



**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**May 31, 2011**

**Motion 13483**

**Proposed No. 2011-0096.2**

**Sponsors Gossett and Phillips**

1           A MOTION approving reclaimed water strategies to move  
2           forward with engineering, economic and environmental  
3           analyses to determine if, how, when, where and by what  
4           funding mechanisms King County's existing reclaimed  
5           water program should expand; and rescinding motion  
6           13108.

7           WHEREAS, in December 2009, through Motion 13108, the King County council  
8           approved the planning process to determine if, how, when, where and by what funding  
9           mechanisms over the next thirty years King County's existing reclaimed water program  
10          should expand, and

11          WHEREAS, in accordance with Step 2 of the approved planning process, King  
12          County's wastewater treatment division ("WTD") collected data from October 2009  
13          through March 2010 on potential nonpotable consumptive and environmental  
14          enhancement uses in the region that reclaimed water could serve through:

- 15           1. Meetings with more than forty interested parties, including tribes, cities, water  
16          districts, wastewater utilities, environmental groups, state agencies and watersheds;  
17           2. Public workshops; and  
18           3. Reviews of existing literature and studies, and

19          WHEREAS, as a result of these efforts:

20           1. Over eight hundred potential locations for nonpotable consumptive uses of  
21 reclaimed water were identified;

22           2. Environmental flow restoration targets were estimated for streams in twelve  
23 watershed basins in the planning area that could likely benefit from additional water  
24 inputs;

25           3. The potential for using reclaimed water to aid in the management of Lake  
26 Washington water levels was identified; and

27           4. The potential for using reclaimed water to support groundwater recharge in the  
28 city of Auburn was identified, and

29           WHEREAS, in April 2010, in accordance with the planning process, based on the  
30 data gathered in Step 2, the King County executive authorized WTD to move forward  
31 into Step 3 of the planning process to develop and refine conceptual reclaimed water  
32 strategies to serve the potential uses for reclaimed water identified in Step 2, and

33           WHEREAS, as part of Step 3 of the planning process, WTD developed thirteen  
34 initial reclaimed water strategies to serve potential uses for reclaimed water that were  
35 identified during Step 2 of the planning process, and

36           WHEREAS, WTD solicited input and feedback on the thirteen reclaimed water  
37 strategies through a workshop on April 29, 2010, and through more than twenty-five  
38 subsequent individual meetings that took place during May through July 2010 with  
39 representatives of tribal governments, water and sewer districts, local jurisdictions, state  
40 and federal agencies, water resource inventory areas and environmental groups, and

41           WHEREAS, based on this input and feedback, WTD refined the initial set of  
42 conceptual reclaimed water strategies, and

43 WHEREAS, WTD gathered feedback from interested parties on the refined  
44 strategies in fall 2010, and

45 WHEREAS, the executive recommends that the following three refined reclaimed  
46 water strategies move forward into Step 4 of the planning process for additional analysis:

47 1. Redmond/Bear Creek Basin Brightwater Centralized Strategy. The  
48 components of this reclaimed water strategy include approximately ten million gallons  
49 per day ("mgd") of reclaimed water production at the Brightwater Treatment Plant, with  
50 approximately fourteen additional miles of distribution pipelines, a portion directly from  
51 the Brightwater Treatment Plant site, and a portion from the south segment of the  
52 Brightwater reclaimed water pipeline. The strategy would be able to serve potential  
53 nonpotable consumptive uses and wetland enhancement in the city of Redmond and  
54 wetland enhancements in the Bear Creek basin. The strategy represents an addition to the  
55 seven mgd of reclaimed water that will be available to areas in north King County, south  
56 Snohomish county, and the Sammamish valley when the south segment of the  
57 Brightwater reclaimed water pipeline is operational, and

58 2. Reclaimed Water Skimming or Polishing Decentralized Strategy. The  
59 components of this strategy include a preassembled or packaged reclaimed water  
60 treatment plant sited near and receiving water from a King County regional conveyance  
61 pipeline that could provide up to five hundred thousand gallons of reclaimed water.  
62 Approximately one mile of distribution pipeline would be required. The strategy would  
63 be able to serve nearby nonpotable consumptive uses, and

64 3. Renton/Tukwila South Plant Centralized Strategy. The components of this  
65 strategy include production of an additional two mgd of reclaimed water at South

66 Treatment Plant, with approximately eighteen miles of distribution pipelines. The  
67 strategy would be able to serve nonpotable consumptive uses in the cities of Renton and  
68 Tukwila and wetland enhancement in the city of Renton adjacent to the Cedar river, and

69 WHEREAS, each of the three strategies has been developed for planning  
70 purposes only, represents the range of potential nonpotable consumptive and  
71 environmental enhancement uses for reclaimed water identified across the region, uses  
72 existing regional wastewater and reclaimed water infrastructure with incremental  
73 expansions and aligns with the feedback from interested parties to start small and build  
74 on successes over time, and

75 WHEREAS, additional planning-level engineering, economic and environmental  
76 analyses will provide important information on the economic costs and benefits,  
77 engineering opportunities and constraints, and environmental effects associated with each  
78 strategy, and

79 WHEREAS, the results of the analyses and application of evaluation criteria that  
80 were approved by the King County council through Motion 13211 will help to answer  
81 many of the issues' and questions raised by interested parties and provide essential  
82 information in the process to determine if, how, when, where, and by what funding  
83 mechanisms the county's existing reclaimed water program should expand;

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

85 A. The three reclaimed water strategies that are approved to move into Step 4 of  
86 the planning process for economic, engineering and environmental analyses are:

- 87 1. Redmond/Bear Creek Basin Brightwater Centralized Strategy;  
88 2. Reclaimed Water Skimming or Polishing Decentralized Strategy; and

89           3. Renton/Tukwila South Plant Centralized Strategy.

90           B. The Step 4 analysis of the three reclaimed water strategies is intended to  
91 provide information on potential approaches to reclaimed water. Step 4 of the process  
92 will be expanded to include an analysis, consistent with subsection B.1. of this motion, of  
93 alternatives to reclaimed water as well as the development of policies to guide reclaimed  
94 water planning, as follows:

95           1. The identification of alternatives to reclaimed water is moved into Step 4 and  
96 will be expanded to include scoping of alternatives, including information from available  
97 sources on the estimated scope and cost for such alternatives, to enable policymakers to  
98 make reasonable comparisons among various potential alternatives to reclaimed water. A  
99 detailed project-specific analysis of alternatives to reclaimed water would take place  
100 before initiating any reclaimed water capital project;

101           2. As part of Step 4, the wastewater treatment division will develop policies to  
102 guide the determination of whether or to what extent King County's reclaimed water  
103 program should expand in the future and seek input from cities, water and sewer districts,  
104 tribes and other interested parties. Considering the information from the analysis of the  
105 strategies in Step 4, the identified alternatives to reclaimed water, the stakeholder input  
106 on reclaimed water policies, and other relevant factors, the executive will recommend  
107 policies to guide planning for reclaimed water. The policies will include, but are not  
108 limited to:

109           a. policies to guide whether to proceed with a reclaimed water project as  
110 compared to another approach that could yield similar outcomes;

111           b. policies to guide the financing of any expansion of the county's reclaimed  
112 water program;

113           c. policies to guide how costs and benefits of reclaimed water projects should  
114 be allocated; and

115           d. policies to guide how reclaimed water should be priced, such as full-cost  
116 recovery or some other approach, which may depend on the particular use involved; and

117           3. The council will consider and approve by motion the proposed reclaimed  
118 water policies at the conclusion of the revised Step 4 of the process. Those policies  
119 would guide any expansion of the county's existing reclaimed water program and will be  
120 the basis for updating reclaimed water policies in the Regional Wastewater Services Plan.

121           C. This motion hereby amends the reclaimed water planning process approved  
122 by Motion 13108. The amended process to determine if, how, when, where and by what  
123 funding mechanisms King County's existing reclaimed water program should expand is  
124 depicted in Attachment A to this motion and is hereby approved. The wastewater  
125 treatment division is directed to update the timelines in Attachment A to this motion,

126 consistent with this motion.

127 D. Motion 13108 is hereby rescinded.

128

Motion 13483 was introduced on 2/22/2011 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 5/31/2011, by the following vote:

Yes: 8 - Mr. Phillips, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Hague,  
Ms. Patterson, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Dunn and Mr. McDermott  
No: 0  
Excused: 1 - Ms. Lambert

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Larry Gossett, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

**Attachments:** A. Overview of Planning Process to Determine if, How, When, Where and by What Funding Mechanisms King County's Existing Reclaimed Water Program Should Expand - dated May, 2011

# OVERVIEW OF PLANNING PROCESS TO DETERMINE IF, HOW, WHEN, WHERE, AND BY WHAT FUNDING MECHANISMS KING COUNTY'S EXISTING RECLAIMED WATER PROGRAM SHOULD EXPAND

May 2011



