



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ENTERPRISE SERVICES

1500 Jefferson St. SE, Olympia, WA 98501
PO Box 41476, Olympia, WA 98504-1476

STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

Notice of Action Taken
Department of Enterprise Services
Capitol Lake-Deschutes Estuary Long-Term Management Project

Notice is given under RCW 43.21C.080, that Department of Enterprise Services took the action described in (2) below on November 7, 2022.

1. Any action to set aside, enjoin, review, or otherwise challenge such action on the grounds of noncompliance with the provisions of chapter 43.21C RCW (State Environmental Policy Act or SEPA) shall be commenced on or before December 7, 2022.

2. Description of Agency Action:

The Washington State Department of Enterprise Services (DES) decided to implement the Estuary Alternative, which was identified as the preferred alternative for long-term management of the Capitol Lake-Deschutes Estuary in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Following this Notice of Action Taken, DES will pursue funding for design, permitting, and construction of the project, with the Estuary Alternative as the selected alternative.

3. Description of proposal:

The Capitol Lake – Deschutes Estuary Long-Term Management Project will restore tidal hydrology throughout the Capitol Lake Basin. The project involves establishing an approximately 500-foot opening in place of the existing 5th Avenue Dam, returning the area to estuarine conditions where saltwater from Budd Inlet will mix with freshwater from the Deschutes River. Prior to removal of the 5th Avenue Dam and associated 5th Avenue Bridge, a new vehicular replacement bridge with sidewalks and bike lanes will be constructed south of the existing bridge. Grading, utility reconfigurations, and right of way work to support these changes are assumed.

Sediment will be managed through initial dredging in the Capitol Lake Basin and recurring maintenance dredging in Budd Inlet. Materials dredged during construction will be used

to create habitat areas in the Middle and North Basins to promote ecological diversity, though tideflats will be the predominant habitat type. Boardwalks, a dock, and boat launch will be constructed for community use. The project also includes stabilization along Deschutes Parkway to avoid undercutting or destabilization from the tidal flow. Existing utilities and other infrastructure will be upgraded and/or protected from reintroduced tidal hydrology and saltwater conditions.

4. Location of proposal:

The project is located in the Cities of Olympia and Tumwater in Thurston County, Washington. The Project Area includes the 260-acre Capitol Lake that is managed by DES and extends up the West Bay of Budd Inlet to the northern tip of the Port of Olympia peninsula. West Bay is not managed by DES. However, Project actions will occur in West Bay after construction, so it is included in the Project Area. The parks and public space adjoining Capitol Lake and within the jurisdiction of DES are also included in the Project Area.

Capitol Lake extends from the south end at Tumwater Falls in the City of Tumwater to the north end of the 5th Avenue Dam, in the City of Olympia. There are three basins within this waterbody, referred to as the North Basin, Middle Basin, and South Basin. The Project Area does not extend upstream of Tumwater Falls (south) into the Deschutes River because that area will not be affected by the Capitol Lake – Deschutes Estuary Long-Term Management Project.

5. Type of environmental review under SEPA:

DES, as the lead agency for the project, reviewed project information, prepared a Final SEPA EIS entitled, “Capitol Lake-Deschutes Estuary Long-Term Management Project Environmental Impact Statement, October 31, 2022”, which identified the Estuary Alternative as the Preferred Alternative. The Final EIS was preceded by a Draft EIS and extended public comment period, which ran from June 30 – August 29, 2021.

6. SEPA Document Availability

General project information, the EIS, and other related documents are available on the project website at [Capitol Lake – Deschutes Estuary EIS - Home \(capitollakedeschutesestuaryeis.org\)](https://www.capitollakedeschutesestuaryeis.org).

7. Name and contact person of agency, proponent, or applicant giving notice:

Washington State Department of Enterprise Services, Facility Professional Services.

Contact:

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Washington State Department of Enterprise Services

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8. This notice is filed by:

Signature: William J Frare
(electronic signature or name of signor is sufficient)

Date November 7, 2022

SEPA Responsible Official: William J. Frare, P.E.

Position/Title: Assistant Director
Facilities Professional Services
Department of Enterprise Services