



**PRESS ADVISORY
PRESS CONFERENCE HOSTED BY CITY OF CARNATION REGARDING
SEATTLE'S FAILURE TO DELIVER FULLY OPERATING EMERGENCY WARNING
SYSTEM FOR CARNATION RESIDENTS**

WHAT:

The City of Carnation has scheduled a press conference to express their disappointment with the City of Seattle's Tolt Dam Early Warning System. 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.

The new Tolt Dam Early Warning system that was inaugurated on October 18 is inadequate and has created yet another wave of concerns. The message is inaudible in many parts of our City.

PRESS CONFERENCE DETAILS:

- Time: 11:30 AM
- Date: Wednesday, November 15th, 2023
- Location: Nick Loutsis Park (32401 Entwistle St, Carnation, WA 98014)

STATEMENTS:

1. Carnation was incorporated in 1912. Seattle built its dam in 1964. Seattle's Dam puts lives and property at risk. The City receive no benefit from it. The City receives no water from the dam. The City receives no revenue from the dam. However, we do receive 100% of the RISK.
2. As required by regulation, Seattle's Dam has a Warning system to protect life and property in Carnation. Yet, that system has failed six times in the last 3 years. With each failure, it becomes more and more apparent that Seattle hasn't addressed a number of foundational issues, and that it simply doesn't comprehend the harm it is inflicting.
3. What Carnation's citizens have concluded is that Seattle's alarm systems are unreliable. Seattle staff failed to empathize with Carnation's residents, indicating that the false alarm on August 22, 2023, had gone off for "only two seconds." It is clear that Seattle is unaware or unwilling to understand and recognize the psychological damage its 2020 event had on Carnation's Residents.
4. Seattle has failed to fix its emergency alarm system. Seattle has failed to improve their communication. Seattle has failed to create a functional partnership with emergency

organizations, the County, and City of Carnation. Seattle has failed to learn from its mistakes.

5. Carnation organized a community forum to outline desired changes to our relationship with Seattle on September 30, 2023. 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. 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.

6. The City of Carnation is pursuing a community responsibilities agreement with the City of Seattle. The following elements will continue to be discussed:
 - Fines to the city of Seattle for any failure of the Tolt Dam Warning system and/or related communications.
 - The creation of an insurance instrument for the City of Carnation and its residents to mitigate the fact that neither Earthquake nor Flood insurance will cover a dam failure.
 - A third-party emergency management evaluation of Carnation and surrounding infrastructure and its ability to insure timely evacuation of all residents in the event of an emergency – with recommendations for improvements the City of Seattle must make.
 - Annual Franchise fee to operate dam. To offset the direct costs to Carnation, communication and emergency supplies costs, maintenance costs, etc.
 - Annual Mitigation fee to fund mental health services to the community.

Click below to view a video recapping the September 30th community forum:
[Tolt Dam Community Forum & Evacuation Drill - City of Carnation on Vimeo](#)

Click below to view Tolt Dam news coverage:
[Tolt Dam News Coverage 2020-PRESENT.pdf \(carnationwa.gov\)](#)

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