



# King County

1200 King County  
Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

## Meeting Agenda Regional Water Quality Committee

**Councilmembers:**

**Claudia Balducci, Chair**  
**Reagan Dunn, Dave Upthegrove**  
**Alternate:**

**Sound Cities Association: Conrad Lee, Bellevue; Vice Chair, Laura Mork, Shoreline;**  
**Jessica Rossman, Medina; Sarah Moore, Burien**

**Alternates: Penny Sweet, Kirkland; Yolanda Trout Manuel, Auburn**

**Sewer/Water Districts: Chuck Clarke, Woodinville Water District; Lloyd Warren, Sammamish Plateau Water District**

**Alternate: Ryika Hooshangi, Sammamish Plateau Water**

**City of Seattle: Joy Hollingsworth, Robert Kettle**  
**Alternate: Rob Saka**

**Lead Staff: Jenny Giambattista (206-477-0879)**  
**Committee Clerk: Blake Wells (206-263-1617)**

**3:00 PM**

**Thursday, January 16, 2025**

**Hybrid Meeting**

### SPECIAL MEETING

**Hybrid Meetings: Attend the King County Council committee meetings in person in Council Chambers (Room 1001), 516 3rd Avenue in Seattle, or through remote access. Details on how to attend and/or to provide comment remotely are listed below.**

**Pursuant to K.C.C. 1.24.035 A. and F., this meeting is also noticed as a meeting of the Metropolitan King County Council, whose agenda is limited to the committee business. In this meeting only the rules and procedures applicable to committees apply and not those applicable to full council meetings.**

**HOW TO PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT: The Regional Water Quality Committee values community input and looks forward to hearing from you on agenda items.**

	<p>Sign language and interpreter services can be arranged given sufficient notice (206-848-0355). TTY Number - TTY 711.</p> <p>Council Chambers is equipped with a hearing loop, which provides a wireless signal that is picked up by a hearing aid when it is set to 'T' (Telecoil) setting.</p>	
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The Committee will accept public comment on items on today’s agenda in writing. You may do so by submitting your written comments to [kcccomitt@kingcounty.gov](mailto:kcccomitt@kingcounty.gov). If your comments are submitted before 8:00 a.m. on the day of the meeting, your comments will be distributed to the committee members and appropriate staff prior to the meeting.

**HOW TO WATCH/LISTEN TO THE MEETING REMOTELY:** There are three ways to watch or listen to the meeting:

- 1) Stream online via this link: [www.kingcounty.gov/kctv](http://www.kingcounty.gov/kctv), or input the link web address into your web browser.
- 2) Watch King County TV on Comcast Channel 22 and 322(HD) and Astound Broadband Channels 22 and 711(HD).
- 3) Listen to the meeting by telephone.

Dial: 1 253 215 8782

Webinar ID: 827 1536 1574

To help us manage the meeting, please use the Livestream or King County TV options listed above, if possible, to watch or listen to the meeting.

1. **Call to Order**

2. **Roll Call**

To show a PDF of the written materials for an agenda item, click on the agenda item below.

3. **Approval of Minutes** p. 4

*December 4, 2024 meeting minutes*

4. **Chair's Report**

5. **MWPAAC Report**

*John McClellan, Chair, MWPAAC*

6. **Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) Report**

*Kamuron Gurol, Director, Wastewater Treatment Division, Department of Natural Resources and Parks*



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## Discussion and Possible Action

7. [Briefing No. 2025-B0010](#) p. 7

Selection of Vice Chair

*Jenny Giambattista, Council staff*

8. [RWQC Resolution No. RWQC2025-01](#) p. 8

A RESOLUTION declaring the regional water quality committee's support of the wastewater treatment division's regional wastewater services plan update scoping document.

*Jenny Giambattista, Council staff*

*Kamuron Guroi, Director, Wastewater Treatment Division, Department of Natural Resources and Parks*

*Darren Greve, Government Relations Administrator, Wastewater Treatment Division, Department of Natural Resources and Parks*

*Janice Johnson, RWSP Update Program Manager, Wastewater Treatment Division, Department of Natural Resources and Parks*

## Briefings

9. [Briefing No. 2025-B0004](#) p. 38

Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update

*Darren Greve, Government Relations Administrator, Wastewater Treatment Division, Department of Natural Resources and Parks*

*Ben Marre, Drainage & Wastewater Planning & Program Management Division Director, Seattle Public Utilities and Vice Chair of MWPAAC's Engineering & Planning Subcommittee*



*Carly Joerger, Utility Policy and Community Relations Supervisor, City of Kirkland*

10. [Briefing No. 2025-B0005](#) p. 39

Discussion of 2025 Regional Water Quality Committee Work Program

*Jenny Giambattista, Council staff*

## Adjournment

	<p>Sign language and interpreter services can be arranged given sufficient notice (206-848-0355). TTY Number - TTY 711.</p> <p>Council Chambers is equipped with a hearing loop, which provides a wireless signal that is picked up by a hearing aid when it is set to 'T' (Telecoil) setting.</p>	
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# King County

1200 King County  
Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

## Meeting Minutes Regional Water Quality Committee

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3:00 PM

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Hybrid Meeting

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### DRAFT MINUTES

1. **Call to Order**

*Chair Balducci called the meeting to order at 3:06 PM.*

2. **Roll Call**

*Councilmember Penny Sweet of Kirkland and the Sound Cities Association was also in attendance.*

**Present:** 9 - Balducci, Dunn, Lee, Mork, Moore, Rossman, Warren, Hollingsworth and Kettle

**Excused:** 2 - Clarke and Upthegrove

3. **Approval of Minutes**

*Vice Chair Lee moved approval of the November 6, 2024 meeting minutes. There being no objections, the minutes were approved.*

4. **Chair's Report**

*Chair Balducci updated the committee on the passing of the 2025 King County Budget, provided an overview of the agenda, and notified the committee of a special meeting of RWQC on January 16, 2024 at 3:00 PM.*

5. **MWPAAC Report**

*John McClellan, Chair, MWPAAC, updated the committee on recent and upcoming MWPAAC meetings, stated his opinion on the need for RWSP updates, and answered questions from the members.*

6. **Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) Report**

*Kamuron Gurol, Director, Wastewater Treatment Division, Department of Natural Resources and Parks, briefed the committee on the 2026 Sewer Rate, the upcoming 2025 rate process presentation to MWPAAC, how well Wastewater Treatment Division facilities and staff withstood the recent bomb cyclone, awards recently received from NACWA, and a Public Information and Education award received for Wastewater Treatment Division's "Operator in Training" video.*

## Briefings

7. [Briefing No. 2024-B0125](#)

Regional Wastewater Services Plan (RWSP) Update: Follow-up from September 4, 2024 Discussion on Scope of Work for the RWSP Update and Next Steps

*Kamuron Gurol, Director, Wastewater Treatment Division, Department of Natural Resources and Parks, Darren Greve, Government Relations Administrator, Wastewater Treatment Division, Department of Natural Resources and Parks, and Janice Johnson, RWSP Update Program Manager, Wastewater Treatment Division, Department of Natural Resources, briefed the committee via PowerPoint presentation and video and answered questions from the members.*

**This matter was presented.**

8. [Briefing No. 2024-B0124](#)

Puget Sound Nutrients Briefing

*Vice Chair Lee assumed the duties of the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.*

*Jacque Klug, Nutrient Management Coordinator, King County Wastewater Treatment Division, briefed the committee via PowerPoint presentation and answered questions from the members. Kamuron Gurol, Director, Wastewater Treatment Division, Department of Natural Resources and Parks, also answered questions from the members.*

*Vice Chair Lee recessed the committee into executive session under RCW 42.30.110(1) (i) to discuss with legal counsel litigation or potential litigation to which the County is or is likely to become a party when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency at 4:28 PM for 20 minutes. The meeting returned to regular session at 4:53 PM.*

**This matter was presented.**

9. [Briefing No. 2024-B0042](#)

2024 Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC) Work Plan

*Chair Balducci briefed the committee on progress made on the 2024 RWQC Work Program and thanked members for their work on RWQC.*

**This matter was presented.**

## Other Business

*There was no other business to come before the committee.*

## Adjournment

*The meeting was adjourned at 4:53 PM.*

Approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk's Signature



**King County**

**Metropolitan King County Council  
Regional Water Quality Committee**

**STAFF REPORT**

<b>Agenda Item:</b>	7	<b>Name:</b>	Jenny Giambattista
<b>Proposed No.:</b>	2025-B0010	<b>Date:</b>	January 16, 2025

**SUBJECT**

Selection of a Vice-Chair for the Regional Water Quality Committee.

**SUMMARY**

This agenda item allows the Committee members who are not County Councilmembers an opportunity to select the Vice-Chair for 2025, as provided in the King County Charter. The Committee may choose at this meeting or a successive meeting to entertain a verbal motion for the appointment of a Vice-chair that will be voted upon – with the outcome reflected in the meeting minutes.

**BACKGROUND**

A voter-approved change to the King County Charter in 2008 directs that each of the King County Council’s regional committees will have a Chair, appointed by the Chair of the County Council and a Vice-chair appointed by a majority vote of those committee members who are not County Councilmembers, in accordance with voting rights that are apportioned as provided in the Charter.

A roll call or voice vote can be taken in committee on the selection of the vice-chair.

**ATTACHMENTS:** None



**King County**

**Metropolitan King County Council  
Regional Water Quality Committee**

**STAFF REPORT**

<b>Agenda Item:</b>	8	<b>Name:</b>	Jenny Giambattista
<b>Proposed No.:</b>	RWQC2025-01	<b>Date:</b>	January 16, 2025

**SUBJECT**

A resolution declaring the Regional Water Quality Committee’s support of the Wastewater Treatment Division’s Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update Scoping Document.

**SUMMARY**

The Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) is updating the Regional Wastewater Services Plan (RWSP). The attached Scoping Document describes the overall approach and some of the major policy issues that will be analyzed, to update the RWSP. Resolution 2025-01 declares the RWQC’s support of the attached Scoping Document.

**BACKGROUND**

**Regional Wastewater Services Plan.** The Regional Wastewater Services Plan (RWSP) was adopted by Ordinance 13680 in November 1999 to ensure the continuation of high-quality wastewater treatment services through 2030. The RWSP is codified in King County Code Section 28.86.010 and 28.86.040 through 28.86.150. The RWSP outlines programs and projects through 2030 to increase wastewater system capacity and function; gives guidance on recovering and recycling beneficial resources from the wastewater treatment process; and provides direction on protecting and monitoring water quality and meeting permit conditions.<sup>1</sup> The policies in the RWSP cover the major program elements for wastewater services and are as follows:

- Treatment plant policies (K.C.C. 28.86.050)
- Conveyance policies (K.C.C. 28.86.060)
- I/I (inflow/infiltration) policies (K.C.C. 28.86.070)
- Combined sewer overflow control policies (K.C.C. 28.86.080)
- Biosolids policies (K.C.C. 28.86.090)
- Water reuse policies (K.C.C. 28.86.100)
- Wastewater services policies (K.C.C. 28.86)

<sup>1</sup> Regional Wastewater Services Plan 2017 Annual Report



- Water quality protection policies (K.C.C. 28.86.120)
- Wastewater planning policies (K.C.C. 28.86.130)
- Environmental mitigation policies (K.C.C. 28.86.140)
- Public involvement policies (K.C.C. 28.86.150)

Ordinance 13680 also includes financial policies (K.C.C. 28.86.160), and implementation policies (K.C.C. 28.86.180) that are not within the sections of code defined as the RWSP. In December 1999, the Council adopted the RWSP Operational Master Plan.

In late 2018 the Department of Natural Resources and Parks launched a planning effort titled, “Clean Water Plan (CWP).” This plan was intended to serve as a wastewater comprehensive plan that would ultimately result in an update or replacement of the RWSP. During the CWP process, RWQC received many briefings on the actions and strategies under consideration for the CWP. Additionally, some RWQC members served in advisory roles during the CWP process.

In November 2021, after hearing dissatisfaction with and frustration with both the substance of the Clean Water Plan and the planning process, and the lack of regulatory certainty related to the pending nutrients permit and negotiations on the CSO consent decree, WTD paused the development of the Clean Water Plan to fully consider the feedback it received and to develop improvements that respond to that feedback.

In December 2023, the Regional Water Quality Committee sent a letter to Executive Constantine noting the complex challenges facing the system and the need to resume planning now for the future of the regional wastewater system. WTD relaunched its planning effort in 2024 and it is now titled the RWSP Update.

**2024 RWSP Briefings.** RWQC held the following briefings and discussions on the RWSP in 2024:

- March 6, 2024: Introduction and Overview of RWSP Update Revised Approach
- April 3, 2024: Overview of RWSP Update Revised Approach
- June 5, 2024: Review of Draft Guiding Principles and Request for Input on Update of Treatment Plant Policies
- August 7, 2024: Review of Guiding Principles, Early Code Changes, and Treatment Plant Policy Review
- September 4, 2024: Workshop on RWSP Scope
- October 2, 2024: Review of Scoping Document, Guiding Principles and Early Code Changes
- November 6, 2024: RWQC collaboration approach, RWSP Working Group and early code changes

- December 4, 2024: RWQC follow-up from September 4, 2024 Discussion of Scope of Work and introduction to the Vision for Clean Water.

## **ANALYSIS**

Resolution RWQC2025-01 declares the RWQC's support for the attached scoping document.

Lines 52-54 state:

“A. The regional water quality committee declares its support of the wastewater treatment division's Regional Wastewater Services Plan update scoping document, attached as Attachment A to this resolution, which the division shall use to guide the development and content of the long-range Regional Wastewater Services Plan update.”

Lines 56-58 state:

“B. The regional water quality committee requests the wastewater treatment division brief the regional water quality committee before making any substantive changes to the scoping document.”

The scoping document describes the overall approach that will be used to update King County's Regional Wastewater Services Plan (RWSP). The scoping document includes:

- Key terms,
- Background,
- Description of the major tasks/deliverables,
- Timeline, and
- A list of the major policy issues and questions to be analyzed as part of the RWSP.

As described in the background section of this staff report, the document was drafted by the Wastewater Treatment Division and was discussed at several RWQC meetings as well as Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee meetings. Following the December 4, 2025, RWQC meeting, the Sound Cities Association caucus members offered suggested edits. Additionally, Councilmember Hollingsworth suggested adding an additional question related to environmental justice for analysis as part of the RWSP Update. All the changes to the version discussed on December 4, 2025, are shown in Attachment 2 and are included in Attachment A to the resolution.

## **INVITED**

- Kamuron Gurol, Director, Wastewater Treatment Division
- Darren Greve, Government Relations Administrator, Wastewater Treatment Division

## **ATTACHMENTS**

1. RWQC Resolution 2025-01 and its attachment
2. Redline version of Scoping Document showing changes since December 4, 2024.



Date Created:	<b>January 16, 2025</b>
Drafted by:	<b>J. Giambattista</b>
Sponsors:	<b>Balducci</b>
Attachments:	<b>A. Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update Scoping Document</b>

1 ..Title

2 A RESOLUTION declaring the regional water quality  
3 committee's support of the wastewater treatment division's  
4 regional wastewater services plan update scoping  
5 document.

6 ..Body

7 WHEREAS, the regional water quality committee recognizes the critical  
8 importance of maintaining and enhancing its wastewater utility services to ensure public  
9 health, environmental protection and operational efficiency, and

10 WHEREAS, a comprehensive long-range plan for wastewater services is essential  
11 to effectively address current and future needs, including infrastructure improvements,  
12 regulatory compliance, affordability of long-term rates and sustainable practices, and

13 WHEREAS, the council adopted the Regional Wastewater Services Plan ("the  
14 RWSP") in November 1999 through Ordinance 13680, subsequently codified as part of  
15 K.C.C. chapter 28.86, and

16 WHEREAS, the RWSP identifies projects and programs needed to provide  
17 wastewater treatment capacity for homes and businesses in the wastewater treatment  
18 division service area through 2030, and

19 WHEREAS, the RWSP provides policy direction for the operation and continued  
20 development of the wastewater system, the WTD capital improvement program, financial

21 policies to guide forecasting, budgeting, and debt financing, and revenue to support the  
22 implementation of the RWSP, and

23 WHEREAS, the RWSP, a supplement to the King County Comprehensive Water  
24 Pollution Abatement Plan originally adopted by the Municipality of Metropolitan Seattle,  
25 serves as the primary framework for guiding the future of the county's wastewater utility  
26 and regional infrastructure, and

27 WHEREAS, the RWSP should be updated and the associated policies in K.C.C.  
28 chapter 28.84, Water Pollution Abatement, and K.C.C. chapter 28.86, Wastewater  
29 Treatment, should be examined to ensure investments in the wastewater system continue  
30 to improve water quality, ensure system performance, and to mitigate the impact of  
31 increasing sewer rates over the long term, and

32 WHEREAS, the wastewater treatment division has initiated the process to update  
33 the RWSP and review associated policies, and

34 WHEREAS, the regional water quality committee has a strong interest in ensuring  
35 the steps taken to update the RWSP are well coordinated and effective, and

36 WHEREAS, the plan update will benefit from a scope of work to describe the  
37 overall approach that will be used, and some of the major policy issues that will be  
38 analyzed, and

39 WHEREAS, the wastewater treatment division has developed a scoping document  
40 informed by comments and input received from the metropolitan water pollution  
41 abatement advisory committee, members of the regional water quality committee, and  
42 interested parties, and

43           WHEREAS, the scoping document prepared by the wastewater treatment division  
44 will support engagement with interested and affected parties by ensuring that diverse  
45 perspectives are considered in the planning process, and

46           WHEREAS, the regional water quality committee has reviewed and concurs with  
47 the approach proposed in the scoping document, Attachment A to this resolution, that  
48 will be used by the division to guide the development and content of the long-range  
49 regional wastewater services plan update;

50           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the King County Regional Water  
51 Quality Committee:

52           A. The regional water quality committee declares its support of the wastewater  
53 treatment division's Regional Wastewater Services Plan update scoping document,  
54 attached as Attachment A to this resolution, which the division shall use to guide the  
55 development and content of the long-range Regional Wastewater Services Plan update.

56           B. The regional water quality committee requests the wastewater treatment  
57 division brief the regional water quality committee before proposing any substantive  
58 changes to the scoping document.

# Scoping Document for Updating the Regional Wastewater Services Plan

*Prepared by the Wastewater Treatment Division – January 2025*

## Introduction

This scoping document describes the overall approach that will be used, and some of the major policy issues that will be analyzed, to update King County’s Regional Wastewater Services Plan (RWSP). The document was produced to solicit input and feedback on the scope of the RWSP Update from members of the Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC) and the Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee (MWPAAC).

The King County Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) drafted this scoping document based on initial verbal and written input from RWQC and MWPAAC members and staff as well as feedback obtained during and after the Clean Water Plan process. The scoping document was discussed at the August 28 MWPAAC general meeting, the September 4 RWQC workshop, the September 5 MWPAAC Engineering and Planning (E&P) subcommittee meeting, the October 2 RWQC meeting, and the November 7 joint meeting of the MWPAAC E&P and Rates and Finance subcommittees. WTD revised the document based on feedback from MWPAAC and RWQC and an updated version was then discussed at the December 4 RWQC meeting. Additional edits were received and incorporated into this final version. More detailed scopes of work for specific tasks under the RWSP Update will be developed as needed.

## Key Terms

The following key terms are used throughout the scoping document. Because these terms can have different meanings depending on the context, the following definitions apply for purposes of the RWSP and associated materials unless otherwise noted.

Term	Definition
<b>Equity and Social Justice</b>	<i>Equity</i> is defined as full and equal access to opportunities, power, and resources so that all people achieve their full potential and thrive. <i>Social justice</i> refers to all aspects of justice – including legal, political, economic, and environmental – and requires the fair distribution of and access to public goods, institutional resources, and life opportunities for all people (source: King County Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan 2016-2022).
<b>Rate Equity and Fairness</b>	“Rates should be designed to distribute the cost of service equitably among each type and class of service. Non-cost of service rates that achieve certain other objectives such as affordability and water conservation may be considered in some situations.” (source: Revised: AWWA Policy Statement: Financing, Accounting, and Rates – American Water Works Association, November 5, 2024). The AWWA Principles of



	Water Rates, Fees, and Charges Manual states “Rate-making endeavors to assign costs to classes of customers in a nondiscriminatory, cost-responsive manner so that rates can be designed to closely meet the cost of providing service to such customer classes.”
Affordability	“The National Coalition for Legislation on Water Affordability defined water affordability as the cost of provision that does not impede people from meeting other basic needs or human rights. There is, however, currently no one generally accepted definition of water affordability. It varies depending on the purpose of the water affordability assessment... Affordability researchers generally agree that no one single metric can or should be used in measuring water affordability, rather, a variety of quantitative and qualitative data should be considered.” (source: Schneemann, M., 2019, Defining & Measuring Water Affordability: A Literature Review; Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant). The measure of affordability will need to be further quantified and defined during the RSWP update process.

## Background

The RWSP, a supplement to the King County Comprehensive Water Pollution Abatement Plan, was adopted by the King County Council in November 1999 by Ordinance 13680, and the RWSP policies were subsequently codified in King County Code (KCC), Chapter 28.86. The RWSP identifies projects and programs needed to provide wastewater capacity for homes and businesses in King County’s wastewater service area through 2030 and provides policy direction for the operation and continued development of the wastewater system. The RWSP has largely been implemented, and it is now time to update the plan to guide future investments and actions. Changed conditions, including population growth, climate change, aging assets, regulatory requirements, and rate affordability, also justify another major update to the RWSP.

The updated plan, along with the analytical work (e.g., review of the capacity charge) performed as part of the RWSP Update planning process, will support the extension of local agency sewage disposal contracts, many of which expire in 2036, and continue to strengthen WTD’s relationship with local agencies. An update to the RWSP will also help make the case for additional state and federal funding and meet the requirements for a General Sewer Plan update for approval by the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology).

The planning process to update the RWSP started in 2019 as the Clean Water Plan; it was paused at the end of 2021 to fully consider and address feedback received during the planning process. The pause in the Clean Water Plan process also provided an opportunity for more regulatory certainty regarding combined sewer overflow (CSO) obligations and nutrient reduction obligations. The planning process restarted in 2024 as the RWSP Update planning effort. The renewed process includes important adjustments intended to address feedback received during the Clean Water Plan process. The current RWSP Update planning process is generally similar to the process used to develop the 1999 RWSP.

## Project Objectives

The overall project objectives are to develop an update to the RWSP, and to update the policies in King County Code 28.86. The project will also define a future 75-year vision (“Vision for Clean Water”), beyond the scope of the RWSP, for the utility that is consistent with WTD’s mission – “We protect public health and the environment by collecting and cleaning wastewater while recovering valuable resources for a healthy and resilient Puget Sound.”

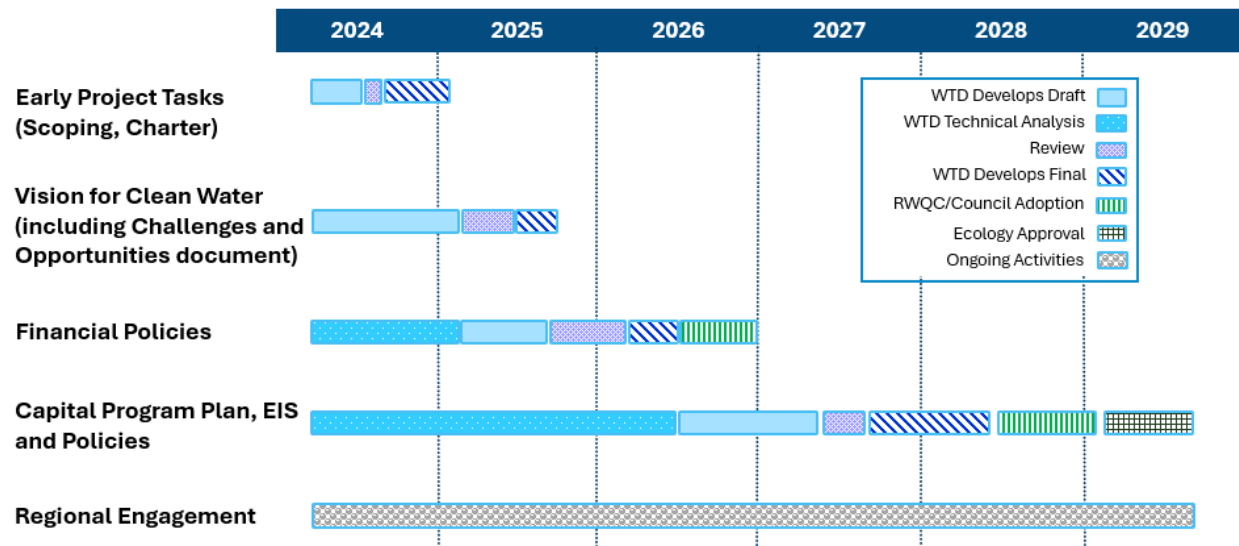
The Vision for Clean Water will inform but not constrain policies and investments that are included in the final RWSP Update. The planning process will produce an RWSP Update that will guide future investments; support the core mission to protect water quality; seek to achieve affordable wastewater utility rates into the future; meet regulatory and legal obligations; and reflect County initiatives including equity and social justice, strategic climate action planning, and Clean Water Healthy Habitat.

The resulting RWSP Update document will include the 75-year Vision for Clean Water, a capital investment plan, and policy updates to King County Code for King County Council review and approval. The RWSP Update will reflect the County’s and WTD’s commitment to transparency and accountability in implementing the RWSP. Once adopted by the Council, the document will be transmitted to Ecology for review and approval.

## Scope for the Effort

Figure 1 shows the planning process for the RWSP Update. The tasks are also described below with the associated deliverables.

**Figure 1. Overall Draft Schedule for Completing the Update to King County’s Wastewater Plan**



### Tasks/Deliverables

Early Project Tasks – The early project tasks are designed to inform the RWQC and MWPAAC of the scope and objectives of the project and the major policy issues to be addressed as part of the update to the RWSP.

Scoping – Scoping will identify the major issues that will be addressed and the process to address those issues. The work will include the following:

- Developing a draft scoping document.
- Soliciting feedback on the draft scoping document.
- Finalizing the scoping document.

*Timeline: Final completed in 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2025.*

RWSP Working Group – The Working Group will serve as a forum for MWPAAC and RWQC member staff to collaborate with WTD’s RWSP project team through development and successful adoption of the RWSP update. The Working Group will help guide, shape and influence RWSP work products; it will serve as one channel for clear communication across key groups and will report out and receive feedback from MWPAAC and RWQC. The work will include the following:

- Convening a RWSP Working group with members from MWPAAC, RWQC staff, and Sound Cities Association (SCA) and WTD’s RWSP planning staff

*Timeline: Formation of Working Group in 4th quarter 2024.*

Charter – The charter will serve as a framework for collaboration, partnership, and process between WTD, MWPAAC, and RWQC to update the RWSP. The process will include identifying how WTD will ensure transparency and accountability during the RWSP update to the partners. The work will include the following:

- Developing the draft sections of the charter in partnership with the RWSP Working Group
- MWPAAC and RWQC review and input to the charter language
- Finalizing the charter
- Chairs of RWQC and MWPAAC, and WTD Director approve the charter as a commitment to collaboration and process to guide the RWSP update effort.

*Timeline: Final completed in 1st quarter 2025.*

Vision for Clean Water for Wastewater Services – The Vision for Clean Water for Wastewater Services will articulate the 75-year future of WTD and will inform but not constrain policies and investments that are included in the final RWSP Update. A document describing the challenges and opportunities facing the wastewater industry will be used to shape the vision. RWQC and MWPAAC members will have multiple opportunities to comment on challenges, opportunities, and provide feedback on the proposed final Vision components.

Challenges and Opportunities – This document will summarize the status of major challenges affecting the future of WTD’s wastewater system, projected trends for those challenges in the coming decades, emerging trends and potential opportunities for the future of water-sector utilities, and key questions to be explored in future regional discussions. Challenges and opportunities will inform but not constrain the

scope of work, policy analysis, investment plans, and financial strategies. The work will include the following:

- Reviewing relevant materials developed during the previous Clean Water Plan process.
- Reviewing industry research on drivers and trends.
- Updating information on the regional wastewater system.
- Interviewing national water utility experts and thought leaders.
- Listening sessions with interested and potentially affected parties.
- Developing a draft challenges and opportunities document.
- Soliciting feedback on the draft challenges and opportunities document.
- Finalizing the challenges and opportunities document.

*Timeline: Final completed in 1st quarter 2025.*

Vision – The Vision for Clean Water will articulate the future of WTD over the next 75 years. The work will occur in the first stages of the RWSP update process and will include the following:

- Reviewing existing documentation of regional priorities and feedback.
- Conducting interviews and listening sessions to confirm and refresh feedback as well as hear new ideas.
- Drafting several initial vision concepts.
- Conducting broad outreach and engagement to gather feedback on the initial vision concepts and the accompanying challenges and opportunities document.
- Finalizing the vision to be adopted with the RWSP Update.

*Timeline: Final completed in 3rd quarter 2025.*

Financial Policies – Technical analysis will be performed to provide information to support proposed changes to the financial policies in King County Code 28.86.160. The analysis will consider cost structure and rate equity and fairness (including the capacity charge), capital financing and debt management, and financial planning and revenue sufficiency. The work will include the following:

- Studying peer utility agency financial policy structures and evaluating them within a WTD specific context.
- Developing draft policy revisions and seeking review from the RWSP Working Group with members from MWPAAC, RWQC staff, and SCA.
- Finalizing financial policy revisions and developing a proposed ordinance for Council review and approval.

*Timeline: Final completed in 4th quarter 2026.*

Capital Program Plan, Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and Policies – Technical analysis will provide the information to support proposed policy changes and WTD’s future capital program. The information will be used to develop a draft and final RWSP Update, draft and final EIS, and draft and final policy revisions. The work will include the following:

Technical analysis

- Identifying current/existing conditions in our service area in terms of demographics, the economy, water quality, and wastewater infrastructure.
- Gathering background information on current policies.
- Developing a range of options/strategies for policy questions. All options/strategies will meet legal obligations. Note that the approaches below should not be construed to mean least costly, more costly, and most costly, and that the recommended option may be a combination of the 3 below.
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- Evaluating possible policy revisions.
- Identifying the capital projects, including timelines, costs, and rate impacts, associated with the options/strategies.

#### Draft Plan and EIS

- Conducting State Environmental Policy Act scoping.
- Writing a draft RWSP Update that includes draft projects and policies, along with a draft EIS that describes the environmental impacts associated with the draft RWSP Update.
- Conducting broad outreach and engagement to gather feedback on the draft RWSP Update and draft EIS.

#### Final Plan and EIS

- Responding to comments and feedback on the draft RWSP Update and draft EIS.
- Selecting among the options/strategies to create a proposed strategy that includes a list of capital projects, timelines, and policy revisions.
- Identifying outcome measures to evaluate progress and measure success.
- Identifying future update schedules and/or triggers.
- Preparing a proposed RWSP Update and final EIS.
- Developing and transmitting to Council an ordinance to adopt the proposed RWSP Update.
- Developing and submitting to Ecology the adopted RWSP Update as a proposed amendment to King County's General Sewer Plan.

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- Ecology approving the RWSP Update, satisfying WTD’s regulatory obligation for an amended general sewer plan.

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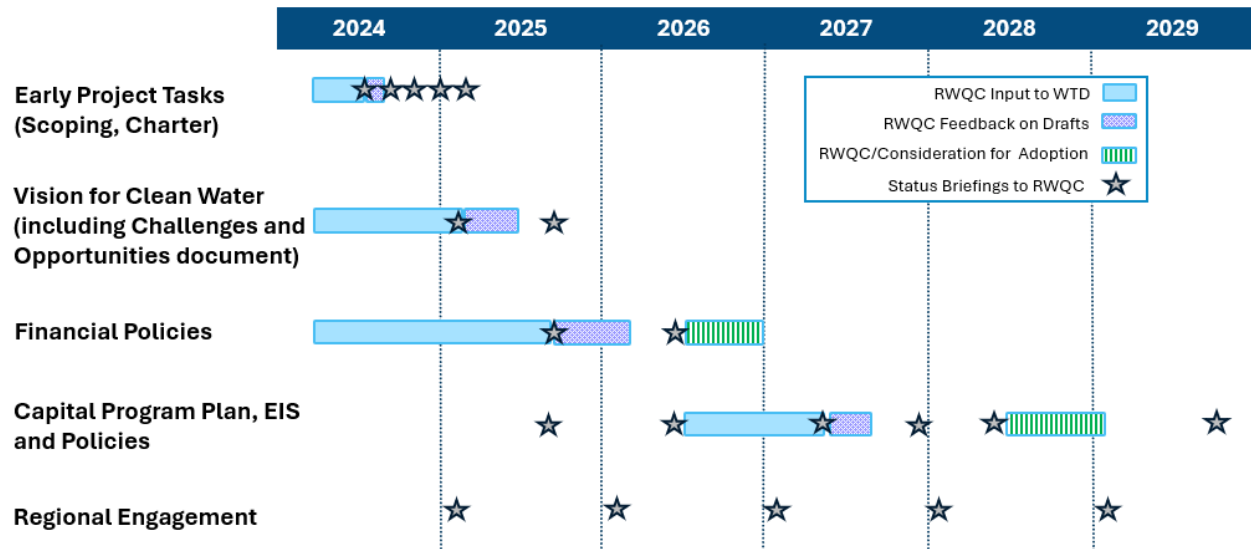
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- Wastewater Professionals and industry peers
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A specific plan and approach will be developed to engage with Tribal Governments. Figure 2 shows RWQC engagement during the RWSP Update planning effort. RWQC will have an opportunity to provide input before drafts are produced and feedback once drafts are available; WTD will provide status briefings along the way before RWQC is asked to take action.

Figure 2. Draft Summary of RWQC Engagement During Effort to Update King County’s Wastewater Plan



### Major Policy Issues and Questions

King County has identified several major decisions regarding the future of our regional wastewater system that will need to be made in this process. To build and operate the large regional system, WTD has a long and growing list of capital projects in the coming decades, with significant forecasted costs. In making these investments, King County needs to consider many issues like our aging wastewater system, capacity drivers like population growth and infiltration and inflow, future regulations, water quality goals, energy and resource conservation and recovery, affordability, and climate change.

The update to the RWSP will not include stormwater planning for the region but will instead include how to address stormwater entering the wastewater system. Similarly, the update to the RWSP will not include water supply planning, but will include water reuse, which has a nexus between wastewater and water.

The policy questions in the table below have been grouped into major topics/themes that WTD has identified as known challenges and opportunities for the wastewater sector. Though a question is identified under one topic, it may also intersect with other topics in the table.

Challenges and Opportunities – Topics/Themes	Major Policy Questions to be Analyzed in RWSP Update
<p><b>Regulatory Landscape</b></p> <p>CSO, nutrients, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and other contaminants of emerging concern (CECs), current and existing requirements, new and anticipated</p>	<p>Should the County evaluate costs and plan for levels of treatment beyond current legal requirements?</p> <p>How should the County anticipate, engage with, and plan for future nutrient permit requirements, regulations related to CECs such as PFAS, or other future regulatory changes?</p>

<b>Challenges and Opportunities – Topics/Themes</b>	<b>Major Policy Questions to be Analyzed in RWSP Update</b>
<p>requirements, opportunities for larger regional partnerships to address water concerns, requirement to comply with future total maximum daily loads</p>	<p>What upstream or source control actions should the region undertake to prevent contaminants and reduce costs?</p> <p>How should WTD efforts support the water quality of Puget Sound and applicable inland waterways?</p>
<p><b>Capacity Demands</b></p> <p>I/I, population growth, conveyance and treatment capacity demand, including on-site septic systems in urban areas</p>	<p>Given the uncertainties in future growth rates reported by Washington State and the Puget Sound Regional Council, how aggressively beyond legal requirements should WTD expand capacity to account for future population growth?</p> <p>To what extent should WTD prioritize use of existing facility sites vs. acquiring new property to accommodate future treatment needs (including capacity)?</p> <p>Should the region continue to provide a centralized approach for regional wastewater treatment, or should the region move towards a more decentralized approach?</p> <p>How should I/I be managed and how can costs be fairly apportioned? Should system capacity be expanded to account for increases in I/I? Should I/I policies change to support reducing the capacity needed for I/I?</p> <p>How should the conversion of on-site septic systems to sewers in the service area be managed and should WTD implement programs to encourage conversion within the service area?</p>
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<p><b>Equity and Social Justice</b></p> <p>Distributional equity, WTD role in safeguarding public health</p>	<p>What actions should WTD take to increase equity and social justice for the regional wastewater system?</p> <p>How will equity and social justice be interwoven in the update: community engagement, rate structure analysis, etc.?</p>



Challenges and Opportunities – Topics/Themes	Major Policy Questions to be Analyzed in RWSP Update
	<p>How should the regional wastewater system address environmental justice concerns as described in the 2021 Healthy Environment for All Act<sup>1</sup>, such as addressing the disproportionate environmental health impacts of vulnerable populations and overburdened communities?</p>
<p><b>Climate Change</b></p> <p>Mitigation – green building, eliminating/reducing fossil fuel use, energy and water efficiency, renewable energy, materials management, tree planting, etc.                      Adaptation – sea level rise, more extreme heat, increased storm intensities, wildfire smoke, increased river flooding, etc.</p>	<p>Should existing wastewater policy language (KCC 28.86) be revised to specifically call out planning for future climate conditions in addition to population growth and other environmental factors?</p> <p>How much should WTD reduce energy use and reduce greenhouse gas emissions?</p> <p>How should WTD prepare and adapt to climate impacts (e.g., precipitation/storm intensities, sea level rise, river flooding, etc.) in line with the Strategic Climate Action Plan? What level of climate impact risk tolerance should WTD plan for to avoid or minimize risks to the system?</p>
<p><b>Resource Recovery</b></p> <p>Recycled water, biosolids, energy capture</p>	<p>Energy production and heat recovery – Should WTD be expanding its efforts to capture energy and heat? If so, at what level of effort?</p> <p>Biosolids – Should WTD further expand its efforts to develop Class A biosolids? What changes are needed to biosolid recovery policies to get to Class A?</p> <p>Recycled water – Under what circumstances should the region expand the use of reclaimed water? Which uses (e.g., environmental benefits, groundwater recharge, industrial uses, irrigation) are most appropriate?</p> <p>How can WTD best support environmental benefits while instituting safeguards to protect against environmental risks of contamination? How should cost considerations be weighed?</p>
<p><b>Finance / Affordability</b></p> <p>Rate equity, fairness, and structure, capital financing and debt management, financial planning and revenue sufficiency</p>	<p>How will WTD measure affordability for contract agencies and ratepayers?</p> <p>Is there a better rate structure for the sewer rate? (Note: WTD has identified a work plan to further evaluate the residential customer equivalent conversion factor of 750 cubic feet per month.)</p>

<sup>1</sup> RCW 70.A.02

<b>Challenges and Opportunities – Topics/Themes</b>	<b>Major Policy Questions to be Analyzed in RWSP Update</b>
	<p>Will WTD maintain a single uniform sewer rate per residential customer equivalent (Robinswood “one for all, all for one”), or consider alternative cost recovery rate structures to reflect other system impacts?</p> <p>Should WTD update the rate structure for the capacity charge to align with current industry standards? (Note: The capacity charge rate structure was updated in 2021. A capacity charge methodology study is in progress.)</p> <p>What other rate relief approaches should WTD implement to improve affordability for those who may struggle to pay their sewer bill?</p>
<b>Relationship to Contracts</b>	<p>Are major policy updates aligned with component agency contracts?</p> <p>How will WTD implement the RWSP Update consistent with direction and requirements expected of contract agencies?</p>

**RED-LINE VERSION**

**~~DRAFT~~ Scoping Document for Updating the Regional Wastewater Services Plan**

**~~Revised Draft Prepared by the Wastewater Treatment Division WTD for Discussion – January 2025~~ November 2024**

**Introduction**

This ~~draft~~ scoping document describes the overall approach that will be used, and some of the major policy issues that will be analyzed, to update King County’s Regional Wastewater Services Plan (RWSP). The document was produced to solicit input and feedback on the scope of the RWSP Update from members of the Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC) and the Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee (MWPAAC).

The King County Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) drafted this scoping document based on initial verbal and written input from RWQC and MWPAAC members and staff as well as feedback obtained during and after the Clean Water Plan process. The scoping document was discussed at the August 28 MWPAAC general meeting, the September 4 RWQC workshop, ~~the September 5 MWPAAC Engineering and Planning (E&P) subcommittee meeting, and the October 2 RWQC meeting, and the November 7 joint meeting of the MWPAAC E&P and Rates and Finance subcommittees~~ the September 5 MWPAAC Engineering and Planning subcommittee meeting. WTD revised the document based on feedback from MWPAAC and RWQC and an updated. The final version was then discussed at the December 4 RWQC meeting. Additional edits were received and incorporated into this final version.

~~The draft scoping document was designed to spark discussion and conversation. Specifically, WTD is interested in hearing about the scope elements and major policy issues that RWQC and MWPAAC would like analyzed as part of the RWSP Update.~~ More detailed scopes of work for specific tasks under the RWSP Update will be developed as needed.

**Key Terms**

The following key terms are used throughout the scoping document. Because these terms can have different meanings depending on the context, the following definitions apply for purposes of the RWSP and associated materials unless otherwise noted.

Term	Definition
<b>Equity and Social Justice</b>	<i>Equity</i> is defined as <del>the</del> full and equal access to opportunities, power, and resources so that all people achieve their full potential and thrive. <i>Social justice</i> refers to all aspects of justice – including legal, political, economic, and environmental – and requires the fair distribution of and access to public goods, institutional resources, and life opportunities for all people (source: King County Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan 2016-2022).

<p><b>Rate Equity <u>and Fairness</u></b></p>	<p>“Rates should be designed to distribute the cost of service equitably among each type and class of service. Non-cost of service rates that achieve certain other objectives such as affordability and water conservation may be considered in some situations.” (source: Revised: AWWA Policy Statement: Financing, Accounting, and Rates – American Water Works Association, November 5, 2024). The AWWA Principles of Water Rates, Fees, and Charges Manual states “Rate-making endeavors to assign costs to classes of customers in a nondiscriminatory, cost-responsive manner so that rates can be designed to closely meet the cost of providing service to such customer classes.”</p>
<p><b>Affordability</b></p>	<p>“The National Coalition for Legislation on Water Affordability defined water affordability as the cost of provision that does not impede people from meeting other basic needs or human rights. There is, however, currently no one generally accepted definition of water affordability. It varies depending on the purpose of the water affordability assessment... Affordability researchers generally agree that no one single metric can or should be used in measuring water affordability, rather, a variety of quantitative and qualitative data should be considered.” (source: Schneemann, M., 2019, Defining &amp; Measuring Water Affordability: A Literature Review; Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant). <u>The measure of affordability will need to be further quantified and defined during the RSWP update process.</u></p>

## Background

The RWSP, a supplement to the King County Comprehensive Water Pollution Abatement Plan, was adopted by the King County Council in November 1999 by Ordinance 13680, and the RWSP policies were subsequently codified in King County Code (KCC), Chapter 28.86. The RWSP identifies projects and programs needed to provide wastewater capacity for homes and businesses in King County’s wastewater service area through 2030 and provides policy direction for the operation and continued development of the wastewater system. The RWSP has largely been implemented, and it is now time to update the plan to guide future investments and actions. Changed conditions, including population growth, climate change, aging assets, regulatory requirements, and rate affordability, also justify another major update to the RWSP.

The updated plan, along with the analytical work (e.g., review of the capacity charge) performed as part of the RWSP Update planning process, will support the extension of local agency sewage disposal contracts, many of which expire in 2036, and continue to strengthen WTD’s relationship with local agencies. An update to the RWSP will also help make the case for additional state and federal funding and meet the requirements for a General Sewer Plan update for approval by the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology).

The planning process to update the RWSP started in 2019 as the Clean Water Plan; it was paused at the end of 2021 to fully consider and address feedback received during the planning process. The pause in

the Clean Water Plan process also provided an opportunity for more regulatory certainty regarding combined sewer overflow (CSO) obligations and nutrient reduction obligations. The planning process restarted in 2024 as the RWSP Update planning effort. The renewed process includes important adjustments intended to address feedback received during the Clean Water Plan process. The current RWSP Update planning process is generally similar to the process used to develop the 1999 RWSP.

## Project Objectives

The overall project objectives are ~~to develop a vision for WTD's future,~~ to develop an update to the RWSP, and to update the policies in King County Code 28.86. The project will also define a future 75-year vision ("Vision for Clean Water"), beyond the scope of the RWSP, for the utility that is consistent with WTD's mission – "We protect public health and the environment by collecting and cleaning wastewater while recovering valuable resources for a healthy and resilient Puget Sound."

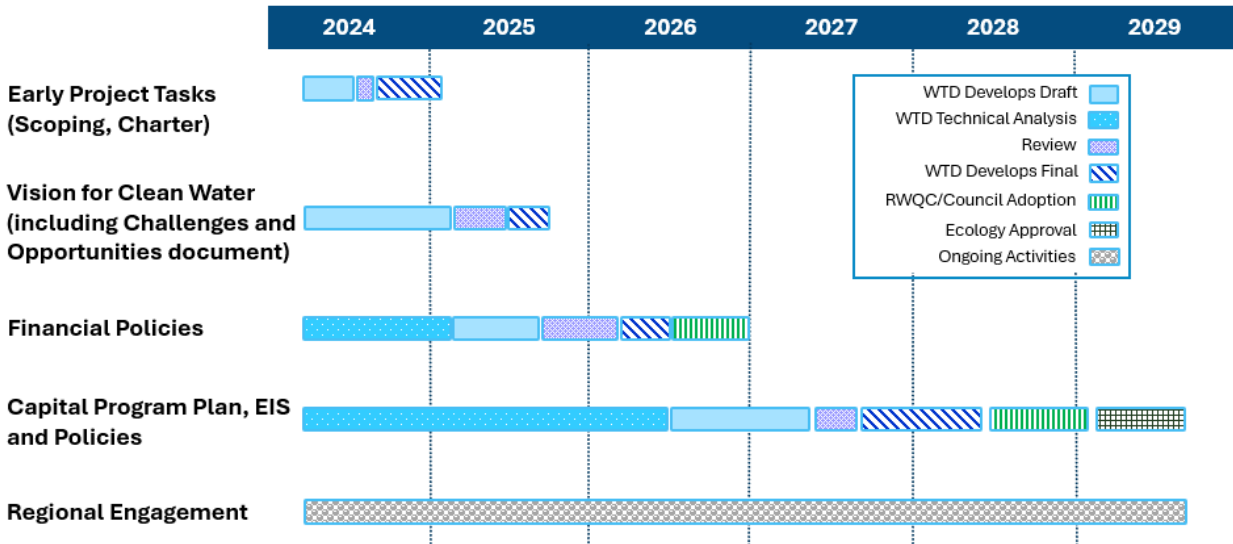
The Vision for Clean Water~~vision~~ will inform but not constrain policies and investments that are included in the final RWSP Update. The planning process will produce an RWSP Update that will guide future investments; support ensures the core mission to protect water quality; seeks to achieve affordable wastewater utility rates into the future; meets regulatory and legal obligations; and reflects County initiatives including equity and social justice, strategic climate action planning, and Clean Water Healthy Habitat.

The resulting RWSP Update document will include the 75-year Vision for Clean Wwater, a capital investment plan, and policy updates to King County Code for King County Council review and approval. The RWSP Update will reflect the County's and WTD's commitment to transparency and accountability in implementing the RWSP. Once adopted by the Council, the document will be transmitted to Ecology for review and approval.

## Scope for the Effort

Figure 1 shows the planning process for the RWSP Update. The tasks are also described below with the associated deliverables.

### Figure 1. Overall Draft Schedule for Completing the Update to King County's Wastewater Plan



**Tasks/Deliverables**

Early Project Tasks – The early project tasks are designed to inform the RWQC and MWPAAC of the scope and objectives of the project and the major policy issues to be addressed as part of the update to the RWSP.

Scoping – Scoping will identify the major issues that will be addressed and the process to address those issues ~~in the effort~~. The work will include the following:

- Developing a draft scoping document.
- Soliciting feedback on the draft scoping document.
- Finalizing the scoping document.

*Timeline: Final completed in 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2025 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2024.*

RWSP Working Group – The Working Group will serve as a forum for MWPAAC and RWQC member staff to collaborate with WTD’s RWSP project team through development and successful adoption of the RWSP update. The Working Group will help guide, shape and influence RWSP work products; ~~and~~ it will serve as one channel for clear communication across key groups; ~~and~~ will report out and receive feedback from MWPAAC and RWQC. The work will include the following:

- Convening a RWSP Working group with members from MWPAAC, RWQC staff, and Sound Cities Association (SCA) and WTD’s RWSP planning staff

*Timeline: Formation of Working Group in 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2024.*

Charter – The charter will serve as a framework for collaboration, partnership, and process between WTD, MWPAAC, and RWQC to update the RWSP. The process will include identifying how WTD will ensure transparency and accountability during the RWSP update to the partners. The work will include the following:

- Developing the draft sections of the charter in partnership with the RWSP Working Group
- MWPAAC and RWQC review and input to the charter language
- Finalizing the charter
- Chairs of RWQC and MWPAAC, and WTD Director ~~approve collectively sign~~ the charter as a ~~shared~~ commitment to collaboration and process to guide the RWSP update effort. ~~to update the RRWSP~~

*Timeline: Final completed in 1st quarter 2025.*

Vision for Clean Water for Wastewater Services – The Vision for Clean Water for Wastewater Services will articulate the 75-year future of WTD and will inform but not constrain policies and investments that are included in the final RWSP Update. A document describing the challenges and opportunities facing the wastewater industry will be used to shape the vision. RWQC and MWPAAC members will have multiple opportunities to comment on challenges, opportunities, and provide feedback on the proposed final Vision components.

Challenges and Opportunities – This document will summarize the status of major challenges affecting the future of WTD’s wastewater system, projected trends for those challenges in the coming decades, emerging trends and potential opportunities for the future of water-sector utilities, and key questions to be explored in future regional discussions. Challenges and opportunities will inform but not constrain the scope of work, policy analysis, investment plans, and financial strategies. The work will include the following:

- Reviewing relevant materials developed during the previous Clean Water Plan process.
- Reviewing industry research on drivers and trends.
- Updating information on the regional wastewater system.
- Interviewing national water utility experts and thought leaders.
- Listening sessions with interested and potentially affected parties.
- Developing a draft challenges and opportunities document.
- Soliciting feedback on the draft challenges and opportunities document.
- Finalizing the challenges and opportunities document.

*Timeline: Final completed in 1st quarter 2025.*

Vision – The Vision for Clean Water ~~vision~~ will articulate the future of WTD over the next 75 years. The work will occur in the first stages of the RWSP update process and will include the following:

- Reviewing existing documentation of regional priorities and feedback.
- Conducting interviews and listening sessions to confirm and refresh feedback as well as hear new ideas.
- Drafting several initial vision concepts.
- Conducting broad outreach and engagement to gather feedback on the initial vision concepts and the accompanying challenges and opportunities document.

- Finalizing the vision to be adopted with the RWSP Update.

*Timeline: Final completed in 3rd quarter 2025.*

Financial Policies – Technical analysis will be performed to provide information to support proposed changes to the financial policies in King County Code 28.86.160. The analysis will consider cost structure and rate equity and fairness (including the capacity charge), capital financing and debt management, and financial planning and revenue sufficiency. The work will include the following:

- Studying peer utility agency financial policy structures and evaluating them within a WTD specific context.
- Developing draft policy revisions and seeking review from the RWSP Working Group with members from MWPAAC, RWQC staff, and SCA.
- Finalizing financial policy revisions and developing a proposed ordinance for Council review and approval.

*Timeline: Final completed in 4th quarter 2026.*

Capital Program Plan, Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and Policies – Technical analysis will provide the information to support proposed policy changes and WTD’s future capital program. The information will be used to develop a draft and final RWSP Update, draft and final EIS, and draft and final policy revisions. The work will include the following:

Technical analysis

- Identifying current/existing conditions in our service area in terms of demographics, the economy, water quality, and wastewater infrastructure.
- Gathering background information on current policies.
- Developing a range of options/strategies for policy questions. All options/strategies will meet legal obligations. Note that the approaches below shouldn’t be construed to mean least costly, more costly, and most costly, and that the recommended option may be a combination of the 3 below.
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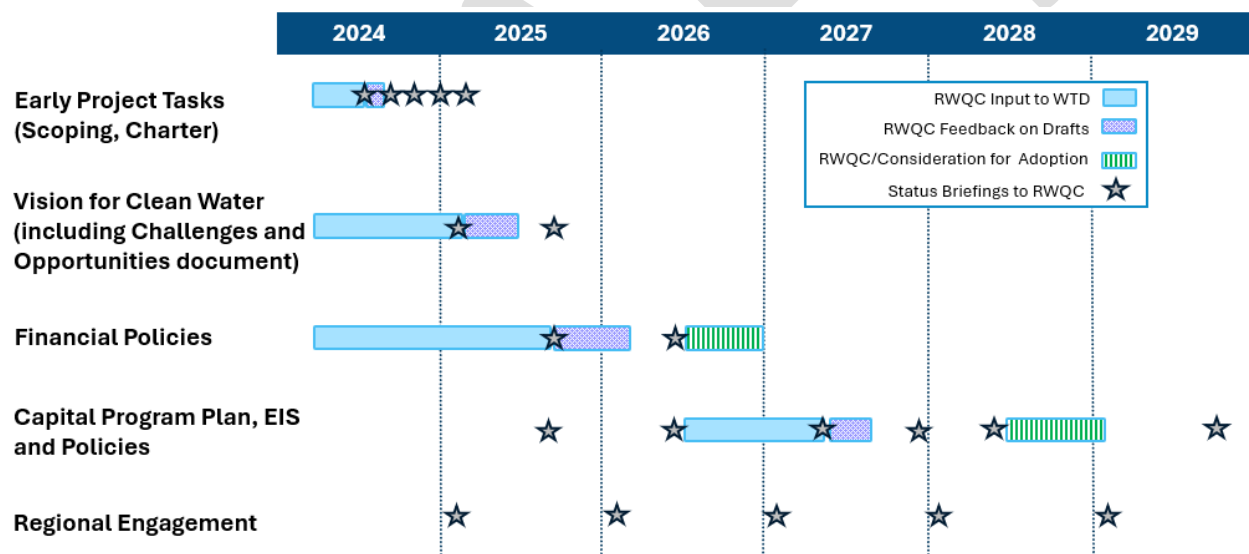
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<p><b>Equity and Social Justice</b></p> <p>Distributional equity, WTD role in safeguarding public health</p>	<p>What actions should WTD take to increase equity and social justice for the regional wastewater system?</p> <p>How will equity and social justice be interwoven in the update: community engagement, rate structure analysis, etc.?</p> <p><u><a href="#">How should the regional wastewater system address environmental justice concerns as described in the 2021 Healthy Environment for All Act<sup>1</sup>, such as addressing the disproportionate environmental health impacts of vulnerable populations and overburdened communities?</a></u></p>
<p><b>Climate Change</b></p> <p>Mitigation – green building, eliminating/reducing fossil fuel use, energy and water efficiency, renewable energy, materials management, tree planting, etc. Adaptation – sea level rise, more extreme heat, increased storm intensities, wildfire smoke, increased river flooding, etc.</p>	<p>Should existing wastewater policy language (KCC 28.86) be revised to specifically call out planning for future climate conditions in addition to population growth and other environmental factors?</p> <p>How much should WTD reduce energy use and reduce greenhouse gas emissions?</p> <p>How should WTD prepare and adapt to climate impacts (e.g., precipitation/storm intensities, sea level rise, river flooding, etc.) in line with the Strategic Climate Action Plan? What level of climate impact risk tolerance should WTD plan for to avoid or minimize risks to the system?</p>
<p><b>Resource Recovery</b></p> <p>Recycled water, biosolids, energy capture</p>	<p>Energy production and heat recovery – Should WTD be expanding its efforts to capture energy and heat? If so, at what level of effort?</p> <p>Biosolids – Should WTD further expand its efforts to develop Class A biosolids? What changes are needed to biosolid recovery policies to get to Class A?</p>

<sup>1</sup> [RCW 70.A.02](#)

Challenges and Opportunities – Topics/Themes	Major Policy Questions to be Analyzed in RWSP Update
	<p>Recycled water – Under what circumstances should the region expand the use of reclaimed water? Which uses (e.g., environmental benefits, groundwater recharge, industrial uses, irrigation) are most appropriate?</p> <p>How can WTD best support environmental benefits while instituting safeguards to protect against environmental risks of contamination? How should cost considerations be weighed?</p>
<p><b>Finance / Affordability</b></p> <p>Rate equity, <u>fairness, and</u> structure, capital financing and debt management, financial planning and revenue sufficiency</p>	<p><u>How will WTD measure affordability for contract agencies and ratepayers?</u></p> <p>Is there a better rate structure for the sewer rate? (Note: WTD has identified a work plan to further evaluate the residential customer equivalent conversion factor of 750 cubic feet per month.)</p> <p>Will WTD maintain a single uniform sewer rate per residential customer equivalent (Robinswood “one for all, all for one”), or consider alternative cost recovery rate structures to reflect other system impacts?</p> <p>Should WTD update the rate structure for the capacity charge to align with current industry standards? (Note: The capacity charge rate structure was updated in 2021. A capacity charge methodology study is in progress.)</p> <p>What other rate relief approaches should WTD implement to improve affordability for those who may struggle to pay their sewer bill?</p>
<p><b>Relationship to Contracts</b></p>	<p>Are major policy updates aligned with component agency contracts?</p> <p>How will WTD implement the RWSP Update consistent with direction and requirements expected of contract agencies?</p>



**King County**

## **Regional Water Quality Committee**

**January 16, 2025**

**Agenda Item No. 9  
Briefing No. 2025-B0004**

### **Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update**

**Any materials for this item will be available  
at the meeting.**

## RWQC Monthly Work Program for 2025

The suggested topics are based on the latest scheduling information available. The committee will adjust the schedule throughout the year to accommodate any necessary changes.

### January–Special Meeting January 16, 2025

- Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update (45 minutes):**
  - Resolution Supporting Scope**
  - Charter briefing**
- 2025 Work Program (45 minutes)

Notes:

- 1) The work program includes a RWSP briefing at every meeting. Some briefings will be very short and can be included in the Director's report.
- 2) Discussion of site visit opportunities on page 3.
- 3) 3 capital briefings are scheduled.

### February 5, 2025

- Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update (60 minutes): Charter**
- Briefing on Selected Capital Projects and Common themes in Capital program Delivery (30 minutes)

### March 5, 2025 Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update (50 minutes):

- Charter, if needed**
- Briefing: WTD's framing of Challenges and Opportunities which are informing development of the Options for the Vision for Clean Water**
- Mouth of Duwamish CSO Briefing (25 minutes)
- Briefing Time Open (20 minutes)

### March 7, 2025 Georgetown Wet Weather Treatment Station Site Visit

### April 2, 2025

- Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update (15 minutes)**
  - Briefing on emerging themes for the Vision for Clean Water**
- Long Term Rate Forecasting Briefing per Motion 16449 (30 minutes)
- WTD recommended 2026 Sewer Rate and Capacity Charge (30 minutes)
- Briefing only Lower Duwamish Waterway Consent Decree (Placeholder; Briefing date depends on transmittal) (30 minutes)

### May 7, 2025

- Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update (35 minutes):**
  - Input on RWSP Vision Options for Clean Water**
- Executive's Proposed 2026 Sewer Rate and Capacity Charge (30 minutes)
- Stormwater Solutions Briefing (25 minutes)

### **June 4, 2025**

- Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update (50 minutes)**
  - Input on RWSP Vision Options for Clean Water**
- Briefing on selected West Point Capital Projects and Common Themes in Capital Program Delivery (40 minutes)

### **May 30th or June 6th Site Visit West Point (See options)**

### **July 2, 2025**

- Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update (15 minutes):**
- Long Term Rate Forecasting Final Briefing per Motion 16449 (45 minutes)
- Briefing TBD (30 minutes)

### **August 6, 2025 Council Recess**

### **September 3, 2025**

- Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update:**
  - Capital Program Plan and Policies Status Briefing (55 minutes)**
- Briefing Strategic Asset Management Plan (35 minutes)

### **October 1, 2025**

- Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update:**
  - Final Vision for Clean Water (55 minutes)**
- Briefing on Selected Capital Projects and Common Themes in Capital Program Delivery (35 minutes)

### **November 5, 2025**

- Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update (10 minutes)**
- Briefing Executive's Proposed 2026-2027 WTD Budget (40 minutes)
- Available time

### **December 3, 2025**

- Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update (10 minutes)**
- Briefing Strategic Asset Management Plan (55 minutes)
- PFAS Annual Update (25 minutes)



## Site Visit Options

### March 7, 2025 Georgetown Wet Weather Treatment Station

- Limited parking available (3 spaces)
- Member Participant number must be under quorum for touring

**Option A**—members meet at Courthouse for transportation to Wet Weather facility. If there is a quorum, tour groups are staggered.

**Option B**—Site visit is offered at two times (morning and early afternoon) on March 7, 2025

### West Point on May 30<sup>th</sup> or June 6<sup>th</sup>

- This tour would take 2 hours
- Member Participant number must be under quorum for touring

**Option B**—Regular meeting on June 4 to discuss West Point capital projects and site visit scheduled before the briefing on Friday, May 30 in two groups.

**Option C**—Regular meeting on June 4 to discuss West Point capital projects and site visit instead scheduled after the briefing on Friday, June 6 in two groups.

### August 2025 Forest Biosolids Tour

- This tour must begin in the morning and takes 3-4 hours
- No meeting room facilities
- Meet in Issaquah
- Member Participant number must be under quorum for touring
- Involves walking in the dirt and mud.

**Option A**--Members can choose from between two tour dates in August (or other time)

RWQC members and staff can reach out to WTD ([Olivia.Robinson@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Olivia.Robinson@kingcounty.gov) or [Sharman.Herrin@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Sharman.Herrin@kingcounty.gov) if interested in other tour locations or times.