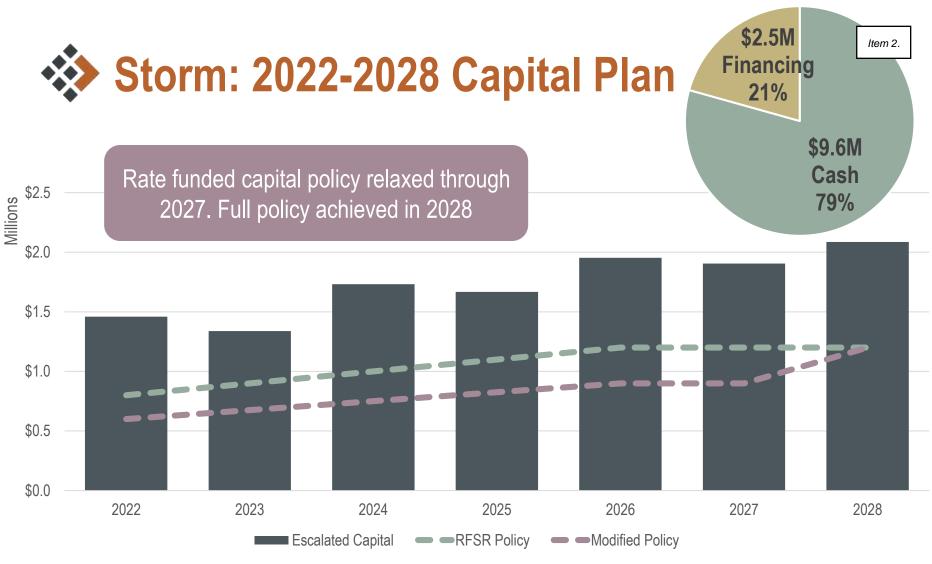


## Stormwater Revenue Requirement





- Operations and Maintenance: \$1.5 to \$2.1M
  - » Additional staff beginning in 2023 to complete needed maintenance.



\$12.1M in capital spending

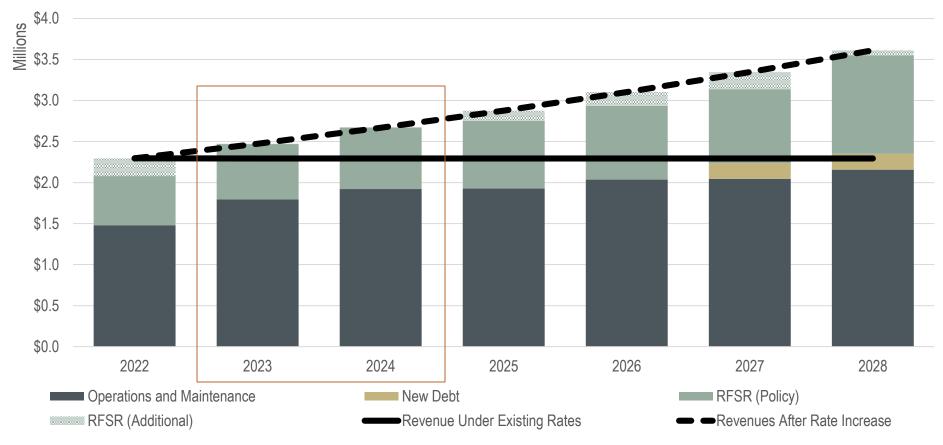
28

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- » Conveyance System: \$2.75M
- » Watercourse Stabilization: \$2.6M
- » Trunkline Condition Assessment: \$1.45M

- Funding sources
  - » \$9.6M cash funded
  - » \$2.5M debt financed in 2027
    - \$190k new annual debt service





- Existing rates are sufficient to cover all operational cost through 2027
- 8.0% annual rate increases driven by the RFSR policy achievement



Bimonthly	Existing 2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Sample Bimonthly Bill	\$ 39.81	\$42.99	\$46.43	\$50.15	\$54.16	\$58.49	\$63.17
Bimonthly Increase		\$3.18	\$3.44	\$3.71	\$4.01	\$4.33	\$4.68
Percent Increase		8.00%	8.00%	8.00%	8.00%	8.00%	8.00%

Monthly	Existing 2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Sample Monthly Bill	\$19.91	\$21.50	\$23.22	\$25.08	\$27.09	\$29.25	\$31.59
Monthly Increase		\$1.59	\$1.72	\$1.86	\$2.01	\$2.16	\$2.34
Percent Increase		8.00%	8.00%	8.00%	8.00%	8.00%	8.00%



## • Rate increases needed in 2023 and 2024 of 8.0%

- » Average single-family bill impact: \$1.59 per month in 2023
- » Mid-biennial review for 2024 rate adjustment

## • Key drivers:

- » Additional staffing needs
- » Additional capital costs identified
- » Increased recent inflation



# Summary



## • Water

- » Average residential monthly increase of \$4.89 in 2023
- Sewer:
  - » Residential \$4.25 monthly increase in 2023
    - Local rate average single-family bill impact: \$1.41 per month

## • Storm

- » Residential monthly increase of \$1.59 in 2023
- Mid-biennial review for 2024 rate adjustment



- Utility Board come to consensus on rate adjustment recommendations
- Present Utility Board recommendation to City Council Nov 15, 2022
- Council final 2023-2024 Biennial Budget Adoption Dec 6, 2022
  - » Rates effective January 1, 2023

## Thank you! Questions?

Angie Sanchez, Vice President 425.336.4157 AngieS@fcsgroup.com Chase Bozett, Senior Analyst 425.615.6235 ChaseB@fcsgroup.com

www.fcsgroup.com





Utility	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Water	9.50%	12.35%	4.30%	8.0%	12.80%	10.90%	6.00%	5.30%	6.50%	6.50%	5.25%	5.25%
Sewer (local)	9.30%	9.30%	4.00%	8.50%	8.30%	7.00%	7.00%	7.80%	7.70%	7.70%	4.00%	4.00%
Storm	3.30%	0.00%	1.20%	1.20%	2.70%	1.30%	4.00%	1.50%	3.20%	3.20%	5.50%	5.50%



Bimonthly	Existing 2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Sample Bimonthly Local Bill	\$ 62.67	\$65.49	\$68.44	\$71.52	\$74.74	\$78.10	\$81.61
Bimonthly Increase		\$2.82	\$2.95	\$3.08	\$3.22	\$3.36	\$3.51
Percent Increase		4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%
Sample Bimonthly Treatment Bill	\$ 98.54	\$104.22	\$110.22	\$116.56	\$123.28	\$130.38	\$142.12
Bimonthly Increase		\$5.68	\$6.00	\$6.34	\$6.72	\$7.10	\$11.74
Percent Increase		5.75%	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%	9.00%
Sample Bimonthly Bill ( <b>Total</b> )	\$161.21	\$169.71	\$178.66	\$188.08	\$198.02	\$208.48	\$223.73
Bimonthly Increase		\$8.50	\$8.95	\$9.42	\$9.94	\$10.46	\$15.25
Percent Increase		5.27%	5.27%	5.27%	5.28%	5.28%	7.32%



## **Memorandum**

CITY OF MERCER ISLAND, FINANCE DEPARTMENT 9611 S.E. 36th St. • Mercer Island, WA 98040-3732 www.mercergisland.gov

Date:	October 13, 2022
То:	Utility Board
From:	Ben Schumacher, Financial Analyst
Re:	Utility Board Meeting – Sewer Rate Update

The preliminary 2023-2024 operating and capital budgets were released to the Public and City Council on September 28, 2022. As part of the biennial budget development process, staff seeks a recommendation from the Utility Board regarding the Sewer Utility rate adjustment for the upcoming two years, based on rate modeling work completed over the past three months. The Utility Board's recommended sewer rate adjustment will directly inform the final 2023-2024 biennial budget, scheduled for City Council adoption December 6, 2022.

### 2023-2024 Operating Budget

The operating budget for the Sewer Utility is presented in the table below.

Description	2021	2022	2023	2024	Percent	Change
(\$ in thousands)	Actual	Forecast	Budget	Budget	22-23	23-24
Budgeted Operating Expenditures						
Salary & Benefits	\$1,132	\$1,385	\$1,460	\$1,567	5.4%	7.4%
King County Sewer Treatment	4,928	5,217	5,518	5,836	5.8%	5.8%
Debt Sevice	1,037	1,036	1,034	1,032	-0.2%	-0.2%
Other Services and Charges	1,090	1,234	1,350	1,373	9.4%	1.6%
Total Operating Expenditures	\$8,187	\$8,872	\$9,363	\$9,808	<b>1.0%</b>	6.9%

Some highlights from the preliminary budget:

- The combined total for **salary and benefit** costs in 2023 are increasing 5.4% as compared to the 2022 budget. The increase is a result of the current pace of inflation which has led to atypically high cost-of-living adjustments (COLA), per the City's collective bargaining agreements. The COLA in 2023 is 6.0% and is estimated at 6.0% for the 2024 budget.
- The capital budget includes one new position, a **Capital Project Inspector** which will work across all three utilities and some general government projects. Existing staff in the Sewer Utility includes six Public Works team members dedicated to the operation and maintenance of the sewer system, as well as administrative oversight, utility billing and customer service, utility inspections of private development, and geographic information system (GIS) support. The total dollar impact to the Sewer Utility for utility's portion of the Capital Project Inspector is \$33,144 in 2023 and \$35,252 in 2024 which represents 25% of the position.
- King County Sewer Treatment services are authorized by King County to increase 5.76% in 2023. Increases are passed through to sewer customers and are identified separately on a customer's utility bill.

- Existing **debt service** costs are related to repayment of the debt on the Sewer Lake Line project and include a Public Works Trust Fund Loan and LTGO bonds. The sewer rate model assumes no new debt will need to be issued for capital projects in 2023-2024.
- Other Services and Charges include all other costs of operations including supplies, contract services, insurance, and City administration costs. The latter includes the Sewer Fund's share of administrative support provided by the City Attorney's Office, City Manager's Office, Finance, and Human Resources staff. An overhead cost allocation model is used to determine the Sewer Utility's proportionate share of these internal service functions.

### **Summary Capital Reinvestment Projects**

Planned capital reinvestment work in 2023 and 2024 is shown in the table below. Capital investment costs are the primary driver of the proposed sewer rate increases for 2023-2028.

	Sewer Utility Capital Program 2023-2024	(\$ in thousands)	
Project ID	Description	2023	2024
SU0100	Emergency Sewer System Repairs	\$300	\$300
SU0103	Easement, Access, Codes, and Standards Review	150	150
SU0108	Comprehensive Pipeline R&R Program	1,000	1,000
SU0109	Sewer System Generator Replacement	200	200
SU0113	SCADA System Replacement (Sewer)	1,500	500
SU0114	Sewer System Components	50	50
SU0115	Sewer Pipe Replacements & Upsizing	600	
SU0117	Pump Station Rehabilitation & Replacement Assessment	300	300
SU0127	Backyard Sewer System Improvement Program	130	120
SU0128	Pump Station Rehabilitation & Replacement Improvements	150	950
Sewer Util	ity CIP Total	\$4,380	\$3,570

### **Sewer Rate Proposal**

The 2023 rate proposal is based on the 2023-2024 operating budget, the 2023-2028 Capital Plan, and the corresponding debt financing needs. The rate model proposed for the 2023-2024 biennium includes a smoothed rate increase of 4.5% for 2023-2028. **Staff recommends a 4.5% increase to the sewer utility rates for 2023 as proposed in the 2023-2028 smoothed rate model**. Staff will return during the 2023-2024 mid-biennial budget process with new information as it becomes available to inform potential rate adjustments for fiscal year 2024.

Revenue Requirement		2022		2023		2024		2025		2026		2027		2028
Pre Rate Revenues														
Revenues														
Rate Revenues Under Existing Rates	\$	5,665,500	\$	5,665,500	\$	5,665,500	\$	5,665,500	\$	5,665,500	\$	5,665,500	\$	5,665,500
Non-Rate Revenues		5,224,128		5,521,413		5,839,272		6,175,142		6,531,123		6,907,233		7,529,028
Total Revenues	\$ 1	0,889,628	\$	11,186,913	\$	11,504,772	\$	11,840,642	\$	12,196,623	\$ :	12,572,733	\$	13,194,528
Expenses														
Cash Operating Expenses	\$	7,870,013	\$	8,295,280	\$	8,732,369	\$	9,145,227	\$	9,580,484	\$ :	10,038,208	\$	10,744,483
Existing Debt Service		1,035,856		1,034,242		1,031,829		1,028,615		1,029,601		623,618		626,625
New Debt Service		-		-		-		284,831		284,831		846,794		846,794
System Reinvestment Funding		1,600,000	_	1,700,000	_	1,800,000	_	1,900,000	_	2,000,000		2,000,000	_	2,000,000
Total Expenses	\$ 1	0,505,870	\$	11,029,522	\$	11,564,198	\$	12,358,672	\$	12,894,916	\$ :	13,508,619	\$	14,217,902
Net Surplus (Deficiency)	\$	383,759	\$	157,391	\$	(59,425)	\$	(518,030)	\$	(698,293)	\$	(935,887)	\$	(1,023,374)
Annual Rate Increase				4.50%		4.50%		4.50%		4.50%		4.50%		4.50%
Cumulative Rate Increase				4.50%		9.20%		14.12%		19.25%		24.62%		30.23%
Post Rate Revenues														
Revenues After Rate Increases	\$	5,665,500	\$	5,920,448	\$	6,186,868	\$	6,465,277	\$	6,756,214	\$	7,060,244	\$	7,377,955
Additional Taxes from Rate Increase		-		9,821		20,083		30,807		42,014		53,726		65,964
Net Cash Flow After Rate Increase	\$	383,759	\$	402,518	\$	441,859	\$	250,939	\$	350,407	\$	405,132	\$	623,117
Sample Residential Bill (3/4" Meter, x 12 ccf)	\$	161.21		\$169.71		\$178.66		\$188.08		\$198.02		\$208.48		\$223.73
Bi-Monthly Increase (\$)				\$8.50		\$8.95		\$9.42		\$9.94		\$10.46		\$15.25

Fund Balance	2022	2023		2024		2025		2026		2027		2028
Operating Reserve												
Beginning Balance	\$ 2,676,392	\$ 646,850	\$	681,804	\$	718,536	\$	753,313	\$	789,969	\$	828,511
plus: Net Cash Flow after Rate Increase	383,759	402,518		441,859		250,939		350,407		405,132		623,117
less: Transfer of Surplus to Capital Fund	 (2,413,301)	 (367,564)	_	(405,127)	_	(216,162)	_	(313,751)		(366,589)	_	(564,104)
Ending Balance	\$ 646,850	\$ 681,804	\$	718,536	\$	753,313	\$	789,969	\$	828,511	\$	887,524
Actual Days of O&M	30 days	30 days		30 days		30 days		30 days		30 days		30 days
Capital Reserve												
Beginning Balance	\$ 2,596,515	\$ 4,186,086	\$	1,888,522	\$	642,008	\$	2,399,513	\$	771,771	\$	4,619,409
plus: System Reinvestment Funding	1,600,000	1,700,000		1,800,000		1,900,000		2,000,000		2,000,000		2,000,000
plus: Transfers from Operating Fund	2,413,301	367,564		405,127		216,162		313,751		366,589		564,104
plus: LTGO Proceeds	-	-		-		3,700,000		-		7,300,000		-
plus: Interest Earnings	 6,491	 20,930		9,443		3,210		11,998		3,859		23,097
Total Funding Sources	\$ 6,616,307	\$ 6,274,580	\$	4,103,091	\$	6,461,380	\$	4,725,261	\$`	10,442,220	\$	7,206,610
less: Capital Expenditures	 (2,430,221)	(4,386,059)	_	(3,461,083)	_	(4,061,868)	_	(3,953,490)	_	(5,822,811)		(6,108,555)
Ending Capital Fund Balance	\$ 4,186,086	\$ 1,888,522	\$	642,008	\$	2,399,513	\$	771,771	\$	4,619,409	\$	1,098,055
Minimum Target Balance	\$ 534,889	\$ 578, 749	\$	613,360	\$	653,979	\$	693,514	\$	751,742	\$	812,827
Combined Beginning Balance	\$ 5,272,907	\$ 4,832,936	\$	2,570,326	\$	1,360,544	\$	3,152,826	\$	1,561,741	\$	5,447,920
Combined Ending Balance	\$ 4,832,936	\$ 2,570,326	\$	1,360,544	\$	3,152,826	\$	1,561,741	\$	5,447,920	\$	1,985,579

40

A summary table comparing the proposed rates from the most recent sewer rate model update (2020-2022) as compared to the current rate recommendation is presented below.

Description	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
2020 Rate Update	7.70%	7.70%	7.70%	7.70%				
2021-2022 Rate Update	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%		
2023-2024 Rate Proposal			4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%

Staff will be available at the Utility Board meeting to answer questions regarding the proposed operating and capital budgets, as well as the proposed 2023 sewer utility rate increases.

The 2023 Sewer Utility rate resolution is on the City Council planning schedule for review and adoption on November 15, 2022.



## <u>Memorandum</u>

CITY OF MERCER ISLAND, FINANCE DEPARTMENT 9611 S.E. 36th St. • Mercer Island, WA 98040-3732 www.mercergisland.gov

Date:	October 13, 2022
То:	Utility Board
From:	Ben Schumacher, Financial Analyst
Re:	Utility Board Meeting – Water Rates

The preliminary 2023-2024 operating and capital budgets were released to the Public and City Council on September 28, 2022. As part of the biennial budget development process, staff seeks a recommendation from the Utility Board regarding the Water Utility rate adjustment for the upcoming two years, based on rate modeling work completed over the past three months. The Utility Board's recommended water rate adjustment will directly inform the final 2023-2024 biennial budget, scheduled for City Council adoption December 6, 2022.

### 2023-2024 Operating Budget

The operating budget for the Water Utility presented in the table below.

Description	2021	2022	2023	2024	Percent	Change
(\$ in thousands)	Actual	Forecast	Budget	Budget	22-23	23-24
Budgeted Operating Expenditures						
Salary & Benefits	\$1,357	\$1,653	\$1,728	\$1,853	4.6%	7.2%
Water Purchased for Resale	2,223	2,239	2,351	2,468	5.0%	5.0%
Other Services and Charges	1,446	1,755	1,674	1,773	-4.6%	5.9%
Debt Service	109	107	1,577	1,582	1370.4%	0.3%
Total Operating Expenditures	\$5,134	\$5,754	\$7,330	\$7,676	27.4%	4.7%

Some highlights from the preliminary budget:

- The combined total for **salary and benefit** costs in 2023 are increasing 4.6% as compared to the 2022 budget. The increase is a result of the current pace of inflation which has led to atypically high cost-of-living adjustments (COLA), per the City's collective bargaining agreements. The COLA increase is 6.0% for 2023 and 6.0% is estimated for the 2024 budget.
- The salaries & benefits budget includes two new positions, a Utilities Engineer limited term position, primarily meant as a hire ahead for an expected retirement in the 2023-2024 biennium, and a Capital Project Inspector which will work across all three utilities and some general government projects. Existing staffing of the Water Utility includes seven Public Works team members dedicated to the operation and maintenance of the water system, as well as administrative oversight, utility billing and customer service, utility inspections of private development, and GIS (geographic information system) support. The total dollar impact to the Water Utility for the two new positions is \$180,647 in 2023 and \$191,828 in 2024 which represents 100% of the Utilities Engineer and 25% of the CIP Inspector.

- Water Purchases from Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) are projected to increase 5.0% in 2023 as compared to the 2022 budget and 5.0% in 2024. Note that SPU sets a higher rate for the period of Peak usage (May 15-Sept 15) than for the period of non-peak usage (Sept 16-May 15). The cost of water purchases makes up about 32% of all Water Utility operating expenses.
- Existing **debt service** costs are related to repayment of the debt issued in 2011 on the First Hill Booster Pump Station upgrade and water system improvements projects. The Water rate model includes the proposed issuance of \$19.1 million in additional debt in 2023 to fund water capital improvement projects (tentatively the meter replacement project, water reservoir improvements, asbestos cement main replacement, and pressure reducing valve station replacements) planned for 2023 and 2024. Issuance of new debt would result in additional annual debt payment estimated at \$1.47 million, beginning in 2023.

Given State law requirements, projects must be completed within 3 years of the respective date of debt issuance. Staff has observed material delays with the ongoing Pandemic and is relying on available fund balance through the design phase of qualifying projects. Staff would initiate the debt issuance process once projects are through the design phase and poised to begin construction, ensuring projects can be completed within the required timeframe.

• Other Services and Charges include all other costs of operations including supplies, contract services, insurance, and City administration costs. The latter includes the Water Fund's share of administrative support provided by the City Attorney's Office, City Manager's Office, Finance, and Human Resources staff. An overhead cost allocation model is used to determine the Water Utility's proportionate share of these internal services.

### **Summary Capital Reinvestment Projects**

Planned capital reinvestment work in 2023 and 2024 is shown in the table below. Capital investment costs are the primary driver of the proposed water rate increases for 2023-2028.

	Water Utility Capital Program 2023-2024	(\$ in thousands)	
Project ID	Description	2023	2024
WU0100	Emergency Water System Repairs	\$150	\$150
WU0102	SCADA System Replacement (Water)	75	
WU0103	Water Reservoir Improvements	2,805	2,750
WU0112	Water System Components Replacement	50	50
WU0115	Water Modeling and Fire Flow Analysis	15	50
WU0117	Meter Replacement Implementation	3,253	
WU0120	First Hill Generator Replacement	400	400
WU0128	Reservoir Pump Replacement	540	540
WU0130	2023 Water System Improvements (First Hill, NMW, SE 37th PI, SE 41st-42nd PI)	4,684	
WU0131	2024 Water System Improvements (8600 Block SE 47th & SE 59th)	373	2,082
WU0135	2024 AC Main Replacement (Gallagher Hill Rd, Greenbrier and SE 40th)	479	2,680
WU0136	2025 AC Main Replacement (Upper Mercerwood)		1,040
WU0140	Pressure Reducing Valve Station Replacements	395	2,025
WU0141	Street Related Water System Improvements	150	150
WU0142	Emergency Well #2 Site Evaluation		50
Water Util	ity CIP Total	\$13,369	\$11,967

### Water Rate Proposal

The 2023 rate proposal is based on the 2023-2024 operating budget, the 2023-2028 Capital Plan, and the corresponding debt financing needs. The rate model proposes a smoothed rate increase of 8.0% for 2023-2028. **Staff recommends an 8.0% increase to the water utility rates for 2023 as proposed in the 2023-2028 smoothed rate model.** Staff will return during the 2023-2024 mid-biennial budget process with new information as it becomes available to inform potential rate adjustments for fiscal year 2024.

Revenue Requirement	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Pre Rate Revenues							
Revenues							
Rate Revenues Under Existing Rates	\$ 9,999,563	\$ 9,999,563	\$ 9,999,563	\$ 9,999,563	\$ 9,999,563	\$ 9,999,563	\$ 9,999,563
Non-Rate Revenues	43,405	38,365	37,252	37,606	37,207	37,682	38,041
Total Revenues	\$10,042,968	\$10,037,928	\$10,036,815	\$10,037,169	\$10,036,770	\$10,037,245	\$10,037,604
Expenses							
Cash Operating Expenses	\$ 5,824,937	\$ 6,190,414	\$ 6,464,270	\$ 6,680,811	\$ 6,911,568	\$ 7,151,734	\$ 7,401,718
Existing Debt Service	107,250	109,531	111,631	108,550	110,150	111,550	107,750
New Debt Service	-	1,470,342	1,470,342	2,093,890	2,093,890	2,563,476	2,563,476
System Reinvestment Funding	3,000,000	3,250,000	3,500,000	3,700,000	3,900,000	3,900,000	3,900,000
Total Expenses	\$ 8,932,187	\$11,020,287	\$11,546,243	\$12,583,251	\$13,015,609	\$13,726,760	\$13,972,944
Net Surplus (Deficiency)	\$ 1,110,781	\$ (982,359)	\$(1,509,428)	\$(2,546,083)	\$ (2,978,838)	\$ (3,689,515)	\$(3,935,341)
Annual Rate Increase		8.00%	8.00%	8.00%	8.00%	8.00%	8.00%
Cumulative Rate Increase		8.00%	16.64%	25.97%	36.05%	46.93%	58.69%
Post Rate Revenues							
Revenues After Rate Increases	\$ 9,999,563	\$10,799,528	\$11,663,490	\$12,596,570	\$13,604,295	\$14,692,639	\$15,868,050
Additional Taxes from Rate Increase	-	40,230	83,679	130,603	181,282	236,015	295,126
Net Cash Flow After Rate Increase	\$ 1,110,781	\$ (222,625)	\$ 70,820	\$ (79,679)	\$ 444,612	\$ 767,546	\$ 1,638,020
Sample Residential Bill (3/4" Meter, x 14 ccf)	\$122.15	\$131.92	\$142.48	\$153.87	\$166.18	\$179.48	\$193.84
Bi-Monthly Increase (\$)		\$9.77	\$10.55	\$11.40	\$12.31	\$13.29	\$14.36

Fund Balance	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Operating Reserve							
Beginning Balance	\$ 5,762,177	\$ 1,872,958	\$ 1,650,333	\$ 1,721,153	\$ 1,641,474	\$ 1,736,426	\$ 1,808,141
plus: Net Cash Flow after Rate Increase	1,110,781	(222,625)	70,820	(79,679)	444,612	767,546	1,638,020
less: Transfer of Surplus to Capital Fund	(5,000,000)				(349,660)	(695,831)	(1,562,884)
Ending Balance	\$ 1,872,958	\$ 1,650,333	\$ 1,721,153	\$ 1,641,474	\$ 1,736,426	\$ 1,808,141	\$ 1,883,277
Actual Days of O&M	117 days	97 days	97 days	89 days	90 days	90 days	90 days
Capital Reserve							
Beginning Balance	\$10,024,654	\$ 6,240,578	\$13,921,201	\$ 867,812	\$ 2,554,160	\$ 978,660	\$ 1,557,176
plus: System Reinvestment Funding	3,000,000	3,250,000	3,500,000	3,700,000	3,900,000	3,900,000	3,900,000
plus: Transfers from Operating Fund	5,000,000	-	-	-	349,660	695,831	1,562,884
plus: LTGO Proceeds	-	19,100,000	-	8,100,000	-	6,100,000	-
plus: Interest Earnings	25,062	31,203	69,606	4,339	12,771	4,893	7,786
Total Funding Sources	\$18,049,716	\$28,621,780	\$17,490,807	\$12,672,151	\$ 6,816,591	\$11,679,384	\$ 7,027,846
less: Capital Expenditures	(11,809,138)	(14,700,580)	(16,622,995)	(10,117,991)	(5,837,931)	(10,122,208)	(5,749,235)
Ending Capital Fund Balance	\$ 6,240,578	\$13,921,201	\$ 867,812	\$ 2,554,160	\$ 978,660	\$ 1,557,176	\$ 1,278,611
Minimum Target Balance	\$ 475,035	\$ 622,041	\$ 788,271	\$ 889,451	\$ 947,830	\$ 1,049,052	\$ 1,106,544
Combined Beginning Balance	\$15,786,831	\$ 8,113,536	\$15,571,534	\$ 2,588,965	\$ 4,195,634	\$ 2,715,086	\$ 3,365,317
Combined Ending Balance	\$ 8,113,536	\$15,571,534	\$ 2,588,965	\$ 4,195,634	\$ 2,715,086	\$ 3,365,317	\$ 3,161,888

Item 4.

A summary table comparing the proposed rates from the most recent rate model updates (2020-2022) as compared to the current rate recommendation is presented below.

Description	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
2020 Rate Update	6.50%	6.50%	6.50%	6.50%				
2021-2022 Rate Update	5.25%	5.25%	5.25%	5.25%	5.25%	5.25%		
2023-2024 Rate Proposal			8.00%	8.00%	8.00%	8.00%	8.00%	8.00%

Staff will be available at the Utility Board meeting to answer questions regarding the proposed operating and capital budgets, as well as the proposed 2023 water utility rate increases.

The 2023 Water Utility rate resolution is on the City Council planning schedule for review and adoption on November 15, 2022.



## **Utility Board**

### 2022 Work Plan

2nd Tuesday

Meeting Date	Agenda Item						
January 11	Recess						
February 8	Water Meter Replacement Contract Recommendation						
	Utility ARPA Project Update						
March 8	Recess						
April 12	SCADA Sewer Project Update						
	Water Meter Replacement Project Update (2024)						
May 10	Recess						
June 14	Board Elections						
	Sustainability Utilities Work Plan Update						
July 12	Utility Project Field Visit (daytime)						
	2023-2024 Utilty CIP Preview						
	ALOP Water System Plan Update						
August 9	Recess						
September 13	EMS Rate Discussion/Recommendation						
October 11	Canceled						
October 13	Water Budget & Rate Discussion/Recommendation						
Special Meeting 4:30	Sewer Budget & Rate Discussion/Recommendation						
	Storm Budget & Rate Discussion/Recommendation						
November 8	Recess						
December 13	2023 Work Plan Development						
	2022 Solid Waste/Recology Annual Report						
To Be Scheduled:							



## **Utility Board**

### 2022 Work Plan

2nd Tuesday

Meeting Date	Agenda Item						
January 11	Recess						
February 8	Water Meter Replacement Contract Recommendation						
	Utility ARPA Project Update						
March 8	Recess						
April 12	SCADA Sewer Project Update						
	Water Meter Replacement Project Update (2024)						
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	Sustainability Utilities Work Plan Update						
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	2023-2024 Utilty CIP Preview						
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November 8	Recess						
December 13	2023 Work Plan Development						
	2022 Solid Waste/Recology Annual Report						
To Be Scheduled:							