

Outlook

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## Water Project Documentation Follow-Up

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**From** Suzanne Wrede <swrede@bellevueidaho.us>

**Date** Tue 3/24/2026 8:31 AM

**To** Christina Giordani <cgiordani@bellevueidaho.us>; Diane Shay <dshay@bellevueidaho.us>; Anders Ard <aard@bellevueidaho.us>; Tom Bergin <tbergin@bellevueidaho.us>; Jessica Obenauf <jobenauf@bellevueidaho.us>; Tammy Davis <tdavis@bellevueidaho.us>

 1 attachment (1 MB)

deq\_faretra\_email\_03\_2026\_legal\_authority.jpg;

Hi all -

Couple of requests for this interval between meetings. First, in the DEQ email that was provided to city council as proof that DEQ had assigned City Council legal authority, all the context of the email is missing. Council should have access to the entire email chain as a public document (which it is.) I request that this entire email chain be shared with city council as soon as possible. As I hope I made clear last night, DEQ does not have the authority to establish the legal authority for a bond so the entire context of this email is essential. DEQ is helping Bellevue prepare for funding and both state and federal funding laws require that legal authority be validated, but DEQ absolutely does not have the power to determine that - only the requirement to validate it - and the City's claims that DEQ has given them that authority raises issues for the Attorney General.

The DEQ email provided does NOT support the mayor's claims last night that DEQ granted the City total legal authority and it can simply write a letter without City Council knowledge or approval. So we need to see the DEQ documentation that supports the City's/Mayor's statements on that. And we should see the entire email, not just the selected parts.

Second, thank you to Diane for requesting bond counsel be solicited. But we need a written legal opinion from bond counsel, not an informal dialogue. The need is for bond counsel to submit their legal opinions in writing and for city council to have that legal opinion well in advance of the next meeting for review. Since bond counsel has already reviewed this situation and given a determination to Merrick - and why Merrick would be the ones speaking to our bond counsel, I don't know - it should be very inexpensive for them to put that legal opinion on paper. With their opinion already established, shared and used as points of fact in discussions last night, it is less expensive than having them come to the meeting - and far more valuable both for the opportunity for council to review the findings and as documentation that the City has properly followed the law. A failure to support and document the City's legal position is unacceptable.

Attached is the part of the email from Ms. Faretra that was distributed and cited last night as the predicate for establishing the City as the legal authority for the bond. It doesn't not grant legal authority to the City as claimed last night. And it is unclear if it grants legal authority to the City Council - we need to see the entire email because, in truth, we don't know the definition of "such

plans." The City Council and residents need to see the basis for the mayor's claims that the DEQ granted the City unilateral power, without even the need for City Council, to approve the bond changes and confirm that last night's documentation establishes that DEQ has given the City Council legal authority.

This project is hugely flawed but it doesn't mean it isn't valuable or needed. It does mean that it needs to be cleaned up and that starts with facts, process, transparency and proper leadership.

And for Tammy, who wants to believe without question - enjoy: <https://www.politico.com/news/magazine/2023/05/12/dixon-illinois-city-fraud-betrayal-00075869>

Let's do our jobs.

Thank you,

Suzanne