



**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**March 15, 2010**

**Motion 13190**

**Proposed No. 2010-0156.2**

**Sponsors Drago**

1           A MOTION establishing the 2010 work plan for the  
2           regional water quality committee of the King County  
3           council.

4           WHEREAS; the regional water quality committee of the King County council is  
5           established by the King County charter to develop, recommend and review regional  
6           policies and plans for consideration by the metropolitan county council, and

7           WHEREAS, the regional water quality committee develops, reviews and  
8           recommends countywide policies and plans related to the water pollution control  
9           functions formerly provided by the municipality of metropolitan Seattle, and

10          WHEREAS, plans and policies that are assigned to the committee include, but are  
11          not limited to, water quality comprehensive and long-range capital improvement plans,  
12          service area and extension policies, rate policies and the facility siting policy and major  
13          facilities siting process;

14          NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

15          A. The work plan for the regional water quality committee for 2010 shall address  
16          countywide policies, plans or topics listed in Attachment A to this motion.

17          B. In addition to the items listed in Attachment A to this motion, the work plan  
18          may include countywide policies or plans that respond to emergent concerns related to  
19          water quality that are of regional interest and that relate to multiple jurisdictions. The

- 20 committee and council may amend the work plan and assign to the committee other  
21 regional water quality issues that the committee believes would benefit from  
22 interjurisdictional review and recommendations.

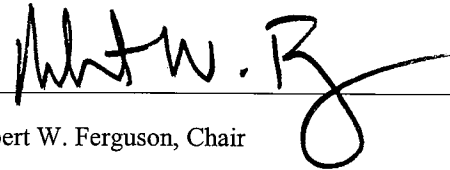
Motion 13190 was introduced on 3/1/2010 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 3/15/2010, by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Ms. Drago, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Patterson, Ms. Lambert and Mr. Dunn

No: 0

Excused: 3 - Mr. von Reichbauer, Ms. Hague and Mr. Ferguson

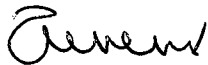
KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



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Robert W. Ferguson, Chair

ATTEST:



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Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

**Attachments:** A. Regional Water Quality Committee 2010 Work Plan Summary (Revised 3-3-10)



## King County

# Metropolitan King County Council

## Regional Water Quality Committee

### 2010 WORK PLAN SUMMARY

#### POTENTIAL 2010 RWQC WORK PROGRAM PRIORITIES:

**Work Plan Item:** Brightwater Project Progress

Continue to monitor construction of the treatment plant, conveyance and outfall. Council, via budget proviso directed hiring of a consultant to provide independent oversight and monitoring of the treatment plan, conveyance facilities and marine outfall elements of the Brightwater project. The Oversight Management Consultant (OMC) provides quarterly reports to RWQC and Government Operations and Accountability Committee in consultation with the Capital Projects Oversight team from the Auditor's Office.

**2010 Task:**

RWQC members have expressed interest in on-going quarterly briefings from the OMC and Wastewater Treatment Division staff. The committee toured the treatment plant site in summer of 2008 – another tour of facilities under construction may be arranged in 2010. A new “trend report” regarding construction costs is expected in the second quarter or in conjunction with the Executives 2011 rate proposal. The committee should also be briefed on the budget proviso report analyzing optimization of the start-up of Brightwater.

**Work Plan Item:** Reclaimed Water Comprehensive Plan

The Wastewater Treatment Division is currently proceeding with a comprehensive planning process for reclaimed water. The project began in 2008. The planning process is intended to provide an opportunity for a regional discussion about if, how and when and by what funding mechanism King County should expand its reclaimed water system beyond the existing system. In 2009, the Council approved a planning process that has designated steps and decision points. Some of these require action on legislation by the Council/RWQC in 2010. If a “comprehensive plan” is recommended – the intent will be to provide overall programmatic guidance for King County's reclaimed water program for the next 30 years.

**2010 Task:**

Legislation regarding the “criteria” for reclaimed water uses and strategies was transmitted January 2010. Legislation on the

“strategies” is anticipated in the second or third quarter. WTD plans to initiate gathering input on guiding principles for a financing plan by the end of the first quarter. The Financial Policies Work Group is expected to contribute to the guiding principles with input from the RWQC.

**Work Plan Item: Regional Wastewater Services Plan (RWSP) Financial Policies**

The RWSP financial policies were updated in 2001 to address the capacity charge. The policies were amended again in 2006 following a comprehensive review of all of the RWSP policies in response to an update / review of the RWSP completed by the Executive in 2005. RWQC has commissioned a Financial Policies Work Group (FPWG) to review a limited set of financial policies – including FP-15 regarding the capacity charge. The capacity charge review should include how ‘growth pays for growth’ as well as issues such as how the capacity charges is implemented for affordable housing and sustainable buildings with on-site wastewater treatment facilities.

**2010 Task:** The committee should get regular updates from the FPWG and should provide direction on policy review and work products. If the committee plans to amend policy to affect the 2012 rate proposal – committee action should be completed prior to 2011 budget deliberations starting in late September.

**Work Plan Item: Major Capital and Asset Management Projects**

The committee has expressed interest in major capital and asset management projects both within and outside the scope of the Regional Wastewater Services Plan – especially Conveyance System Improvement projects, Inflow & Infiltration (I/I) projects and Odor Control projects.

**2010 Task:** Committee staff suggests that the committee schedule one or more briefings on the 6-year CIP and particular RWSP and asset management projects. New projects or projects that have changed significantly in scope, schedule or budget should be highlighted. Progress on odor control projects should be reported on. In addition, committee members expressed interest in touring existing treatment plants and possibly other facilities.

**Work Plan Item: Water Quality Issues**

The RWQC has been briefed in recent years on a range of water quality issues that have spanned from the specifics of CSO sediment management to industrial waste control and new programs to limit pharmaceuticals from entering the waste stream. The committee had been tracking the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP), new Stormwater NPDES permit requirements; and last year the committee had a briefing on regional water supply planning efforts.

The draft remedial investigation report for the Lower Duwamish Waterway Superfund site was completed and issued for public review at the end of 2007. A draft feasibility study was to be released by EPA in 2009.

Title 28 regarding industrial wastes is also being revised pursuant to new regulatory requirements.

**2010 Task:** Staff recommends briefings on any or all the issues listed above to keep the committee current with water quality issues. It might be useful to have a briefing on Climate Change impacts to water quality and water flows/availability – if the committee is interested in this topic. None of the particular issues appear to have deadlines driving a briefing date. The committee could get briefings as monthly agendas allow.

### **ON-GOING ISSUES FOR RWQC CONSIDERATION IN 2010:**

**Work Plan Item: Annual Rate and Capacity Charge**

Policy FP-12 calls for King County to charge its customers sewer rates and capacity charges sufficient to cover the costs of constructing and operating its wastewater system. Revenues are to be sufficient to maintain capital assets in sound working condition, providing for maintenance and rehabilitation of facilities so that total system costs are minimized while continuing to provide reliable, high quality service and maintaining high water quality standards. In addition, the amount of the capacity charge shall be a uniform charge, to be approved annually and shall not exceed the cost of capital facilities necessary to serve new customers.

The RWQC is not referred rate and capacity charge legislation, but sets financial policies in the RWSP.

**2010 Task:** Review the Executive's proposal for annual rate and capacity charge. Comment/advise the Council as compelled. Rate and capacity charge legislation is typically transmitted to Council in April. A briefing should tentatively be planned for the committee May, 2010. Legislation on annual rate must be passed by the end of June, 2010.

The committee should also be briefed on the Executive's report on options/recommendations for the South Treatment Plant with regard to potential Green River flooding – as the costs associated may impact the rate. In addition the committee should be briefed on the Executive's report on Brightwater start-up optimization which should include rate impact comparisons.