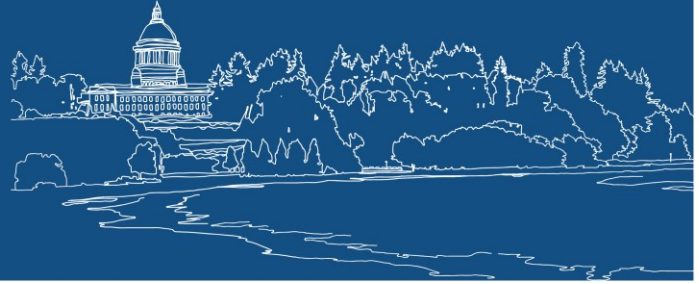




# Outreach Activities for the Capitol Lake – Deschutes Estuary Long-Term Management Project Draft EIS



## Draft Environmental Impact Statement Available for Public Review and Comment

Historically, what is now known as Capitol Lake was part of the Deschutes Estuary, where freshwater from the Deschutes River would mix with saltwater from Budd Inlet over expansive tideflats. The Deschutes Estuary has long-standing cultural and spiritual significance to local tribes, particularly the Squaxin Island Tribe.

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 waterbody was renamed Capitol Lake. Capitol Lake is the 260-acre waterbody located on the Washington State Capitol Campus, adjacent to downtown Olympia, at the base of Puget Sound. Capitol Lake was designed as part of the Washington State Capitol Campus, and it quickly became an important visual and recreational resource to the community.

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) 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, is developing an EIS, which is an impartial, comprehensive discussion of the project goals, long-term management alternatives, potential significant impacts and benefits, and ways to avoid or minimize impacts.

The Draft EIS was published on June 30, 2021, and your feedback on the document will provide decision-makers with additional information that will be considered in the process to prepare the Final EIS and select a preferred alternative.

Governmental partners, agencies, tribes, and the community are encouraged to provide substantive comments on the Draft EIS between June 30 and August 13, 2021. Information on how to submit comments and engagement opportunities are discussed in this document and are available on the project website.

**Be sure to submit your comments by August 13, 2021.**

### How will comments be used?

Your comments will inform potential revisions to the Draft EIS and/or additional technical analysis. Responses to comments received will be provided in the Final EIS, expected to be issued in mid-2022, pending the number of comments received and additional analyses needed.

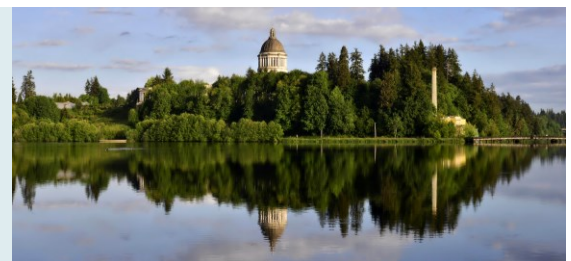
### What are substantive comments?

Comments that address a specific aspect of the project or the Draft EIS, rather than simply expressing a preference for or against a project alternative, are most useful. Comments should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to chapters and pages of the Draft EIS.

### Learn More

<https://CapitolLakeDeschutesEstuaryEIS.org>

Materials can be provided in alternative formats—large print, Braille, cassette tape, or on computer disk—for people with disabilities by contacting (360) 407-8200 or [accessibility@des.wa.gov](mailto:accessibility@des.wa.gov). Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may contact Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO) through the Washington Relay Service at 7-1-1.



# Draft Environmental Impact Statement Public Comment Period

June 30 to August 13, 2021

## Learn More About the Draft EIS and Submit Your Comments

Visit the [Online Open House](#) (*learn and comment*)

Visit <https://clde.participate.online> anytime throughout the comment period (June 30 to August 13, 2021) for a high-level overview of the Draft EIS, links to key information including the full Draft EIS, details on engagement activities, and a comment submittal form.

### Join Online Office Hours (*learn*)

Enterprise Services will host 3 office hour sessions via Zoom with members of the EIS Project Team. Join at your convenience to ask questions and learn more about the Draft EIS. Visit <https://CapitolLakeDeschutesEstuaryEIS.org> for details on how to join.

- July 7, 2 PM – 3 PM
- July 14, 7 PM – 8 PM
- July 15, 10 AM – 11 AM

### Attend the Online Public Hearing (*learn and comment*)

Join us on July 27 for an online public hearing. Members of the EIS Project Team will attend to hear your feedback and comments on the Draft EIS. Anyone interested in providing testimony that will be submitted as public comments will be asked to pre-register to ensure we can accommodate all those who wish to speak. If you wish to observe the hearing, you do not need to register. Attendance is not required in order to provide comment. The hearing will be broadcast live via TVW.

### Observe Meetings and Briefings (*learn*)

The EIS Project Team will be meeting with the Work Groups, governmental committees, and Community Sounding Board to review key findings from the Draft EIS. Attend one or more of these meetings to learn more about the project and hear questions from the groups. Dates and times for additional briefings with local jurisdictions will be shared on the project website when they are finalized.

- **Technical Work Group:** July 7, 2021, 9 – 11 AM
- **Executive Work Group:** July 12, 2021, 1 – 3 PM
- **Joint State Capitol Committee – Capitol Campus Design Advisory Committee Meeting:** July 13, 2021, 1 – 3 PM
- **Community Sounding Board:** July 15, 2021, 6 – 8 PM

### Schedule Interest Group Briefings (*learn*)

During the comment period we will be presenting to groups and organizations throughout the community. We will provide a summary of Draft EIS content, an overview of key findings, and information about how to provide comments; we will also answer clarifying questions. If you are interested in a briefing for your organization please call (360) 407-9323 or email us at [info@CapitolLakeDeschutesEstuaryEIS.org](mailto:info@CapitolLakeDeschutesEstuaryEIS.org).

## Submit Comments

### Via the project website

<https://CapitolLakeDeschutesEstuaryEIS.org>  
Visit the website for additional information and comment submittal form.

### Via email

[comment@CapitolLakeDeschutesEstuaryEIS.org](mailto:comment@CapitolLakeDeschutesEstuaryEIS.org)

### In writing

Department of Enterprise Services  
Capitol Lake – Deschutes Estuary EIS  
PO Box 41476  
Olympia, WA 98504-1476

### During the online public hearing

Visit the website for guidelines and registration (for those who wish to provide testimony).  
July 27, 6:30 – 8:30 PM

All email and comments become public record and will be included in a public comment summary. If requested, comments and related information will be disclosed as required by the Public Records Act 42.56.RCW.

# CAPITOL LAKE – DESCHUTES ESTUARY

Long-Term Management Project Environmental Impact Statement

## Visit the Heritage Park Trail Loop Self-Guided Open House (learn)

Look for updated informational signs at the kiosks along the Heritage Park Trail Loop beginning in early July. These kiosks provide information including the background of the project, the contents and the importance of the Draft EIS, and details on how to submit comments.



## View the Print Copy of the Draft EIS (learn)

Visit locations in the project area to view a printed copy of the Draft EIS. Call ahead to reserve a copy, if needed (some locations may have COVID-19 restrictions):

**Department of Enterprise Services  
Visitor Services, Legislative Services**  
416 Sid Snyder Ave SW  
Olympia, WA 98501  
360-902-8880

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

**Olympia Timberland Library**  
313 8th Avenue SE  
Olympia, WA, 98501-1307  
360-352-0595

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

**Washington State Library**  
6880 Capitol Blvd SE  
Tumwater, WA 98501  
360-491-3860

## Next Steps

The Preferred Alternative will be identified in the Final EIS. The Final EIS is expected to be issued in mid-2022, pending the number of comments received on the Draft EIS and additional analyses that may need to be completed in response to public comment.

Enterprise Services will then seek to complete design of the Preferred Alternative. Enterprise Services will also seek the federal, state, and local environmental permits required for project construction. A 3- to 5-year duration is assumed for design and permitting for a project of this magnitude. Funding for design, permitting, and construction has not yet been appropriated by the Washington State Legislature. Based on the targeted completion date for the Final EIS and the legislative calendar, this work could begin as early as 2023, if funding is available.

Construction would begin following design and permitting, and once funding is secured. If there are no delays in this process, project construction could begin as early as 2028. Project construction could last 4 to 8 years, depending on the alternative. View the Draft EIS for more detail on this and the approach to evaluate potential shared funding and governance for the Preferred Alternative.



Long-Term Management Planning Process