

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS)
NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND HEARING
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 5th 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 5th 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. Enterprise Services, at the direction of the state Legislature, developed this Draft EIS. Enterprise Services is seeking public comment on the Draft EIS, which describes the project goals, long-term management alternatives, potential significant impacts and benefits, and ways to avoid or minimize impacts.

EIS Required: On September 28, 2018, Enterprise Services, serving as lead agency for the State of Washington, published a Notice of Determination of Significance, indicating that this proposal could have a significant adverse impact upon the environment and required preparation of an EIS under Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 43.21C.030(2)(c). A EIS has been completed and it includes an evaluation of the following alternatives: Managed Lake, Estuary, Hybrid, and No Action Alternative. Additional information is available on the project website at <https://CapitolLakeDeschutesEstuaryEIS.org>.

Approvals Required: The List of Permits and Approvals that may be required for the project can be found in Chapter 9.0, Permits & Approvals.

Availability of the Draft EIS: The Draft EIS is available online at: <https://CapitolLakeDeschutesEstuaryEIS.org>.

Printed copies of the Draft EIS and technical appendices are available for review for no cost at the following locations. Please call in advance due to COVID-19 restrictions.

- Department of Enterprise Services, Visitor Services
- Washington State Library
- Lacey Timberland Library
- Olympia Timberland Library
- Tumwater Timberland Library

SEPA EIS Public Comment: Affected Tribes, interested Agencies, organizations and members of the public are invited to comment on the Draft EIS which will be available on June 30, 2021. An extended comment period of 45 days is being provided pursuant to Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 197-11-455, and will include one online public hearing.

Comment Period: The comment period opens June 30, 2021. The deadline for submitting your comments is August 13, 2021. Comments may be submitted in writing or orally at the online public hearing.

How to Submit Comments:

Via the project website: <https://CapitolLakeDeschutesEstuaryEIS.org>

Via email: comment@CapitolLakeDeschutesEstuaryEIS.org

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

Public Hearing: An online public hearing will be held July 27, 2021, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Enterprise Services staff and 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 accommodations for 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.

Project-related information can be reviewed on the project website at: <https://CapitolLakeDeschutesEstuaryEIS.org>
For questions about the project, or the EIS process, please email info@CapitolLakeDeschutesEstuaryEIS.org