



**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**December 10, 2007**

**Ordinance 15980**

**Proposed No.** 2007-0581.2

**Sponsors** Phillips

1 AN ORDINANCE approving the Covington Water District  
2 2007 Water System Plan Update.

3

4 STATEMENT OF FACTS:

5 1. K.C.C. chapter 13.24 requires approval of comprehensive plans for  
6 water utilities as a prerequisite for granting right-of-way franchises and  
7 approval of right-of-way construction permits. Plans are required from  
8 water utilities with sources of supply, or distribution facilities, within  
9 unincorporated King County. With some exceptions, this requirement  
10 also applies to amendments to such plans.

11 2. RCW 43.20.260 requires that water system plans for any new  
12 industrial, commercial, or residential use are to be consistent with the  
13 requirements of any comprehensive plans or development regulations  
14 adopted under chapter 36.70A RCW or any other applicable  
15 comprehensive plan, land use plan, or development regulation adopted by  
16 a city, town, or county for the service area.

17           3. King County approved the Covington Water District 1994  
18           Comprehensive Water System Plan in May 1998. It includes provisions  
19           for capital facilities to address anticipated growth within Covington's  
20           service area, improvements to its existing facilities and additional  
21           provisions for water conservation. It also includes provisions for serving  
22           two different service areas—its retail service area and its future service  
23           area.

24           4. The Covington water district currently provides water service in  
25           southeast King County, north of the Green river and bound to the west by  
26           the cities of Auburn and Kent. The district's corporate boundaries include  
27           approximately fifty-three square miles, and its service facilities extend into  
28           unincorporated King County and include the cities of Covington, Maple  
29           Valley and Black Diamond. The Covington water district identified its  
30           retail service area to be coincident with the "future service area"  
31           established in 1989 in the South King County Coordinated Water System  
32           Plan ("CWSP"); see the discussion of service area in subsection 7 of this  
33           statement of facts. The district currently serves fourteen thousand seven  
34           hundred nineteen residential connections and forecasts growth within the  
35           service area to over seventeen thousand seven hundred forty-six  
36           residential connections by 2011, and twenty-three thousand five hundred  
37           eighty-eight residential connections by 2025. Multifamily homes are a  
38           small segment of the population served and the district anticipates serving  
39           five hundred sixty multifamily connections by 2025.

40           5. The district began providing water service in 1960 and over the years,  
41           it merged with a number of smaller districts. Water is provided by ten  
42           ground water wells and interties with the cities of Tacoma and Auburn.  
43           Annual average water consumption is approximately three million eight  
44           hundred twenty thousand gallons per day with a maximum day of seven  
45           million five hundred forty thousand gallons per day. Average water use  
46           for a single family residence is two hundred twenty-two gallons per day.  
47           The district, based on Puget Sound Regional Council forecasts, estimates  
48           that growth in water demand for single family, multifamily and  
49           employment, average day demand will be five million two hundred twenty  
50           thousand gallons per day in 2011 and six million nine hundred twenty  
51           thousand gallons per day in 2025. Maximum day demand will increase to  
52           ten million two hundred ninety thousand gallons per day in 2011 and  
53           thirteen million six hundred forty thousand gallons per day in 2025. The  
54           district has adequate capacity to meet forecasted demand beyond 2025. In  
55           addition, it is investigating a number of supply alternatives to meet  
56           demand beyond then including additional wholesale water from the  
57           Cascade Water Alliance, and possibly displacement of existing nonpotable  
58           supply use by use of reclaimed water in conjunction with King County.

59           6. The district's plan identifies thirty-four million five hundred thousand  
60           dollars in water system improvements to be completed in the next six  
61           years and an additional fourteen million five hundred thousand dollars  
62           between 2013 and 2025. The financing plan calls for the majority of cost

63 to be allocated to future customers as the projects primarily address  
64 growth-related issues. Utility sales and service fees along with connection  
65 charges provide the bulk of the revenue for the district.

66 7. The Covington water district's service area or areas include a corporate  
67 boundary, a retail service area, and a future service area. The future  
68 service area was approved as part of the South King County CWSP  
69 adopted in 1989. A retail service area as defined by the Washington state  
70 Department of Health ("DOH") under the 2003 Municipal Water Law was  
71 not described and demarcated on a map in the water system plan. By  
72 working with the Covington water district they have described their retail  
73 service area to be the same as the boundary described in the CWSP for  
74 their future service area. The plan proposes no boundary changes at this  
75 time. The Covington water district states in its plan that it could, but is not  
76 able to provide water to numerous areas within the external boundary of  
77 the water district due to the fourteen existing Class A public water systems  
78 and over one hundred-thirty Class B public water systems already  
79 providing water service within their own service areas. Within its service  
80 area, the district intends to continue supplying water and service to two  
81 wholesale systems, which are Sugarloaf and Ravensdale, that are current  
82 customers. The district also states that it intends to be a satellite  
83 management agency, as authorized under the Public Water System  
84 Coordination Act, to provide service, such as via ownership/operation of  
85 new small systems, within the remainder of its designated future service

86 area. The provision of satellite management services is consistent with the  
87 King County Comprehensive Plan and CWSP.

88 8. Covington agreed to supplement the draft plan with information to  
89 describe in more detail how it intends to provide "timely and reasonable"  
90 service within its proposed retail service area, as required by State law. In  
91 general, the district understands "timely" to mean provision of service  
92 within 120 days after an agreement for service is reached. With regard to  
93 the "reasonable" element of the clause the district views this to mean  
94 service is reasonable if:

95 A. A condition of service is consistency with local land use plans and  
96 development regulations;

97 B. The conditions of service and associated costs are consistent with the  
98 conditions of service described in the plan; and

99 C. The conditions of service and associated costs are consistent with  
100 experiences of other applicants requesting similar service.

101 This language is a reasonable interpretation of the law's requirement. The  
102 Covington water district has agreed to amend its administrative code  
103 within one year to reflect the criteria by which timely and reasonable  
104 service will be provided. The supplemental information on provision of  
105 water in a timely and reasonable manner is a condition of the ordinance to  
106 ensure public access to the information.

107 9. Covington water district has acknowledged there may be opportunities  
108 for the use of reclaimed water—particularly with regard to irrigation of

109 numerous golf courses, parks and schools. A water reuse feasibility study  
110 was completed in 2006. Covington water district is in the process of  
111 developing a reclaimed water program and working with King County on  
112 the use of reclaimed water.

113 10. The water system comprehensive plan, as amended and  
114 supplemented, has been determined by the Utilities Technical Review  
115 Committee (UTRC) to be substantially consistent with the requirements of  
116 the King County Code, and the King County Comprehensive Plan, as  
117 documented by the checklist provided by the executive with the  
118 transmittal letter.

119 11. Under the state Environmental Policy Act, Covington water district  
120 reviewed the draft Comprehensive Water Supply Plan, completed a  
121 checklist, and issued a Determination of Nonsignificance on April 7, 2006.

122 12. DOH has not yet approved the Covington water district plan. DOH  
123 indicated that Covington water district has provided adequate responses to  
124 their comments, and DOH will approve the Covington water district plan  
125 on receipt of the King County approval ordinance, and may approve the  
126 plan before the final King County approval, conditioned on the receipt of  
127 the King County approval.

128 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

129 SECTION 1. The Covington water district 2007 Water System Plan Update,  
130 Attachment A to this ordinance, is hereby approved as a comprehensive water system  
131 plan with conditions.

132 With regard to the provision of timely and reasonable service, the district's retail  
133 service area shall be the same as the CWSP boundary as defined in the plan. A service is  
134 found to be timely and reasonable if, among other factors:

135 A. Provision of service is done within one hundred twenty days after an  
136 agreement for service is reached.

137 B. A condition of service is consistency with local land use plans and  
138 development regulations.

139 C. The conditions of service and associated costs are consistent with experiences  
140 of other applicants requesting similar service.

141 D. The conditions of service and associated costs are consistent with experiences  
142 of other applicants requesting similar service.

143 The district shall provide King County utilities technical review committee with a

144 copy of the District Administrative Code after it has been revised and updated to reflect  
145 the supplemental information provided on the timely and reasonable service criteria.  
146

Ordinance 15980 was introduced on 11/5/2007 and passed by the Metropolitan King  
County Council on 12/10/2007, by the following vote:

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

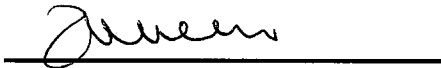
KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



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Larry Gossett, Chair

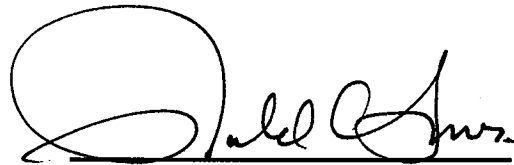
ATTEST:



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Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this 20 day of DECEMBER 2007.



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Ron Sims, County Executive

Attachments Covington Water District--Water System Plan Update--February 2007

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2007 DEC 20 PM 3: 08  
CLERK  
KING COUNTY COUNCIL