



**Press Contact:** Ashlyn Farnworth (she/her/hers)  
**Phone:** (425) 786 – 4402  
**Email:** [ashlyn.farnworth@carnationwa.gov](mailto:ashlyn.farnworth@carnationwa.gov)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

## PRESS RELEASE

### CITY OF CARNATION'S TOLT DAM FORUM PROMPTS COMMUNITY BENEFIT DISCUSSION WITH CITY OF SEATTLE

CARNATION, Washington – on Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, the City of Carnation hosted a community forum to give citizens a voice and a chance to start a new narrative about Seattle's dam safety. The Tolt Dam, owned and operated by the City of Seattle, would cause catastrophic damage to Carnation and force city-wide evacuation if it ever were to break.

Close to 200 people were in attendance, including Senator Brad Hawkins, and representatives from Congresswoman Kim Schrier and King County Councilmember Sarah Perry's offices. Riverview School District, Sno-Valley Senior Center, and Empower Youth Network also spoke about the general unease the dam has caused among vulnerable populations like the youth and the elderly.

Many citizens expressed their desire for hazard elimination, meaning the total shut down and removal of the Tolt Dam. In response to this notion, Seattle representatives told the crowd that they sell water from the dam to surrounding cities. The City of Carnation reports that they have received none of the revenue generated from the sale of the water.

"We get one hundred percent of the of the risk and zero percent of the benefit," says Carnation Mayor Jim Ribail.

Jennifer Hargrove, an emergency management consultant for the City of Carnation, says that "absence of risk is the best mitigation."

Representatives from Seattle and Carnation's City Manager will begin negotiations leading to a community benefit agreement that may include mitigation and franchise fees.

Problems with Tolt Dam Early Warning System siren prompted the City of Carnation to adopt a State of Emergency Declaration this past August. The Declaration was adopted unanimously by the Carnation City Council due to its concerns and doubts about the City of Seattle's ability to operate the Tolt Dam.

For more information, feel free to contact City Manager Ana Cortez at [ana.cortez@carnationwa.gov](mailto:ana.cortez@carnationwa.gov) or via cell at (425) 419-3697.

###

*Carnation is a rural western Washington community of 2,220 residents that is approximately 1.1 square miles in size. Framed by the Cascade foothills and located where the Tolt and Snoqualmie Rivers meet, the City is within easy reach of Seattle. Carnation offers an abundance of natural beauty and outdoor experiences, including biking, hiking, camping, and fishing. In our downtown, you can visit our unique shops and restaurants.*