

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS)  
CAPITOL LAKE- DESCHUTES ESTUARY LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT PROJECT**

**Project Proponent:** Washington State Department of Enterprise Services (Enterprise Services)

**Location:** The Capitol Lake – Deschutes Estuary includes the 260-acre waterbody, known as Capitol Lake, located on the Washington State Capitol Campus, adjacent to downtown Olympia, at the base of Puget Sound.

**Description:** Historically, freshwater from the Deschutes River would mix with saltwater from Budd Inlet over expansive tidal flats. Between 1949 and 1951, a dam was constructed at 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue and, without the tidal exchange, the area was transformed into a freshwater lake, fed primarily by the Deschutes River. The newly formed Capitol Lake began to experience a range of environmental impairments after construction of the 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Dam, eventually leading to community use restrictions that persist today. Neither short-term actions (e.g., dredging to remove accumulated sediment) nor construction of a long-term management alternative (Estuary, Hybrid, or Managed Lake) can be implemented until an Environmental Impact Statement (or EIS) is complete and a Preferred Alternative is selected. The Department of Enterprise Services, at the direction of the state Legislature, developed this EIS.

**Background:** This is the Notice of Availability (NOA) that the Final EIS for the Capitol Lake – Deschutes Estuary Long-Term Management Project is available for public review on October 31, 2022. The Final EIS identifies a Preferred Alternative (the Estuary Alternative) and responds to all comments received on the Draft EIS. The Final EIS describes the existing conditions and identifies probable significant environmental impacts, mitigation measures to mitigate these impacts, and any significant unavoidable adverse environmental impacts from the proposal, in accordance with RCW 43.21C.031. The Final EIS also includes additional information to support the decision-making process, including planning-level costs, input from engaged governmental and agency partners, and permits and approvals that would be required to implement the long-term management project. The Draft EIS for this project was issued for public review and comment on June 30, 2021. An online public hearing was held on July 27, 2021. The Final EIS completes the environmental review process for the proposal.

**Next Steps:** Enterprise Services will take no action on the proposal for a minimum of 7 days following publication of this notice. After that, Enterprise Services may decide to implement the project and pursue funding to design and permit the selected alternative.

**Availability of the Final EIS:** The Final EIS is available online at: <https://CapitolLakeDeschutesEstuaryEIS.org>, and is also available for public access and review at the following locations.

Washington State Library  
6880 Capitol Blvd SE, Tumwater, WA 98501  
360-704-5200

West Olympia Timberland Library  
625 Black Lake Blvd SW, Olympia, WA 98502  
360-764-4440

Olympia Timberland Library  
313 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE, Olympia, WA, 98501-1307  
360-352-0595

Lacey Timberland Library  
500 College St SE, Lacey, WA 98503  
360-491-3860

Tumwater Timberland Library  
7023 New Market Street, Tumwater, WA, 98501-6563  
360-943-7790

Copies of the Final EIS on a thumbdrive may be requested from Enterprise Services.

**Availability of Background Materials:**

The Draft and Final EIS (published on June 30, 2021, and October 31, 2022, respectively), including supporting attachments and other background materials, are available on the project website:

<https://CapitolLakeDeschutesEstuaryEIS.org>.

**Lead Agency and Responsible Official:**

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