



**AGENDA
BILL
Item 7.A**

**City of Bellingham Resource
Recovery Project Update
Presentation**

DATE SUBMITTED:	April 21, 2021	MEETING DATE:	April 28, 2021
TO: BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS	FROM: Justin Clary, General Manager		
GENERAL MANAGER APPROVAL			
ATTACHED DOCUMENTS	1. none		
TYPE OF ACTION REQUESTED	RESOLUTION <input type="checkbox"/>	FORMAL ACTION/ MOTION <input type="checkbox"/>	INFORMATIONAL /OTHER <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

BACKGROUND / EXPLANATION OF IMPACT

The City of Bellingham owns and operates the Post Point Wastewater Treatment Plant, which receives and treats all of the District’s wastewater through an interlocal agreement between the City and District. The solids handling process equipment (incinerators) at the facility are reaching the end of their useful lives and require replacement. Based upon the City’s policy for climate action and community feedback on various replacement options, a digestion process with energy recovery has been identified as the preferred solution. Since the last presentation to the Board in early 2019, the City and its consultant have been proceeding with design, permitting, and cost estimating associated with this project (referred to as the Resource Recovery Project).

Also since the February 2019 presentation, the Washington State Department of Ecology announced the initiation of development of a Nutrient General Permit that will limit discharge of excess nutrients, particularly nitrogen, to the Puget Sound from domestic wastewater treatment plants. The Post Point WWTP will be regulated under the General Permit (in addition to an Individual Permit specific to the Post Point WWTP). While the specific discharge regulations remain unknown at this time, the City has begun preparation for what it anticipates the limits will be. As a result, the City has incorporated nitrogen removal processes into the solids handling plans, as well as begun planning for phased incorporation of additional nitrogen removal processes over a 20-year planning horizon. These measures have been incorporated into the Resource Recovery Project.

FISCAL IMPACT

No impacts will be incurred in the 2021 Budget. Based upon the interlocal agreement between the City and District for wastewater treatment, the District’s share of any capital improvements to the Post Point WWTP will be 4.8% of the total costs.

APPLICABLE EFFECTIVE UTILITY MANAGEMENT ATTRIBUTE(S)

- Product Quality
- Financial Viability
- Infrastructure Strategy and Performance
- Community Sustainability

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION

No action is recommended.

PROPOSED MOTION

Not applicable.