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PRESS RELEASE

MAYOR OF CARNATION MEETS WITH MAYOR OF SEATTLE’S OFFICE TO REVIEW PROGRESS ON TOLT DAM WARNING SYSTEM AND TO DISCUSS NEXT STEPS

CARNATION, Washington – on Friday, December 8th, the City of Carnation convened a meeting with representatives from Seattle Mayor Bruce Harrell’s office to advocate for Carnation residents. 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. After 60 years of bearing the risks of living beneath the Tolt Dam, the City of Carnation is demanding community benefits.

“After historically being a silent partner, the City of Carnation will now be an active partner in project management, safety operations, and strategic communication,” says City Manager Ana Cortez.

The Tolt Dam Early Warning System project has been a point of contention between the City of Carnation and the City of Seattle due to a two-year delay in completion. A slew of false alarms prompted Carnation to adopt a State of Emergency Declaration this past August. A few months later, the newly installed siren system caused another wave of public outcry due to volume and clarity concerns.

“The time for excuses and explanations is over,” said Carnation Mayor Jim Ribail. “Carnation wants to see outcomes.”

The City of Carnation wishes to see annual compensation attached to the risks associated with the dam. Franchise fees, mitigation fees, false alarm fines, and funding for annual evacuation drills have been asked of the City of Seattle.

Community benefits being discussed include access to mental health resources, environmental sustainability, road infrastructure to facilitate evacuation, and funding for emergency operations personnel in the City of Carnation.

City Manager Cortez reported that Seattle Mayor Harrell’s office was open and receptive to

hearing Carnations concerns.

The City of Carnation is consulting with subject matter experts on the feasibility of testing the alarm once a month in lieu of the current once a week testing.

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

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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.