



King County

1200 King County
Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Meeting Agenda Regional Water Quality Committee

Councilmembers:

Claudia Balducci, Chair

Reagan Dunn

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

Wednesday, February 5, 2025

Hybrid 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. If your comments are submitted before 2:00 p.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, 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**

December 4, 2024 and January 16, 2025 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. [RWQC Resolution No. RWQC2025-02](#) **p. 10**

A RESOLUTION declaring the regional water quality committee's support of the Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update Charter.

Jenny Giambattista, Council staff

Briefings

8. [Briefing No. 2025-B0008](#) **p. 55**

Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update

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

9. [Briefing No. 2025-B0012](#) **p. 61**

Mouth of Duwamish CSO Briefing

Stan Hummel, Combined Sewer Overflow Delivery Manager, Wastewater Treatment Division

10. [Briefing No. 2025-B0013](#) **p. 81**

A Look Back at the Robinswood Agreement

*Kamuron Gurol, Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) Director
Sharman Herrin, Government Relations Manager, WTD
Larry Phillips, former King County Councilmember*



11. [Briefing No. 2025-B0005](#) **p. 89**

Discussion of 2025 Regional Water Quality Committee Work Program

Jenny Giambattista, Council staff

Other Business

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

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Seattle, WA 98104

Meeting Minutes Regional Water Quality Committee

3:00 PM

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Hybrid Meeting

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



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Meeting Minutes Regional Water Quality Committee

Councilmembers:

Claudia Balducci, Chair

Reagan Dunn

Alternate:

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Laura Mork, Shoreline;
Jessica Rossman, Medina; Sarah Moore, Burien*

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Auburn*

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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 - DRAFT MINUTES

1. **Call to Order**

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

2. **Roll Call**

Present: 11 - Lee, Mork, Moore, Rossman, Hollingsworth, Kettle, Warren, Dunn,
Balducci, Sweet and Hooshangi

Excused: 1 - Clarke

3. **Approval of Minutes**

This matter was not addressed.

4. **Chair's Report**

*Chair Balducci provided an overview of the agenda and updated the committee on King
County Council re-organization for 2025.*

5. MWPAAC Report

John McClellan, Chair, MWPAAC, briefed the committee on recent and upcoming MWPAAC meetings, work done on the Regional Wastewater Services Plan update, and recent "WTD University" trainings.

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 process, the Regional Wastewater Services Plan update, and PFAS/PFOS risk assessments published by the Environmental Protection Agency and how they are being and will be addressed by Wastewater Treatment Division.

Discussion and Possible Action**7. Briefing No. 2025-B0010**

Selection of Vice Chair

Councilmember Sweet moved to appoint Deputy Mayor Mork as vice chair of the committee. There being no objections, Deputy Mayor Mork was appointed vice chair of the Regional Water Quality Committee.

This matter was Presented

8. RWQC Resolution No. RWQC2025-01

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

Jenny Giambattista, Council staff, briefed the committee.

Commissioner Warren moved approval of Amendment 1. There being no objections, the amendment was adopted.

Deputy Mayor mork Mork moved a friendly amendment with the following effects: on line 2, strike "regional wastewater services plan update scoping document" and enter "scoping document for updating the regional wastewater services plan update," on line 17, strike "WTD" and enter "Wastewater Treatment Division," and on line 49, strike "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" and enter "A. The regional water quality committee declares its support of the wastewater treatment division's Scoping Document for Updating the Regional Wastewater Services Plan 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" There being no objections, the friendly amendment was adopted.

The committee unanimously passed the resolution.

This matter was Passed

Briefings

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

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, and Carly Joerger, Utility Policy and Community Relations Supervisor, City of Kirkland, briefed the committee via PowerPoint presentations.

This matter was Presented

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

Discussion of 2025 Regional Water Quality Committee Work Program

Jenny Giambattista, Council staff, and Darren Greve, Government Relations Administrator, Wastewater Treatment Division, Department of Natural Resources and Parks, provided an overview of the upcoming year for RWQC. Councilmember Balducci inquired of members as to whether they wanted to conduct site visits this year, and interest in site visits was confirmed by committee members.

This matter was Deferred

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM.

Approved this _____ day of _____

Clerk's Signature



King County

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

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item:	7	Name:	Jenny Giambattista
Proposed No.:	RWQC2025-02	Date:	February 5, 2025

SUBJECT

A resolution declaring the Regional Water Quality Committee’s support of the Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update Charter.

SUMMARY

The Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) is updating the Regional Wastewater Services Plan (RWSP). The attached RWSP Charter describes the shared goals, roles and responsibilities, and agreed upon process for the RWSP update. The describes a framework for collaboration and process between WTD and the Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee (MWPAAC).

Resolution RWQC2025-02 declares the RWQC’s support for the attached charter.

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.¹ 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)

¹ Regional Wastewater Services Plan 2017 Annual Report

- Wastewater services policies (K.C.C. 28.86)
- 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 Update 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.

On January 16, 2025 the committee reviewed a final version of the scoping document for the RWSP and approved a resolution (RWQC 2025-01) declaring the Regional Water Quality Committee's support for the scoping document. The scoping document describes the overall approach that will be used in the RWSP update, a timeline of major deliverables, and the major policy issues that will be analyzed.

Additionally, at the January 16, 2025 meeting the RWQC received a draft version of the charter and WTD along with members of the RWSP Working Group presented a high-level overview of the charter.

ANALYSIS

Resolution RWQC2025-02 declares the RWQC's support for the attached charter.

Lines 74-77 state:

"A. The regional water quality committee declares its support of the wastewater treatment division's Regional Wastewater Services Plan update charter, attached as Attachment A to this resolution, which the division shall use to guide the process to update the Regional Wastewater Services Plan."

Lines 71-73 state:

"B. The regional water quality committee requests the wastewater treatment division brief the regional water quality committee on any proposed substantive changes to the Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update Charter."

The RWSP Update Charter is intended to guide the multi-year process to update the RWSP. It describes the shared goals, roles and responsibilities, and agreed upon process for the RWSP update.

The charter was drafted by the RWSP Working Group, a newly created forum for MWPAAC, RWQC member staff, and Sound Cities Association staff to collaborate with WTD's RWSP project team through development and successful adoption of an updated RWSP.

The Charter includes the following sections,

- Background,
- Purpose,
- Shared Goals
- Roles and Responsibilities
- Shared Values and Guiding Principles
- RWSP Policy Areas. This reflects the list of policy areas listed in the Scope document.

- High Level Schedule and Major Milestones—
- Information and Work Product Flow
- Commitments: WTD and MWPAAC
- Appendix A: Policy Areas and Planning Level Specifics
- Appendix B: Schedule and Milestones

MWPAAC Authorization for MWPAAC chair to sign

The charter was discussed at the MWPAAC meeting on January 23, 2025. After discussion, the committee voted to authorize the MWPAAC chair to make several amendments discussed by the committee in addition to technical amendments and sign the charter.

Changes since January 16, 2025. The attached version reflects the changes to the charter since January 16, 2025. All of the changes since the version shared with RWQC on January 16, 2025 are shown in track changes in Attachment 2).

In addition to technical, clarifying changes, and edits for consistency with the Scope document, the following substantive changes are included in the charter:

- Working Group. Specifies that the non-WTD membership of the working group will be agreed upon by the Chair of MWPAAC in consultation with the WTD Director. (Page 3, Attachment 2). Non-WTD Working Group members have the option rather than the obligation to report out alongside WTD and co-author progress reports. (Page 4, Attachment 2)
- Vision for Clean Water. The process for development of the Vision for Clean Water is removed from the Charter and described further in Appendix C to reflect that the Clean Water Vision is a separate parallel process from the RWSP Update. (Page 4 and 5, Attachment 2.)
- WTD Functional Plan. Language is added consistent with the Scope document noting that the functional plans will be reviewed and if, necessary, modified based on direction coming out of the RWSP planning process in order to align with an integrate into the broader and comprehensive RWSP Update. (Page 8, Attachment 2)
- Clarifies timelines on final transmittal of RWSP Update. The charter was edited to specify the intended transmittal of the Final RWSP Update is scheduled for mid 2029 and Council adoption is anticipated by the end of 2029. (Page 2 and page 17, Attachment 2.)

INVITED

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

ATTACHMENTS

1. RWQC Resolution 2025-02 and its attachment
2. Redline version of Charter showing changes since January 16, 2025.



KING COUNTY
Signature Report

ATTACHMENT 1
1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

RWQC Resolution

Proposed No. RWQC2025-02.1

Sponsors

A RESOLUTION declaring the regional water quality committee's support of the Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update Charter.

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the RWSP provides policy direction for the operation and continued development of the wastewater system, the wastewater treatment division capital improvement program, financial policies to guide forecasting, budgeting, and debt financing, and revenue to support the implementation of the RWSP, and

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the wastewater treatment division developed a scoping document for updating the RWSP informed by comments and input received from the metropolitan water pollution abatement advisory committee, members of the regional water quality committee, and interested parties, and

WHEREAS, the scoping document describes the overall approach that will be used in the RWSP update, a timeline of major deliverables, and the major policy issues that will be analyzed, and

WHEREAS, on January 5, 2025 the regional water quality committee approved resolution RWQC2025-01 in support of the wastewater treatment division's Scoping Document for Updating the Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update and

WHEREAS, the plan update will benefit from a charter to describe the shared goals, roles and responsibilities, and agreed-upon process for the RWSP update, and

WHEREAS, a charter, the RWSP Update Charter, has been prepared by the wastewater treatment division and members of a working group comprised of staff representing members of the metropolitan water pollution abatement advisory committee, staff representing regional water quality members, and staff from the Sound Cities Association, and

WHEREAS, the RWSP Update Charter describes a framework for collaboration and process between the wastewater treatment division and the metropolitan water pollution abatement advisory committee to develop the Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update, and

WHEREAS, the RWSP Update Charter establishes shared goals and principles, establishes roles and responsibilities, outlines a process for the metropolitan water pollution abatement advisory committee and the regional water quality to provide input in the development of the RWSP update, and sets out schedules and milestones for the RWSP update, and

WHEREAS, the charter sets a tone of collaboration and partnership that is important for the multi-year process to develop the RWSP update and ensure broad support, and

WHEREAS, on January 22, 2025, the metropolitan water pollution abatement advisory committee voted to authorize the chair of the metropolitan water pollution abatement advisory committee to sign the RWSP Update Charter, and

WHEREAS, the regional water quality committee has reviewed and concurs with the approach proposed in the RWSP Update Charter, Attachment A to this resolution, that will be used by the division and the metropolitan water pollution abatement advisory committee to guide the collaborative development of the long-range Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update;

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

A. The regional water quality committee declares its support of the Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update Charter, attached as Attachment A to this resolution, which the division shall use to guide the process to update the Regional Wastewater Services Plan.

B. The regional water quality committee requests the wastewater treatment division brief the regional water quality committee on any proposed substantive changes to the Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update Charter.

Attachments: A. Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update Charter

RWSP Update Charter

This Charter is similar to a Memorandum of Understanding, and is an agreement representing the shared goals, roles and responsibilities, and agreed-upon process for the Regional Wastewater Services Plan update. It describes the intent of the parties, but does not create any legally binding obligations.

1. Background

The Regional Wastewater Services Plan (RWSP) is King County's comprehensive plan for wastewater. RWSP policies provide direction for the operation and further development of the wastewater system, its capital improvement program and, as necessary, the development of subsequent policies. RWSP policies are set forth in King County Code Chapters 28.84 and 28.86.

Adopted in 1999, the current RWSP is a supplement to the original Comprehensive Water Pollution Abatement Plan adopted in 1959, and includes additional components for Combined Sewer Overflows, Conveyance System Improvement, Infiltration/Inflow, and others. The RWSP and its related components form King County's General Sewer Plan, which was approved by the Department of Ecology in 1999.

It is time to update the RWSP to guide future investments and actions. The current RWSP was intended to guide the management of the system through 2030, and conditions have dramatically changed since its adoption. Some of the changing conditions that are driving the need to update the RWSP include:

- a. increasing capacity demands from a growing population,
- b. aging infrastructure requiring substantial amounts of maintenance, refurbishment, and replacement,
- c. recent and anticipated new regulations to protect water quality,
- d. customer affordability especially for lower-income households, and
- e. changing climate patterns which will stress our current system in multiple ways.

These challenges present opportunities for us to make our wastewater system better serve our region to ensure economic prosperity and sustain our environment through the end of the 21st century. Updating the RWSP will provide us these opportunities. Furthermore, an update to the RWSP will support the renegotiation and extension of local agency wastewater contracts, many of which expire in 2036, and it will help make the case for additional state and federal funding and meet the requirements for a General Sewer Plan update for approval by the Department of Ecology.

2. Charter Purpose

This Charter is intended to guide the multi-year process to update the RWSP. It establishes a framework for collaboration, partnership, and process between the King County Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD, a division within the County Executive branch) and the Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee (MWPAAC) to develop work products for consideration by the Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC) and ultimately by the King County Council. It establishes shared goals, values, and principles; it sets clear and transparent roles and responsibilities, including decision-making

responsibilities. The Charter outlines a process with opportunities for MWPAAC and RWQC to shape and influence outcomes; and it provides a high-level road map with major work areas, schedule, and milestones for the RWSP update.

WTD and MWPAAC (hereafter referred to as “we”, “us”, or “Parties”) have distinct roles in the effort to update the RWSP. WTD’s and MWPAAC’s agreement to this Charter ensures we are partners in this effort and committed to work in good faith to effectively coordinate and carry out the steps in the planning process to deliver work products to the RWQC and achieve our shared goals.

3. Shared Goals

Our shared goals are:

- a. Develop a draft update to the RWSP by 2027, through thorough analysis, collaboration, and engagement across contract agencies, and
- b. Executive recommends to the King County Council a Final RWSP Update by mid 2029 (i.e. no later than end of 2nd Quarter) that reflects regional values and regional priorities, and
- c. Anticipated King County Council adoption of the Final RWSP Update by end of 2029, and that the updated RWSP will serve as a long-range plan to guide decision making through 2060.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

It is important to clearly define roles, responsibilities and expectations, including decision-making responsibilities and authority. Roles and responsibilities include, but are not limited to the following:

- a. The King County Executive will oversee the work of WTD and propose the update to the RWSP and its policies to the King County Council. In addition, the King County Executive will establish the Vision for Clean Water for 2100, to help guide, but not constrain, the 30-year implementation of the new RWSP.
- b. The King County Council may adopt the updated RWSP and its policies as proposed by the County Executive or with amendments.
- c. RWQC is a regional committee in the Legislative branch of County government with the role and responsibility to develop, propose, review, and recommend countywide policies and plans addressing water quality to the King County Council.¹ In this capacity, the RWQC may wish to influence the development phase of the RWSP update and its policies as described in paragraph I below. Following the King County Executive’s transmittal of a proposed ordinance to update the RWSP with new or amended policies, the RWQC may exercise its role and responsibility as described in paragraph II below.

¹ K.C.C. 1.24.065.K3

- I. During the development phase of the RWSP update, the RWQC may review and provide input and feedback on WTD work products, including the initial set of Vision for Clean Water options, and WTD’s proposed new and amended policies. At the discretion of the RWQC Chair and its members, RWQC members may convey their input on issues or topics and whether they concur with WTD or have specific areas of concern on the direction or substance of WTD’s work through Committee discussions, individual member comments, or through a Resolution. RWQC’s input will be documented and reported as an addendum to the joint WTD/Working Group memo outlined in Step #5 in Section 8 on Information and Work Product Flow.
 - II. Following transmittal of the County Executive’s proposed RWSP ordinance to County Council, King County Code requires the ordinance to be automatically referred to RWQC for its review and recommendations through the “mandatory referral” process as outlined in the King County Charter for all countywide water quality comprehensive and long-range capital improvement plans.² In accordance with the King County Charter, if the King County Council subsequently makes changes to the RWSP after RWQC has reviewed, the RWSP will be sent back to RWQC for additional consideration.
- d. MWPAAC is an advisory body to the County Council and Executive on matters related to the wastewater treatment system. MWPAAC and its associated Engineering and Planning (E&P) and Rates and Finance (R&F) Subcommittees roles and responsibilities in the RWSP update are to:
- I. Review technical analyses and provide feedback on WTD work products and proposals,
 - II. Contribute to discussions and help shape and influence WTD’s work products,
 - III. Constructively influence new and revised policy language proposed by WTD,
 - IV. Report out their recommendations to RWQC and/or the King County Council and Executive.
- e. The RWSP Working Group is a newly created forum for MWPAAC, RWQC member staff, and Sound Cities Association staff to collaborate with WTD’s RWSP project team through development and successful adoption of an updated RWSP. The Working Group’s composition should not exceed a total of ten non-WTD members, with representation from MWPAAC and RWQC members’ staff, and with representation from cities and sewer districts. Non-WTD members will be selected by the Chair of MWPAAC, in consultation with the WTD Director. Membership to the Working Group is not fixed for the duration of the RWSP update; members will rotate on/off based on expertise and interest in topic and their availability. To increase institutional memory and smooth the process of rotational membership, the Chair of MWPAAC, in consultation with the WTD Director, may invite past and future Working Group members to observe Working Group meetings.

² K.C.C. 1.24.065.K3

The Working Group's roles and responsibilities are to:

- I. Influence and help shape WTD work products and RWSP outcomes.³
 - II. Play a regular role in the feedback loops built into the information and work product flow; this will involve providing inputs to help WTD refine and revise work products based on comments heard in the planning process.
 - III. Ensure elected members on RWQC and MWPAAC colleagues are kept apprised of the status of on-going work.
 - IV. Establish a clear channel of communication between WTD, MWPAAC and RWQC member staff that is dedicated to the RWSP update.
 - Alongside WTD, Working Group members have the option to report out at MWPAAC and RWQC meetings to update on progress and highlight areas of concurrence and any concerns.
 - Alongside WTD, Working Group members have the option to co-author a short-form memo that reports to RWQC an update on progress made by the Working Group, and areas of concurrence and any concerns conveyed by the Working Group or MWPAAC, as described in Step #5 of the information and work product flow in Section 8.
- f. The King County WTD is an Executive branch agency with the role and responsibility to develop and deliver an updated RWSP through the Department of Natural Resources and Parks to the County Executive. WTD's roles and responsibilities in the RWSP update are:
- I. Develop and recommend options for a Vision for Clean Water to the King County Executive. The process for the development of the Vision for Clean Water is described further in Appendix C since it is on a separate path than the process for future RWSP update work products.
 - II. Lead the RWSP update planning effort and develop an updated RWSP in alignment with the vision and high-level goals for decision and adoption by the King County Executive and Council,
 - III. Produce all work products associated with the planning process, including the development, evaluation and selection of new and revised RWSP policies, and provide briefings to RWQC and MWPAAC.
 - IV. Collaborate with MWPAAC and its subcommittees, RWQC and the RWSP Working Group to produce and refine work products and develop new and revised policies that have been reviewed and influenced by input from MWPAAC and RWQC in a manner consistent with goals, values, and principles in this charter.

³ The term "influence", as used in this Charter, refers to the Working Group and MWPAAC members influencing WTD's work products; it does not include influencing elected decision makers.

- V. Objectively convey MWPAAC feedback when presenting to RWQC. WTD will author a short-form memo that reports to RWQC to update the Committee on progress made by the Working Group, and areas of concurrence or any concerns conveyed by the Working Group or MWPAAC, as described in Step #5 of the information and work product flow in Section 8. A Working Group member may choose to co-author this memo alongside WTD. WTD will provide an addendum to this memo following RWQC meetings that reflect RWQC's input on issues or topic areas.
- VI. Protect and promote equity and social justice in the RWSP update. In 2010, King County Council adopted Ordinance 16948, requiring the principles of equity and social justice to be included in all strategic planning, comprehensive planning, and policy decisions at King County. These principles are outlined in the King County Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan and will be reflected in the updated plan.
- VII. Engage diverse voices and foster inclusive participation to ensure community members have equitable opportunities to contribute to and inform the RWSP planning process. WTD will actively reach out to underrepresented groups and historically underserved communities and consider their needs and perspectives when creating the plan. Engagement will be guided by King County's Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan.⁴
- VIII. Develop and share information and analyses to promote shared understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing the regional wastewater system in the coming decades by providing historical context and data about volumes and rates and the rationale behind the current system. WTD will develop a range of possible future directions to address these challenges and opportunities and will create projections of capital costs and rates to inform cost/benefit analyses and decision making associated with these range of options.
- IX. Affirm that King County will commit to meet all current and anticipated future legal and regulatory obligations associated with the RWSP update. WTD will focus on wastewater system services, issues and policies and coordinate with, but not assume responsibility for, other water quality-related planning efforts (e.g., stormwater, water supply).

⁴ King County's Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan was unanimously adopted by the King County Council. It can be found at the following URL: <https://aqua.kingcounty.gov/dnrp/library/dnrp-directors-office/equity-social-justice/201609-ESJ-SP-ACK-EX-SUM.pdf>

5. Shared Values and Guiding Principles

To succeed, we agree on the following shared values and associated action-oriented guiding principles. Together they will guide our work to update the RWSP.

Shared Values

The following are the four shared values for our collective work on the RWSP update; they will guide how we engage one another, how we share information, how we resolve conflict, and they will help us build a foundation of trust and mutual understanding.

- a. Collaboration
- b. Partnership
- c. Regionalism
- d. Innovative Thinking

Guiding Principles

The following principles are action-oriented expressions and mutual commitments of our shared values; they are our norms, our code of conduct and the guideposts for our process of working together to update the RWSP.

Collaboration:

- I. WTD will provide transparency and specific timelines in the planning process, including in all assumptions, in work product creation, information flow, and decision-making. WTD will share knowledge and information with sufficient time for meaningful review and avoid opaque processes where internal functions are unknown or not shared.
- II. WTD will build-in appropriate time for review, discussion, input, revisions, and engagement with the Working Group, MWPAAC and RWQC.
- III. WTD will build-in clear feedback loops to the information and work product flow prior to decision making.
- IV. MWPAAC and WTD will offer constructive feedback and will work together in good faith. WTD will strive to integrate feedback from MWPAAC and RWQC into its work products and communicate clearly if it does not, and the reasons why.

Partnership:

- I. WTD will respect all input from component agencies and will seek to understand the meaning and intent behind MWPAAC and RWQC's opinions and perspectives. WTD will establish a planning process that meaningfully considers the input, ideas and feedback heard from MPWAAC and RWQC. MWPAAC has value to add in policy discussions in addition to its role as technical advisor. As such, WTD's planning process will give MWPAAC opportunities to

constructively influence policy discussions. WTD will honor the process and schedule outlined in this Charter.

- II. WTD will respect all input from planning stakeholders outside of MWPAAC and RWQC and will meaningfully consider input, ideas, and feedback heard from them.
- III. MWPAAC will seek to understand the meaning and intent behind WTD's opinions and perspectives. MWPAAC will recognize the process and schedule outlined in this Charter and will help to prioritize discussions to convey their input on issues or topics.
- IV. WTD is intentionally creating a collaborative planning process that shifts MWPAAC's role from advisor and commentor of WTD's work products to a partner and participant to influence and shape WTD's work products and RWSP outcomes. In the spirit of partnership MWPAAC will strive to support WTD's efforts and the planning process outcomes when possible; and when support is not possible, MWPAAC will constructively frame feedback to WTD and RWQC.

Regionalism:

- I. WTD acknowledges its responsibility to convene conversations and facilitate regional solutions.
- II. The Parties commit to understand the challenges and opportunities facing the regional wastewater system in the coming decades and the planning process will result in a plan that is responsive and adaptive to them.
- III. The Parties will apply the lens of "Regionalism" to our discussions and deliberations. This means applying a 'systems thinking' approach wherein we all understand each component agency is a part of a 'whole', and each will bring local perspectives and needs to the table, while recognizing the interrelationship and interdependencies of their local system to the whole regional system.
- IV. The Parties will objectively evaluate tradeoffs and investment sequencing to ensure a resilient and sustainable wastewater system that protects our environment while balancing near-term and long-term impact to rate payers.

Innovative Thinking:

The Parties will employ innovative thinking to generate new ideas and cost-effective solutions to the 21st century challenges facing our wastewater system. This means we will approach problems and ideas with an open mind; we will be open to generate ideas that may diverge from the status quo; we will be flexible and adapt to change to find new ways to approach problems; and we will identify and question assumptions that may limit creative possibilities.

6. RWSP Policy Areas

The update to the RWSP is intended to span a 30-year time horizon (2030 – 2060), with planned future incremental smaller-in-scope updates every 10 years to adjust and adapt to changing conditions as needed in between major 30-year updates to the Plan.

WTD has or is developing eleven topic-specific Functional Plans listed below. These Plans will be reviewed and, if necessary, modified based on direction coming out of the RWSP planning process in order to align with and integrate into the broader and comprehensive updated RWSP.

WTD's Functional Plans:

1. Biosolids Strategic Plan
2. Climate Adaptation Plan
3. Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Long-Term Control Plan
4. Conveyance System Improvement Plan
5. Energy Plan
6. Infiltration and Inflow Plan
7. Recycled Water Strategic Plan
8. Sediment Management Plan
9. Strategic Asset Management Plan
10. Treatment Plan
11. Seismic Resiliency Plan

The major policy areas that will be included in this 30-year update to the RWSP are described in the RWSP Scoping Document supported by RWQC via Resolution RWQC2025-01. This Charter organizes these same major policy areas into two general topic areas for planning purposes – Policy Area 1: Categories of Capital Investment, and Policy Area 2: Non-Capital Related topics.

A high-level overview of these two policy areas is described below; more information about the planning level framework and details about these two policy areas can be found in Appendix A.

Policy Area 1: Categories of Capital Investment

The RWSP planning process will involve thorough technical analyses and evaluation of eight categories of capital investment:

1. Treatment
2. Asset Management
3. Separated System Conveyance (including infiltration/inflow)
4. Combined System Management
5. Climate Impact Preparedness and Natural Disaster Resiliency
6. Pollution (Source Control and Legacy)
7. Resource Recovery (Biosolids, Energy, Recycled Water)
8. Odor Control

Each of these eight categories of capital investment will be analyzed and evaluated across a range of enhancement levels over a 30-year time horizon with respect to three distinct conceptual Approaches.

Three Conceptual Approaches:

1. Stay the Course Approach
2. Strategic Enhancements Approach
3. Transformative Approach

These three Approaches represent a spectrum of investment and outcome possibilities for the region to consider managing its wastewater; they can be thought of as different pathways to get to different desired outcomes by the year 2060. Analyses of capital investment levels for each of the three Approaches will provide the necessary information to effectively evaluate trade-offs to inform proposed policy changes.

Using outputs received from a SEPA process, and feedback received from RWQC and MWPAAC during the planning process, a final Proposal will be selected from the three Approaches. The final Proposal may be a hybrid of the three Approaches.

Policy Area 2: Non-Capital Related Topics

Policy Area 2 includes topics in the RWSP Scoping document that are not direct capital investment areas. These topics include, but are not limited to, the list shown below. These policy topics will be integrated into the RWSP update and applied across each of the three Conceptual Approaches.

1. Financial Policies
2. Customer Affordability
3. Equity and Social Justice
4. Relation to Contracts
5. Regular Future Reporting

7. High-level Schedule and Major Milestones

Development and descriptions of the three conceptual approaches, with their associated levels of enhancement across the eight categories of capital investment, is planned to begin in Q2 2025 and carry through 2026. Financial policies analyses and engagement will begin in early 2026 and will be separated into two phases as described in Appendix A. An updated draft RWSP with the three Approaches is planned in 2027 accompanied by a SEPA analysis. Following completion of the SEPA process a final Proposal is planned to be selected in 2028, followed by development of proposed new RWSP policies. It is anticipated that the King County Executive will transmit a final RWSP Update to the King County Council no later than the second Quarter of 2029 for anticipated Council adoption in 2029. Following Council adoption, the final RWSP Update will be submitted to the WA Department of Ecology for approval.

A high-level schedule to update the RWSP with the major milestones is shown in Table 1 in Appendix B. Further detail about topic specific deliverables and dates is forthcoming as WTD moves further into the RWSP Update planning process.

8. Information and Work Product Flow

This Charter establishes a process to allow space where we can find synergies and co-benefits by working together to plan for our future wastewater investments. The steps below outline a process for the flow of information and work products between WTD, the Working Group, MWPAAC, and RWQC to ensure productive, constructive, and efficient collaboration.

Sequencing Steps & Feedback Loops

WTD will bundle work products by topic into modules to facilitate the workflow process. Given monthly meeting schedules, it will take 3-5 months to move a module of work products through the sequence steps and feedback loops outlined below. These steps will be repeated for each topic-specific module needed to develop the RWSP Update.

WTD has the responsibility to bring its work products to the RWSP Working Group and MWPAAC. Upon receiving an initial briefing about the content of a work module from WTD, the RWQC will determine its preferred level and timing of engagement on a given module's work products.

Step #1: WTD coordinates with the Chairs of RWQC and MWPAAC prior to the beginning of work for each work module to determine the appropriate level of detail that WTD will bring to RWQC and MWPAAC, and to establish a schedule for completion of the work module.

Step #2: WTD shares initial drafts of its work products with Working Group.

Step #3: Working Group meets regularly to collaborate with WTD to help shape and influence WTD's work products. Working Group members ensure elected members on RWQC and MWPAAC colleagues are kept apprised of the status of on-going work.

Step #4: MWPAAC reviews WTD's work products and provides input and feedback to WTD.

Step #5: WTD reports to RWQC on results of steps 2-4 for purposes of keeping RWQC members up to date on status of work product development and areas of concurrence or any concerns (report is a short-form memo authored by WTD. A Working Group member may choose to partner with WTD in drafting the memo).

Step #6: WTD refines its work products based on feedback from steps 4 and 5 in consultation with the Working Group.

WTD's work products at this step are still dynamic and adjustable going into Step #7.

Step #7: Based on RWQC's preferred level of engagement from step #1, RWQC may review and provide input and feedback on WTD's work products. At the discretion of the RWQC Chair and its members, RWQC members convey their input through Committee discussions and individual member comments or through a Resolution. WTD drafts an addendum to the memo from step

#5 capturing RWQC member comments and/or the Committee’s concurrence or areas of concern on issues or topic areas.

Step #8: WTD makes final refinements to its work products.

Step #9: WTD shares its final work products with RWQC and MWPAAC. For each work module WTD will provide a record if substantive MWPAAC and RWQC feedback was or was not included and why.

Steps 4 and 7 in this process may require more than one MWPAAC or RWQC meeting. This process is cyclical and will begin anew for each new topic-specific work module.

Built-in feedback loops are also important in the process for productive collaboration, and to ensure constructive input can be incorporated into work products. Following Steps 5 or 7, if WTD determines that additional partner feedback is warranted, then draft work will loop back to process step 3.

Sequencing the steps with appropriate time for MWPAAC and RWQC to review and discuss work products is important. WTD commits to provide all work products and meeting materials to the Working Group, MWPAAC, and RWQC no later than 1 week in advance of meetings. Given the frequency of the monthly meetings of these groups, it is difficult for WTD to provide meeting materials any sooner than 1 week in advance.

Equally important to sequencing and feedback loops is the need to have the process function to maintain the schedule so we can achieve our shared goals by the deadlines indicated in Section 4. It will facilitate the process and schedule when MWPAAC provides feedback to WTD no later than 5 business days following a meeting to enable smooth and timely flow of work product delivery to RWQC. For this process to be successful, all parties need to work together in good faith.

9. Commitments from MWPAAC Chair and WTD Director

The MWPAAC Chair and WTD Director support this Charter for the update to King County’s RWSP, and request our colleagues and staff abide by it as we work collectively through the multi-year process to update the RWSP. Furthermore, we request that all staff from WTD, MWPAAC members, and those who serve on the RWSP Working Group read and formally acknowledge this Charter and the responsibilities it requires so this document can serve as an on-going reminder about the expectations around collaboration, partnership, and process for those who participate on the RWSP Working Group.

MWPAAC Chair: John McClellan

King County WTD Director: Kamuron Guroi

Appendix A: Policy Areas & Planning Level Specifics

Information in this Appendix provides more detail about the planning framework and process associated with the major policy areas outlined in Section 6 of this Charter.

Policy Area 1: Categories of Capital Investment

The planning process will involve thorough technical analyses and evaluation of eight categories of capital investment. The analyses will provide the necessary information to effectively evaluate trade-offs to inform proposed policy changes. The following categories reflect the same general policy topics described in the RWSP Scoping document (supported by RWQC via Resolution RWQC2025-01) that are directly related to levels of capital investment. Policy Area 2 describes the work planned for policy topics addressed in the Scoping document that are not direct capital investment areas.

1. **Treatment:** Policies will consider level of treatment (i.e. removal of pollutants such as nutrients) and capacity demands (due to population growth). A range of options will be considered from regional plants to decentralized concepts.
2. **Asset Management:** Policies will consider level of risk for wastewater infrastructure failure in aging systems and approach for repair/replacement/refurbishment.
3. **Separated System Conveyance (including infiltration/inflow):** Policies will consider level of service for capacity within the separated wastewater conveyance system and concepts to manage capacity including reduction of I/I and use of automation.
4. **Combined System Management:** Policies will consider controlling CSO discharges and managing/reducing flow in the combined conveyance system (separation, green stormwater infrastructure).
5. **Climate Impact Preparedness and Natural Disaster Resiliency:** Policies will consider climate adaptation (precipitation/storm intensities, sea level rise, etc.); level of resiliency/redundancy to natural hazards (e.g. earthquakes).
6. **Pollution (Source Control and Legacy):** Policies will consider potential to limit harmful chemicals in consumer products and manufacturing before they enter wastewater. Policies will also consider legacy pollution/sediment management.
7. **Resource Recovery (Biosolids, Energy, Recycled Water):** Policies will consider recovery of resources from wastewater treatment process – biosolids, energy (including sewer heat recovery), recycled water.
8. **Odor Control:** Policies will consider prevention and control of nuisance odor occurrences at all treatment plants and associated conveyance facilities.

Each of these eight categories of capital investment will be analyzed and evaluated across a range of enhancement levels over a 30-year time horizon with respect to the three distinct conceptual approaches mentioned below. These three approaches represent a spectrum of investment and outcome possibilities for the region to consider managing its wastewater; they can be thought of as different pathways to get to different desired outcomes by the year 2060.

Three Conceptual Approaches:

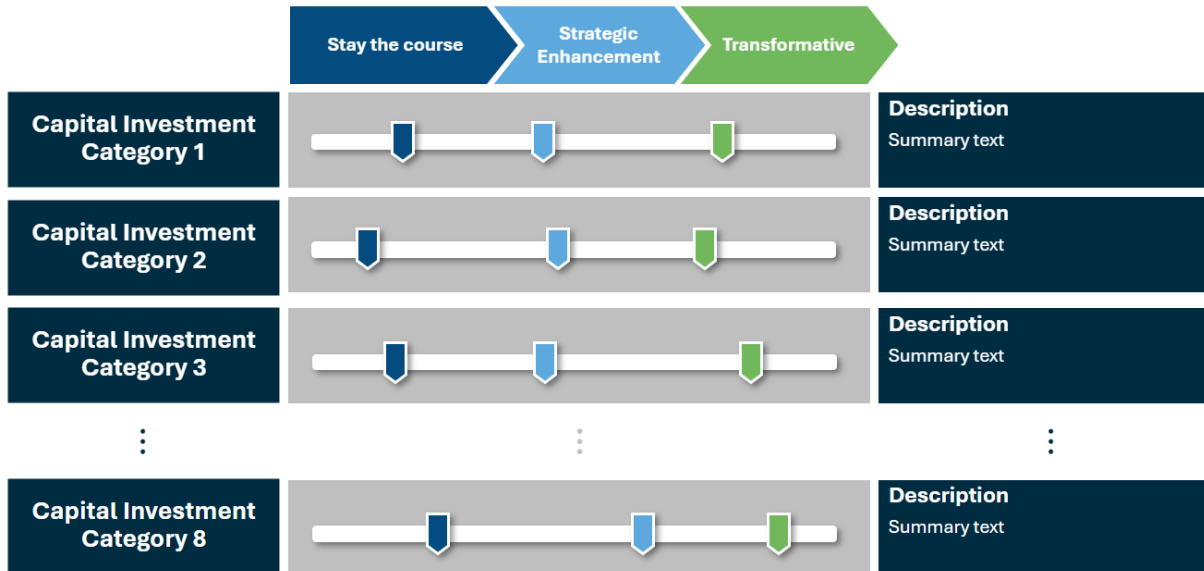
1. **Stay the Course:** Under this approach, WTD would provide fundamental services. WTD would implement operations and a capital program that focus on compliance for all applicable current and future regulations. WTD would use industry-accepted standard operating procedures and proven and reliable technologies. WTD would work to maintain a positive public image, cultivate an understanding of its operations and the value of its services with the community.
2. **Strategic Enhancements:** Under this approach, WTD would provide strategic enhancements to the operations and capital program beyond those provided in the Stay the Course approach. The strategic enhancements will focus on continual improvement and optimizing its services as central to mission success. WTD would actively engage with its community to ensure responsiveness to community needs and interests. WTD would have explicit performance improvement objectives and service levels and would actively seek to ensure its operations support the community's economic and social well-being. WTD would seek to create co benefits with partners when it is cost effective and feasible. WTD would adopt sustainability as a core business principle and appropriately utilize natural systems, like green infrastructure, in addition to other nonconventional technologies (e.g. decentralized approaches) and practices. WTD would enhance use of processes for recovery of energy, solids, and materials.
3. **Transformative:** Under this approach, WTD would transform from where it is today to a more innovative, future-focused utility. As a leader in the industry, WTD would employ practices that focus on managing wastewater as a valuable commodity. This approach would incorporate an efficient reclamation mindset and focus on producing usable products instead of treatment and discharge. WTD would focus on enhanced resiliency and act as a leader in treatment technology, pollution prevention, energy production and recycling by working with other utility and industry partners to promote beneficial resources from wastewater to benefit agriculture, industry and ecosystems. WTD would foster and invest in a culture of innovation, collaborative development, and active engagement with its employees.

Within each approach, varying levels of enhancements across each of the eight categories of capital investment will be described, identified, and then evaluated with planning level cost estimations. When choosing levels of capital enhancement for evaluation we will use the process outlined in Section 8. The level of enhancement for each category can be thought of as a dial that can be increased or decreased across a range based on the desired outcome for a particular approach. The low level of enhancement across the range is associated with the "Stay the Course" Approach, while the high level of enhancement across the range is associated with the "Transformative" Approach. This range of capital enhancements across the approaches is illustrated in Diagram 1 below. For the "Strategic Enhancement" Approach there will likely be a range of options within each category of capital investment which may require additional evaluation.

These plan approaches are not ordered according to increasing costs. Cost estimation of each approach's varying levels of investment will consider life cycle costs, the effect of delayed investment on future costs due to inflation, as well as potential financial benefits that may accrue from proactive

investment. As such, it is difficult to predict cost levels of one approach relative to another at this point in the planning process.

Diagram 1. Example Three Conceptual Approaches with Categories of Capital Investment

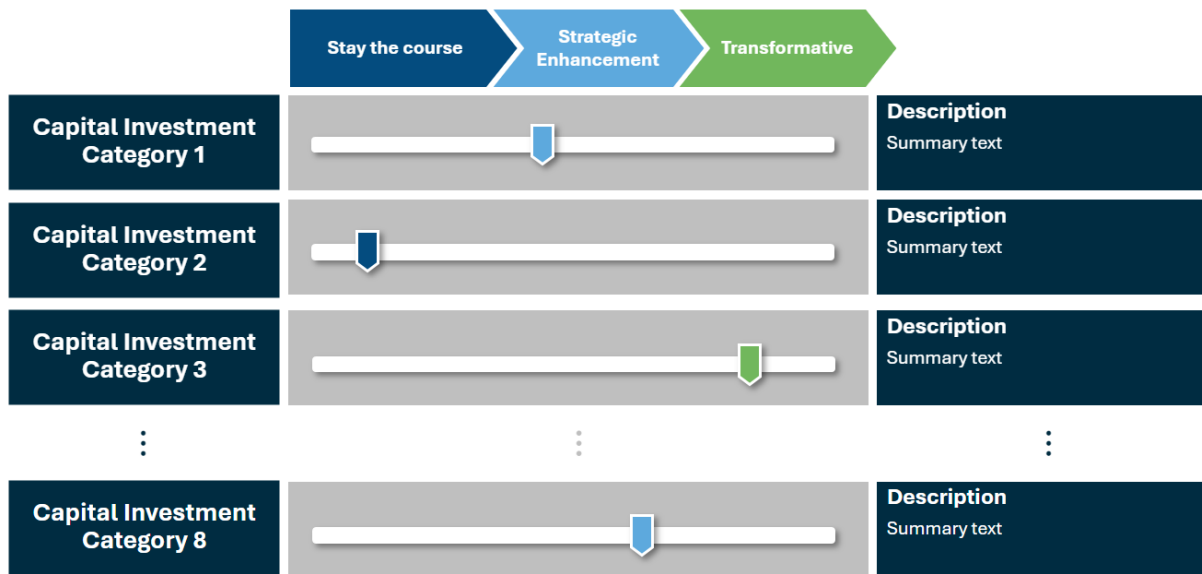


The planning process will include the development and application of criteria to compare the approaches and discuss tradeoffs to ultimately recommend a final proposal. Criteria may include, but not limited to, environmental sustainability, reliability, Equity and Social Justice, impacts to rate payers, and risk of compliance. The RWSP Working Group will provide guidance to MWPAAC, who will weigh in on the development of the criteria.

The Washington State Environmental Protection Act (SEPA) requires the County to complete a checklist and either an environmental impact statement (EIS), a Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) or a Mitigated Determination of Non-Significance (MDNS) for the updated RWSP. The process will require the issuance of a draft EIS or a draft DNS or MDNS to precede the issuance of a final EIS, DNS or MDNS.

Using outputs received from the SEPA process, and feedback received from RWQC and MWPAAC during the planning process, a final Proposal will be selected. The final Proposal may be a hybrid of the three approaches as illustrated in Diagram 2 below.

Diagram 2. Example of Final Proposal



Policy Area 2: Non-Capital Related Topics

Policy Area 2 includes the topics in the Scoping document supported by RWQC via Resolution RWQC2025-01 that are not direct capital investment areas. Planned work for each of these topic areas, and how each will support the RWSP update, is described.

Financial Policies

Technical analyses 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 rate structure and rate equity (including the capacity charge), capital financing and debt management, and financial planning and revenue sufficiency.⁵ The analysis will also study peer utility agency financial policy structures and evaluating them within a WTD specific context.

Financial policies analyses and engagement will be separated into two phases, with phase 1 occurring earlier in the planning process because they provide the framework for future revenue requirements under each RWSP conceptual approach. These financial policies include capital financing and debt management, and financial planning and revenue sufficiency. Phase 2 will include the financial policies that fall in the category of rate structure and rate equity. These financial policies are revenue neutral for

⁵ 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.”

WTD and determine the allocation of costs to different classes of customers, so they are not constrained by timing of the revenue requirements and can be evaluated later in the process along with other RWSP policies. Rate structure and rate equity policies include things like sizing the Residential Customer Equivalent (RCE at 750 cubic feet per month) and whether to maintain a single uniform sewer rate per RCE or consider alternative cost recovery rate structures (Robinswood “all for one and one for all”).

The customer affordability analysis will be conducted primarily through two lenses:⁶

1. As a tool to compare the rate impacts of the different RWSP conceptual approaches and assess relative impact to any household.
2. Relief strategies for low-income households who are most likely to struggle to pay essential living expenses.

WTD will apply an approach that is consistent with industry recommendations and the acknowledgement that customer affordability must be evaluated in a local context. This will center on a suite of WTD service area-tailored metrics that:

- Gauge the household burden of the different RWSP approaches’ financial outcomes.
- Can be calculated at the census tract/local agency level, e.g. bill as % of median income, bill as % of poverty income – locally adjusted, hours worked at local minimum wage bill equivalent.

Equity and Social Justice: The work to update the RWSP will integrate and address issues around equity and social justice as described in the Scoping document; these issues include, but are not limited to, WTD’s role in safeguarding public health, especially for underserved communities; distributional equity; and other specific actions WTD can take to increase equity and social justice for the regional wastewater system.

Relation to contracts: The work to update the RWSP will address and ensure agency contracts are aligned with major RWSP policy updates.

Regular Future Reporting: The work to update the RWSP will evaluate the most effective ways for WTD to provide routine future reporting to MWPAAC and RWQC under the updated RWSP.

⁶ “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).

Appendix B: Schedule and Milestones

A high-level schedule to update the RWSP with the major milestones is shown in Table 1. The Deliverables are in reverse chronological order to emphasize the importance of maintaining schedule in 2025 and 2026. This schedule is approximate and subject to revision without amending this Charter.

Table 1. Schedule and Major Milestones ⁷ (dates are estimates and subject to change)

	Deliverable / Milestone	Target Year	Responsible Party / Involved Party
20	King County transmits Final Plan to WA Dept. Ecology for approval	2029	ECY
19	Anticipated King County Council adoption of Final RWSP and new policies	2029	KC Council
18	Anticipated King County Council referral of RWSP and new policies to RWQC	2029	RWQC
17	Anticipated King County Executive transmittal of RWSP and new policies to the King County Council	Q2 2029	KC Executive
16	WTD finalizes new RWSP policy proposals	2029	WTD/MWPAAC/RWQC
15	Final Proposed Plan developed with draft new RWSP Policies and Phase 2 Financial Policies	2028	WTD/MWPAAC/RWQC
14	Final Proposal Selected	2028	KC Executive / WTD
13	If needed, produce EIS Analysis of 3 Conceptual Approaches	2027	WTD
12	Draft RWSP with 3 Conceptual Approaches	2027	WTD/MWPAAC/RWQC
11	Final planning level cost analyses for each of the 3 Conceptual Approaches	2027	WTD/MWPAAC/RWQC
10	Anticipated King County Council adoption of Phase 1 Financial Policies	2026/27	KC Council
9	Anticipated referral of Phase 1 Financial Policies to RWQC	2026	RWQC
8	Financial Policies finalized and transmitted to King County Council	2026	WTD
7	SEPA Threshold Determination of Significance or Non-Significance	Q3-Q4 2026	WTD
6	Planning level project cost analyses of enhancement levels across the 8 categories of capital investment for the 3 approaches	Q1-Q4 2026	WTD/MWPAAC/RWQC
5	Draft Phase 1 Financial Policies	2026	WTD/MWPAAC/RWQC
4	Analysis of enhancement levels across each of the 8 categories of capital investment for each of the 3 approaches; agreement on enhancement levels for step 6	Q4 2025/ Q1 2026	WTD/MWPAAC/RWQC
3	Feedback and refinement of the 8 categories of capital investment for the 3 Conceptual Approaches	Q3-Q4 2025	WTD/MWPAAC/RWQC

⁷ Engagement with the Sound Cities Association for briefings and discussions on substantive topics can occur through coordination with WTD and RWQC member staff.

2	Develop descriptions for 3 Conceptual Approaches and their associated categories of capital investment	Q1-Q2 2025	WTD
1	Vision for Clean Water engagement and announcement	Q4 2024-Q4 2025	WTD / KC Executive

Appendix C: Vision for Clean Water

WTD is developing and recommending a set of Vision for Clean Water options to the King County Executive. The process will engage MWPAAC, RWQC, component agencies, community groups, and other regional audiences to develop a long-term vision for future wastewater services, as well as identify high-level goals to achieve that vision, both of which will be included in the final RWSP update. The vision will be consistent with WTD's mission to protect public health and the environment by collecting and cleaning wastewater while recovering valuable resources for a healthy and resilient Puget Sound,

WTD will solicit input and feedback from other interested and affected parties to develop the Vision for Clean Water options for the Executive, an updated plan and policies; this includes revisiting and re-engaging with individuals and groups who previously contributed to the Clean Water Plan, as well as reaching new interested parties. WTD will regularly solicit community feedback and integrate it into work products and decision-making. Community feedback will be shared with MWPAAC and RWQC. The process will work to ensure that voices are heard and report back how input is considered and used.

REDLINE VERSION SHOWING CHANGES SINCE 1-16-25**RWSP Update Charter**

This Charter is similar to a Memorandum of Understanding, [and is an agreement](#) representing the shared goals, roles and responsibilities, and agreed-upon process for the Regional Wastewater Services Plan update. [It describes the intent of the parties,](#) -but does not create any legally binding obligations.

1. Background

The Regional Wastewater Services Plan (RWSP) is King County's comprehensive plan for wastewater. RWSP policies provide direction for the operation and further development of the wastewater system, its capital improvement program and, as necessary, the development of subsequent policies. RWSP policies are set forth in King County Code Chapters 28.84 and 28.86.

Adopted in 1999, the current RWSP is a supplement to the original Comprehensive Water Pollution Abatement Plan adopted in 1959, and includes additional components for Combined Sewer Overflows, Conveyance System Improvement, Infiltration/Inflow, and others. The RWSP and its related components form King County's General Sewer Plan, which was approved by the Department of Ecology in 1999.

It is time to update the RWSP to guide future investments and actions. The current RWSP was intended to guide the management of the system through 2030, and conditions have dramatically changed since its adoption. Some of the changing conditions that are driving the need to update the RWSP include:

- a. increasing capacity demands from a growing population,
- b. aging infrastructure requiring substantial amounts of maintenance, refurbishment, and replacement,
- c. recent and anticipated new regulations to protect water quality,
- d. [customer rate](#) affordability especially for lower-income households, and
- e. changing climate patterns which will stress our current system in multiple ways.

These challenges present opportunities for us to make our wastewater system better serve our region to ensure economic prosperity and sustain our environment through the end of the 21st century. Updating the RWSP will provide us these opportunities. Furthermore, an update to the RWSP will support the renegotiation and extension of local agency wastewater contracts, many of which expire in 2036, and it will help make the case for additional state and federal funding and meet the requirements for a General Sewer Plan update for approval by the Department of Ecology.

2. Charter Purpose

This Charter is intended to guide the multi-year process to update the RWSP. It establishes a framework for collaboration, partnership, and process between the King County Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD, [a division within the County Executive branch](#)) and the Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee (MWPAAC) to develop work products for consideration by the Regional Water

Quality Committee (RWQC) and ultimately by the King County Council. It establishes shared goals, values, and principles; it sets clear and transparent roles and responsibilities, including decision-making responsibilities. The Charter ~~;~~ it outlines a process with opportunities for MWPAAC and RWQC to shape and influence outcomes; and it provides a high-level road map with major work areas, schedule, and milestones for the RWSP update.

WTD and MWPAAC (hereafter referred to as “we”, “us”, or “Parties”) have distinct roles in the effort to update the RWSP. WTD’s and MWPAAC’s agreement to this Charter ensures we are partners in this effort and committed to work in good faith to effectively coordinate and carry out the steps in the planning process to deliver work products to the RWQC and achieve our shared goals.

3. Shared Goals

Our shared goals are:

- a. Develop a draft update to the RWSP by 2027, through thorough analysis, collaboration, and engagement across contract agencies, and
- b. Executive recommends to the King County Council a Final RWSP Update ~~in~~ by mid 2029 (i.e. no later than end of 2nd Quarter) that reflects regional values and regional priorities, and
- c. Anticipated King County Council adoption of the Final RWSP Update by end of ~~in~~ 2029, and that the updated RWSP will serve as a long-range plan to guide decision making through 2060.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

It is important to clearly define roles, responsibilities and expectations, including decision-making responsibilities and authority. Roles and responsibilities include, but are not limited to the following:

- a. The King County Executive will oversee the work of WTD and propose the update to the RWSP and its policies to the King County Council. In addition, the King County Executive will establish the Vision for Clean Water for 2100, to help guide, but not constrain, the 30-year implementation of the new RWSP.
- b. The King County Council may adopt the updated RWSP and its policies as proposed by the County Executive or with amendments.
- c. RWQC is a regional committee in the Legislative branch of County government with the role and responsibility to develop, propose, review, and recommend countywide policies and plans addressing water quality to the King County Council.¹ In this capacity, the RWQC may wish to influence the development phase of the RWSP update and its policies as described in paragraph I below. Following the King County Executive’s transmittal of a proposed ordinance to update

¹ K.C.C. 1.24.065.K3

the RWSP with new or amended policies, the RWQC may exercise its role and responsibility as described in paragraph II below.

- I. During the development phase of the RWSP update, the RWQC may review and provide input and feedback on WTD work products, including the initial set of Vision for Clean Water options, and WTD’s proposed new and amended policies. At the discretion of the RWQC Chair and its members, RWQC members may convey their input on issues or topics and whether they concur with WTD or have specific areas of concern on the direction or substance of WTD’s work through Committee discussions, individual member comments, or through a Resolution. RWQC’s input will be documented and reported as an addendum to the joint WTD/Working Group memo outlined in Step #5 in Section 8 on Information and Work Product Flow.
 - II. Following transmittal of the County Executive’s proposed RWSP ordinance to County Council, King County Code requires the ordinance to be automatically referred to RWQC for its review and recommendations through the “mandatory referral” process as outlined in the King County Charter for all countywide water quality comprehensive and long-range capital improvement plans.² In accordance with the King County Charter, if the King County Council subsequently makes changes to the RWSP after RWQC has reviewed, the RWSP will be sent back to RWQC for additional consideration.
- d. MWPAAC is an advisory body to the County Council and Executive on matters related to the wastewater treatment system. MWPAAC and its associated Engineering and Planning (E&P) and Rates and Finance (R&F) Subcommittees roles and responsibilities in the RWSP update are to:
- I. Review technical analyses and provide feedback on WTD work products ~~and~~ proposals, ~~and initial set of Vision for Clean Water options,~~
 - II. Contribute to discussions and help shape and influence WTD’s work products,
 - III. Constructively influence new and revised policy language proposed by WTD,
 - IV. Report out their recommendations to RWQC and/or the King County Council and Executive.
- e. The RWSP Working Group is a newly created forum for MWPAAC, RWQC member staff, and Sound Cities Association staff to collaborate with WTD’s RWSP project team through development and successful adoption of an updated RWSP. The Working Group’s composition ~~should~~will not exceed a total of ten non-WTD members, with representation from MWPAAC and RWQC members’ staff, and with representation from cities and ~~water-sewer~~ districts. Non-WTD members will be ~~selected~~agreed upon by the Chair of MWPAAC, ~~in consultation with~~ and the WTD Director. Membership to the Working Group is not fixed for the duration of the RWSP

² K.C.C. 1.24.065.K3

update; members will rotate on/off based on expertise and interest in topic and their availability. To increase institutional memory and smooth the process of rotational membership, the Chair of MWPAAC, in consultation with the WTD Director, may invite past and future Working Group members to observe Working Group meetings.

The Working Group's roles and responsibilities are to:

- I. Influence and help shape WTD work products and RWSP outcomes.³
 - II. Play a regular role in the feedback loops built into the information and work product flow; this will involve providing inputs to help WTD refine and revise work products based on comments heard in the planning process.
 - III. Ensure elected members on RWQC and MWPAAC colleagues are kept apprised of the status of on-going work. by co-presenting and co-authoring memos with WTD as needed.
 - IV. Establish a clear channel of communication between WTD, MWPAAC and RWQC member staff that is dedicated to the RWSP update.
 - Alongside WTD, Working Group members have the option to report out at MWPAAC and RWQC meetings to update on progress and highlight areas of concurrence and any concerns.
 - Alongside WTD, Working Group members have the option to co-author a short-form memo that reports to RWQC an update on progress made by the Working Group, and areas of concurrence and any concerns conveyed by the Working Group or MWPAAC, as described in Step #5 of the information and work product flow in Section 8.
- f. The King County WTD is an Executive branch agency with the role and responsibility to develop and deliver an updated RWSP through the Department of Natural Resources and Parks to the County Executive. WTD's roles and responsibilities in the RWSP update are:
- I. Develop and recommend options for a Vision for Clean Water to the King County Executive. The process for the development of the Vision for Clean Water is described further in Appendix C since it is on a separate path than the process for future RWSP update work products. ~~The process will engage MWPAAC, RWQC, component agencies, community groups, and other regional audiences to develop a long term vision for future wastewater services, as well as identify high level goals to achieve that vision, both of which will be included in the final RWSP update. The vision will be consistent with WTD's mission to protect public health and the environment by collecting and cleaning wastewater while recovering valuable resources for a healthy and resilient Puget Sound,~~
 - II. Lead the RWSP update planning effort and develop an updated RWSP in alignment with the vision and high-level goals for decision and adoption by the King County Executive and Council,

³ The term "influence", as used in this Charter, refers to the Working Group and MWPAAC members influencing WTD's work products; it does not include influencing elected decision makers.

- III. Produce all work products associated with the planning process, including the development, evaluation and selection of new and revised RWSP policies, and provide briefings to RWQC and MWPAAC.
- IV. Collaborate with MWPAAC and its subcommittees, RWQC and the RWSP Working Group to produce and refine work products and develop new and revised policies that have been reviewed and influenced by input from MWPAAC and RWQC in a manner consistent with goals, values, and principles in this charter.
- V. Objectively convey MWPAAC feedback when presenting to RWQC. WTD will ~~co-author,~~ alongside a Working Group member, a short-form memo that reports to RWQC to update the Committee on progress made by the Working Group, and areas of concurrence or any concerns conveyed by the Working Group or MWPAAC, as described in Step #5 of the information and work product flow in Section 8. A Working Group member may choose to co-author this memo alongside WTD. WTD will provide an addendum to this memo following RWQC meetings that reflect RWQC’s input on issues or topic areas.

~~VI.I. Solicit input and feedback from other interested and affected parties to develop the Vision for Clean Water options for the Executive, an updated plan and policies, this includes revisiting and re-engaging with individuals and groups who previously contributed to the Clean Water Plan, as well as reaching new interested parties. WTD will regularly solicit community feedback and integrate it into work products and decision-making. Community feedback will be shared with MWPAAC and RWQC. The process will work to ensure that voices are heard and report back how input is considered and used.~~

VII.VI. Protect and promote equity and social justice in the RWSP update. In 2010, King County Council adopted Ordinance 16948, requiring the principles of equity and social justice to be included in all strategic planning, comprehensive planning, and policy decisions at King County. These principles are outlined in the King County Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan and will be reflected in the updated plan.

VIII.VII. Engage diverse voices and foster inclusive participation to ensure community members have equitable opportunities to contribute to and inform the RWSP planning process. WTD will actively reach out to underrepresented groups and historically underserved communities and consider their needs and perspectives when creating the plan. Engagement will be guided by King County’s Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan.⁴

⁴ King County’s Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan was unanimously adopted by the King County Council. It can be found at the following URL: <https://aqua.kingcounty.gov/dnrp/library/dnrp-directors-office/equity-social-justice/201609-ESJ-SP-ACK-EX-SUM.pdf>

~~IX.VIII.~~ Develop and share information and analyses to promote shared understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing the regional wastewater system in the coming decades by providing historical context and data about volumes and rates and the rationale behind the current system. WTD will develop a range of possible future directions to address these challenges and opportunities and will create projections of capital costs and rates to inform cost/benefit analyses and decision making associated with these range of options.

~~IX.~~ Affirm that King County will commit to meet all current and anticipated future legal and regulatory obligations associated with the RWSP update. WTD will focus on wastewater system services, issues and policies and coordinate with, but not assume responsibility for, other water quality-related planning efforts (e.g., stormwater, water supply).

5. Shared Values and Guiding Principles

To succeed, we agree on the following shared values and associated action-oriented guiding principles. Together they will guide our work to update the RWSP.

Shared Values

The following are the four shared values for our collective work on the RWSP update; they will guide how we engage one another, how we share information, how we resolve conflict, and they will help us build a foundation of trust and mutual understanding.

- a. Collaboration
- b. Partnership
- c. Regionalism
- d. Innovative Thinking

Guiding Principles

The following principles are action-oriented expressions and mutual commitments of our shared values; they are our norms, our code of conduct and the guideposts for our process of working together to update the RWSP.

Collaboration:

- I. WTD will provide transparency and specific timelines in the planning process, including in all assumptions, in work product creation, information flow, and decision-making. WTD will share knowledge and information with sufficient time for meaningful review and avoid opaque processes where internal functions are unknown or not shared.
- II. WTD will build-in appropriate time for review, discussion, input, revisions, and engagement with the Working Group, MWPAAC and RWQC.

- III. WTD will build-in clear feedback loops to the information and work product flow prior to decision making.
- IV. MWPAAC and WTD will offer constructive feedback and will work together in good faith. WTD will strive to integrate feedback from MWPAAC and RWQC into its work products and communicate clearly if it does not, and the reasons why.

Partnership:

- I. WTD will respect all input from component agencies and will seek to understand the meaning and intent behind MWPAAC and RWQC’s opinions and perspectives. WTD will establish a planning process that meaningfully considers the input, ideas and feedback heard from MWPAAC and RWQC. MWPAAC has value to add in policy discussions in addition to its role as technical advisor. As such, WTD’s planning process will give MWPAAC opportunities to constructively influence policy discussions. WTD will honor the process and schedule outlined in this Charter.
- II. WTD will respect all input from planning stakeholders outside of MWPAAC and RWQC and will meaningfully consider input, ideas, and feedback heard from them.
- III. MWPAAC will seek to understand the meaning and intent behind WTD’s opinions and perspectives. MWPAAC will recognize the process and schedule outlined in this Charter and will help to prioritize discussions to convey their input on issues or topics.
- IV. WTD is intentionally creating a collaborative planning process that shifts MWPAAC’s role from advisor and commentor of WTD’s work products to a partner and participant to influence and shape WTD’s work products and RWSP outcomes. In the spirit of partnership MWPAAC will strive to support WTD’s efforts and the planning process outcomes when possible; and when support is not possible, MWPAAC will constructively frame feedback to WTD and RWQC.

Regionalism:

- I. WTD acknowledges its responsibility to convene conversations and facilitate regional solutions.
- II. The Parties commit to understand the challenges and opportunities facing the regional wastewater system in the coming decades and the planning process will result in a plan that is responsive and adaptive to them.
- III. The Parties will apply the lens of “Regionalism” to our discussions and deliberations. This means applying a ‘systems thinking’ approach wherein we all understand each component agency is a part of a ‘whole’, and each will bring local perspectives and needs to the table, while recognizing the interrelationship and interdependencies of their local system to the whole regional system.
- IV. The Parties will objectively evaluate tradeoffs and investment sequencing to ensure a resilient and sustainable wastewater system that protects our environment while balancing near-term and long-term impact to rate payers.

Innovative Thinking:

The Parties will employ innovative thinking to generate new ideas and cost-effective solutions to the 21st century challenges facing our wastewater system. This means we will approach problems and ideas with an open mind; we will be open to generate ideas that may diverge from the status quo; we will be flexible and adapt to change to find new ways to approach problems; and we will identify and question assumptions that may limit creative possibilities.

6. RWSP Policy Areas

The update to the RWSP is intended to span a 30-year time horizon (2030 – 2060), with planned future incremental smaller-in-scope updates every 10 years to adjust and adapt to changing conditions as needed in between major 30-year updates to the Plan.

WTD has or is developing eleven ~~topic-specific Functional Plans listed below. that will align with and integrate into the broader and comprehensive RWSP.~~ These Plans will be reviewed and, if necessary, modified based on direction coming out of the RWSP planning process in order to align with and integrate into the broader and comprehensive updated RWSP. These ten Functional Plans are listed below:

WTD's Functional Plans:

1. Biosolids Strategic Plan
2. Climate Adaptation Plan
3. Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Long-Term Control Plan
4. Conveyance System Improvement Plan
5. Energy Plan
6. Infiltration and Inflow Plan
7. Recycled Water Strategic Plan
8. Sediment Management Plan
9. Strategic Asset Management Plan
10. Treatment Plan
- ~~10-11.~~ Seismic Resiliency Plan

The major policy areas that will be included in this 30-year update to the RWSP are described in the RWSP Scoping Document supported by RWQC via Resolution ~~XX~~ RWQC2025-01. This Charter organizes these same major policy areas into two general topic areas for planning purposes – Policy Area 1: Categories of Capital Investment, and Policy Area 2: Non-Capital Related topics.

A high-level overview of these two policy areas is described below; more information about the planning level framework and details about these two policy areas can be found in Appendix A.

Policy Area 1: Categories of Capital Investment

The RWSP planning process will involve thorough technical analyses and evaluation of eight categories of capital investment:

1. Treatment
2. Asset Management
3. Separated System Conveyance (including infiltration/inflow)
4. Combined System Management
5. Climate Impact Preparedness and Natural Disaster Resiliency
6. Pollution (Source Control and Legacy)
7. Resource Recovery (Biosolids, Energy, Recycled Water)
8. Odor Control

Each of these eight categories of capital investment will be analyzed and evaluated across a range of enhancement levels over a 30-year time horizon with respect to three distinct conceptual Approaches.

Three Conceptual Approaches:

1. Stay the Course Approach
2. Strategic Enhancements Approach
3. Transformative Approach

These three Approaches represent a spectrum of investment and outcome possibilities for the region to consider managing its wastewater; they can be thought of as different pathways to get to different desired outcomes by the year 2060. Analyses of capital investment levels for each of the three Approaches will provide the necessary information to effectively evaluate trade-offs to inform proposed policy changes.

Using outputs received from a SEPA process, and feedback received from RWQC and MWPAAC during the planning process, a final Proposal will be selected from the three Approaches. The final Proposal may be a hybrid of the three Approaches.

Policy Area 2: Non-Capital Related Topics

Policy Area 2 includes topics in the RWSP Scoping document that are not direct capital investment areas. These topics include, but are not limited to, the list shown below. These policy topics will be integrated into the RWSP update and applied across each of the three Conceptual Approaches.

1. Financial Policies
2. [Customer](#) Affordability
3. Equity and Social Justice
4. Relation to Contracts
5. Regular Future Reporting

7. High-level Schedule and Major Milestones

Development and descriptions of the three conceptual approaches, with their associated levels of enhancement across the eight categories of capital investment, is planned to begin in Q2 2025 and carry through 2026. Financial policies analyses and engagement will ~~begin~~ in [early 2026](#) and will be

separated into two phases as described in Appendix A. An updated draft RWSP with the three Approaches is planned in 2027 accompanied by a SEPA analysis. Following completion of the SEPA process a final Proposal is planned to be selected in 2028, followed by development of proposed new RWSP policies. It is anticipated that the King County Executive will transmit a final RWSP Update to the King County Council no later than the second Quarter of 2029 for ~~subsequent~~anticipated Council adoption in 2029. Following Council adoption, the final RWSP Update will be submitted to the WA Department of Ecology for approval ~~in 2029~~.

A high-level schedule to update the RWSP with the major milestones is shown in Table 1 in Appendix B. Further detail about topic specific deliverables and dates is forthcoming as WTD moves further into the RWSP Update planning process.

8. Information and Work Product Flow

This Charter establishes a process to allow space where we can find synergies and co-benefits by working together to plan for our future wastewater investments. The steps below outline a process for the flow of information and work products between WTD, the Working Group, MWPAAC, and RWQC to ensure productive, constructive, and efficient collaboration.

Sequencing Steps & Feedback Loops

WTD will bundle work products by topic into modules to facilitate the workflow process. Given monthly meeting schedules, it will take 3-5 months to move a module of work products through the sequence steps and feedback loops outlined below. These steps will be repeated for each topic-specific module needed to develop the RWSP Update.

WTD has the responsibility to bring its work products to the RWSP Working Group and MWPAAC. Upon receiving an initial briefing about the content of a work module from WTD, the RWQC will determine its preferred level and timing of engagement on a given module's work products.

Step #1: WTD coordinates with the Chairs of RWQC and MWPAAC prior to the beginning of work for each work module to determine the appropriate level of detail that WTD will bring to RWQC and MWPAAC, and to establish a schedule for completion of the work module.

Step #2: WTD shares initial drafts of its work products with Working Group.

Step #3: Working Group meets regularly to collaborate with WTD to help shape and influence WTD's work products. Working Group members ensure elected members on RWQC and MWPAAC colleagues are kept apprised of the status of on-going work ~~by co-presenting and co-authoring memos with WTD as needed.~~

Step #4: MWPAAC reviews WTD's work products and provides input and feedback to WTD.

Step #5: WTD ~~and the Working Group~~ reports to RWQC on results of steps 2-4 for purposes of keeping RWQC members up to date on status of work product development and areas of concurrence or any concerns (report is a ~~co-authored~~ short-form memo authored by WTD. A Working Group member may choose to partner with WTD in drafting the memo).

Step #6: WTD refines its work products based on feedback from steps 4 and 5 in consultation with the Working Group.

WTD's work products at this step are still dynamic and adjustable going into Step #7.

Step #7: Based on RWQC's preferred level of engagement from step #1, RWQC may review and provide input and feedback on WTD's work products. At the discretion of the RWQC Chair and its members, RWQC members convey their input through Committee discussions and individual member comments or through a Resolution. WTD/~~Working Group~~ drafts an addendum to the memo from step #5 capturing RWQC member comments and/or the Committee's concurrence or areas of concern on issues or topic areas.

Step #8: WTD makes final refinements to its work products.

Step #9: WTD shares its final work products with RWQC and MWPAAC. For each work module WTD will provide a record if substantive MWPAAC and RWQC feedback was or was not included and why.

Steps 4 and 7 in this process may require more than one MWPAAC or RWQC meeting. This process is cyclical and will begin anew for each new topic-specific work module.

Built-in feedback loops are also important in the process for productive collaboration, and to ensure constructive input can be incorporated into work products. Following Steps 5 or 7, if WTD determines that additional partner feedback is warranted, then draft work will loop back to process step 3.

Sequencing the steps with appropriate time for MWPAAC and RWQC to review and discuss work products is important. WTD commits to provide all work products and meeting materials to the Working Group, MWPAAC, and RWQC no later than 1 week in advance of meetings. Given the frequency of the monthly meetings of these groups, it is difficult for WTD to provide meeting materials any sooner than 1 week in advance.

Equally important to sequencing and feedback loops is the need to have the process function to maintain the schedule so we can achieve our shared goals by the deadlines indicated in Section 4. It will facilitate the process and schedule when MWPAAC provides feedback to WTD no later than 5 business days following a meeting to enable smooth and timely flow of work product delivery to RWQC. For this process to be successful, all parties need to work together in good faith.

9. Commitments from MWPAAC Chair and WTD Director

The MWPAAC Chair and WTD Director support this Charter for the update to King County's RWSP, and request our colleagues and staff abide by it as we work collectively through the multi-year process to update the RWSP. Furthermore, we request that all staff from WTD, MWPAAC members, and those who serve on the RWSP Working Group read and formally acknowledge this Charter and the responsibilities it requires so this document can serve as an on-going reminder about the expectations around collaboration, partnership, and process for those who participate on the RWSP Working Group.

MWPAAC Chair: John McClellan

King County WTD Director: Kamuron Guroi

Appendix A: Policy Areas & Planning Level Specifics

Information in this Appendix provides more detail about the planning framework and process associated with the major policy areas outlined in Section 6 of this Charter.

Policy Area 1: Categories of Capital Investment

The planning process will involve thorough technical analyses and evaluation of eight categories of capital investment. The analyses will provide the necessary information to effectively evaluate trade-offs to inform proposed policy changes. The following categories reflect the same general policy topics described in the RWSP Scoping document (supported by RWQC via Resolution ~~XX~~[RWQC2025-01](#)) that are directly related to levels of capital investment. Policy Area 2 describes the work planned for policy topics addressed in the Scoping document that are not direct capital investment areas.

1. **Treatment:** Policies will consider level of treatment (i.e. removal of pollutants such as nutrients) and capacity demands (due to population growth). A range of options will be considered from regional plants to decentralized concepts.
2. **Asset Management:** Policies will consider level of risk for wastewater infrastructure failure in aging systems and approach for repair/replacement/refurbishment.
3. **Separated System Conveyance (including infiltration/inflow):** Policies will consider level of service for capacity within the separated wastewater conveyance system and concepts to manage capacity including reduction of I/I and use of automation.
4. **Combined System Management:** Policies will consider controlling CSO discharges and managing/reducing flow in the combined conveyance system (separation, green stormwater infrastructure).
5. **Climate Impact Preparedness and Natural Disaster Resiliency:** Policies will consider climate adaptation (precipitation/storm intensities, sea level rise, etc.); level of resiliency/redundancy to natural hazards (e.g. earthquakes).
6. **Pollution (Source Control and Legacy):** Policies will consider potential to limit harmful chemicals in consumer products and manufacturing before they enter wastewater. Policies will also consider legacy pollution/sediment management.
7. **Resource Recovery (Biosolids, Energy, Recycled Water):** Policies will consider recovery of resources from wastewater treatment process – biosolids, energy (including sewer heat recovery), recycled water.
8. **Odor Control:** Policies will consider prevention and control of nuisance odor occurrences at all treatment plants and associated conveyance facilities.

Each of these eight categories of capital investment will be analyzed and evaluated across a range of enhancement levels over a 30-year time horizon with respect to the three distinct conceptual approaches mentioned below. These three approaches represent a spectrum of investment and outcome possibilities for the region to consider managing its wastewater; they can be thought of as different pathways to get to different desired outcomes by the year 2060.

Three Conceptual Approaches:

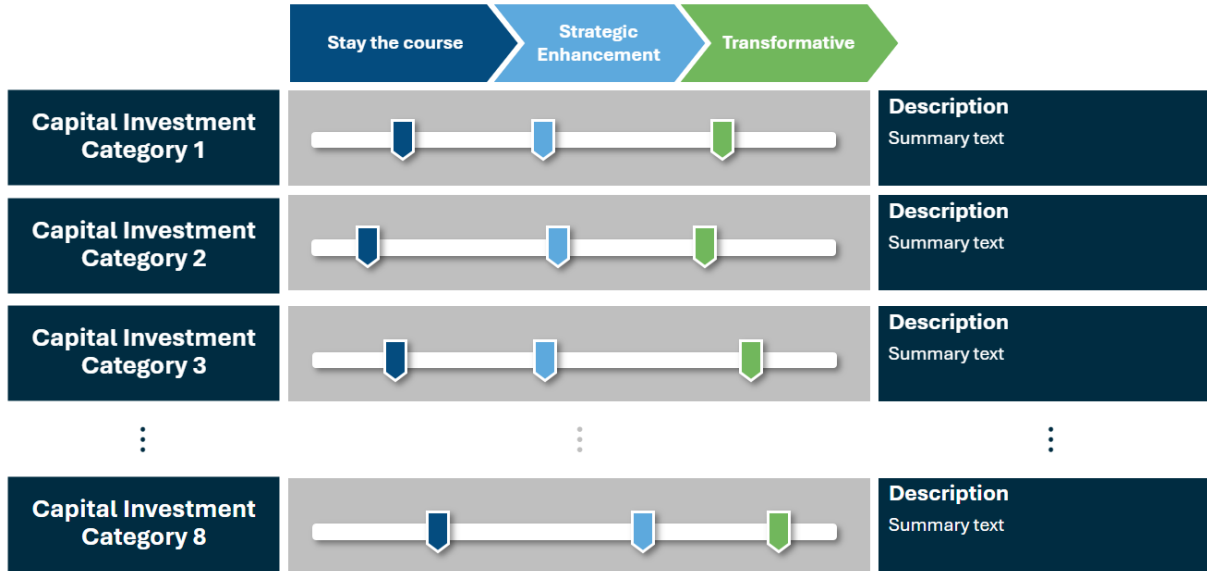
1. **Stay the Course:** Under this approach, WTD would provide fundamental services. WTD would implement operations and a capital program that focus on compliance for all applicable current and future regulations. WTD would use industry-accepted standard operating procedures and proven and reliable technologies. WTD would work to maintain a positive public image, cultivate an understanding of its operations and the value of its services with the community.
2. **Strategic Enhancements:** Under this approach, WTD would provide strategic enhancements to the operations and capital program beyond those provided in the Stay the Course approach. The strategic enhancements will focus on continual improvement and optimizing its services as central to mission success. WTD would actively engage with its community to ensure responsiveness to community needs and interests. WTD would have explicit performance improvement objectives and service levels and would actively seek to ensure its operations support the community's economic and social well-being. WTD would seek to create co benefits with partners when it is cost effective and feasible. WTD would adopt sustainability as a core business principle and appropriately utilize natural systems, like green infrastructure, in addition to other nonconventional technologies (e.g. decentralized approaches) and practices. WTD would enhance use of processes for recovery of energy, solids, and materials.
3. **Transformative:** Under this approach, WTD would transform from where it is today to a more innovative, future-focused utility. As a leader in the industry, WTD would employ practices that focus on managing wastewater as a valuable commodity. This approach would incorporate an efficient reclamation mindset and focus on producing usable products instead of treatment and discharge. WTD would focus on enhanced resiliency and act as a leader in treatment technology, pollution prevention, energy production and recycling by working with other utility and industry partners to promote beneficial resources from wastewater to benefit agriculture, industry and ecosystems. WTD would foster and invest in a culture of innovation, collaborative development, and active engagement with its employees.

Within each approach, varying levels of enhancements across each of the eight categories of capital investment will be described, identified, and then evaluated with planning level cost estimations. When choosing levels of capital enhancement for evaluation we will use the process outlined in Section 8. The level of enhancement for each category can be thought of as a dial that can be increased or decreased across a range based on the desired outcome for a particular approach. The low level of enhancement across the range is associated with the "Stay the Course" Approach, while the high level of enhancement across the range is associated with the "Transformative" Approach. This range of capital enhancements across the approaches is illustrated in Diagram 1 below. For the "Strategic Enhancement" Approach there will likely be a range of options within each category of capital investment which may require additional evaluation.

These plan approaches are not ordered according to increasing costs. Cost estimation of each approach's varying levels of investment will consider life cycle costs, the effect of delayed investment on future costs due to inflation, as well as potential financial benefits that may accrue from proactive

investment. As such, it is difficult to predict cost levels of one approach relative to another at this point in the planning process.

Diagram 1. Example Three Conceptual Approaches with Categories of Capital Investment

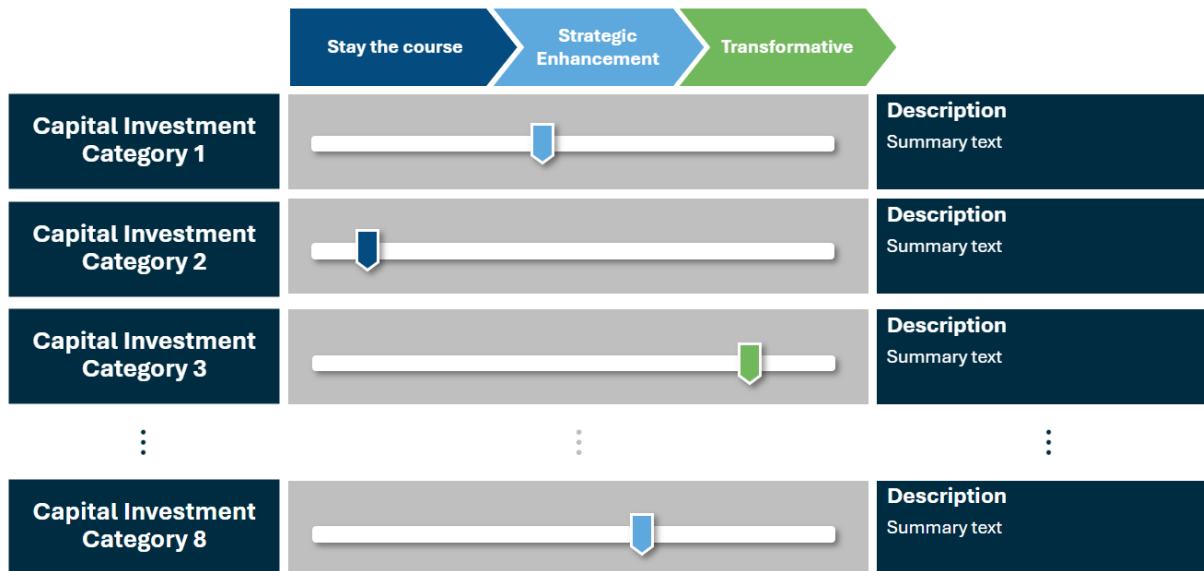


The planning process will include the development and application of criteria to compare the approaches and discuss tradeoffs to ultimately recommend a final proposal. Criteria may include, but not limited to, environmental sustainability, reliability, Equity and Social Justice, impacts to rate payers, and risk of compliance. The RWSP Working Group will [provide guidance to MWPAAC, who will](#) weigh in on the development of the criteria.

The Washington State Environmental Protection Act (SEPA) requires the County to complete a checklist and either an environmental impact statement (EIS), a Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) or a Mitigated Determination of Non-Significance (MDNS) for the updated RWSP. The process will require the issuance of a draft EIS or a draft DNS or MDNS to precede the issuance of a final EIS, DNS or MDNS.

Using outputs received from the SEPA process, and feedback received from RWQC and MWPAAC during the planning process, a final Proposal will be selected. The final Proposal may be a hybrid of the three approaches as illustrated in Diagram 2 below.

Diagram 2. Example of Final Proposal



Policy Area 2: Non-Capital Related Topics

Policy Area 2 includes the topics in the Scoping document supported by RWQC via Resolution ~~XX~~ [RWQC2025-01](#) that are not direct capital investment areas. Planned work for each of these topic areas, and how each will support the RWSP update, is described.

Financial Policies

Technical analyses 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 rate structure and rate equity (including the capacity charge), capital financing and debt management, and financial planning and revenue sufficiency.⁵ The analysis will also study peer utility agency financial policy structures and evaluating them within a WTD specific context.

Financial policies analyses and engagement will be separated into two phases, with phase 1 occurring earlier in the planning process because they provide the framework for future revenue requirements under each RWSP conceptual approach. These financial policies include capital financing and debt management, and financial planning and revenue sufficiency. Phase 2 will include the financial policies

⁵ 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.”

that fall in the category of rate structure and rate equity. These financial policies are revenue neutral for WTD and determine the allocation of costs to different classes of customers, so they are not constrained by timing of the revenue requirements and can be evaluated later in the process along with other RWSP policies. Rate structure and rate equity policies include things like sizing the Residential Customer Equivalent (RCE at 750 cubic feet per month) and whether to maintain a single uniform sewer rate per RCE or consider alternative cost recovery rate structures (Robinswood “all for one and one for all”).

The customer affordability analysis will be conducted primarily through two lenses:⁶

1. As a tool to compare the rate impacts of the different RWSP conceptual approaches and assess relative impact to any household.
2. Relief strategies for low-income households who are most likely to struggle to pay essential living expenses.

WTD will apply an approach that is consistent with industry recommendations and the acknowledgement that customer affordability must be evaluated in a local context. This will center on a suite of WTD service area-tailored metrics that:

- Gauge the household burden of the different RWSP approaches’ financial outcomes.
- Can be calculated at the census tract/local agency level, e.g. bill as % of median income, bill as % of poverty income – locally adjusted, hours worked at local minimum wage bill equivalent.

Equity and Social Justice: The work to update the RWSP will integrate and address issues around equity and social justice as described in the Scoping document; these issues include, but are not limited to, WTD’s role in safeguarding public health, especially for underserved communities; distributional equity; and other specific actions WTD can take to increase equity and social justice for the regional wastewater system.

Relation to contracts: The work to update the RWSP will address and ensure agency contracts are aligned with major RWSP policy updates.

Regular Future Reporting: The work to update the RWSP will evaluate the most effective ways for WTD to provide routine future reporting to MWPAAC and RWQC under the updated RWSP.

⁶ “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).

Appendix B: Schedule and Milestones

A high-level schedule to update the RWSP with the major milestones is shown in Table 1. The Deliverables are in reverse chronological order to emphasize the importance of maintaining schedule in 2025 and 2026. This schedule is approximate and subject to revision without amending this Charter.

Table 1. Schedule and Major Milestones ⁷ (dates are estimates and subject to change)

	Deliverable / Milestone	Target Year	Responsible Party / Involved Party
20	King County transmits Final Plan to WA Dept. Ecology for approval	2029	ECY
19	Anticipated King County Council adoption of Final RWSP and new policies	2029	KC Council
18	Anticipated King County Council referral of RWSP and new policies to RWQC	2029	RWQC
17	Anticipated King County Executive transmittal of RWSP and new policies to the King County Council	<u>Q2</u> 2029	KC Executive
16	WTD finalizes new RWSP policy proposals	2029	WTD/MWPAAC/RWQC
15	Final Proposed Plan developed with draft new RWSP Policies and Phase 2 Financial Policies	2028	WTD/MWPAAC/RWQC
14	Final Proposal Selected	2028	KC Executive / WTD
13	If needed, produce EIS Analysis of 3 Conceptual Approaches	2027	WTD
12	Draft RWSP with 3 Conceptual Approaches	2027	WTD/MWPAAC/RWQC
11	Final planning level cost analyses for each of the 3 Conceptual Approaches	2027	WTD/MWPAAC/RWQC
10	Anticipated King County Council adoption of Phase 1 Financial Policies	2026/27	KC Council
9	Anticipated referral of Phase 1 Financial Policies to RWQC	2026	RWQC
8	Financial Policies finalized and transmitted to King County Council	2026	WTD
7	SEPA Threshold Determination of Significance or Non-Significance	Q3-Q4 2026	WTD
6	Planning level project cost analyses of enhancement levels across the 8 categories of capital investment for the 3 approaches	Q1-Q4 2026	WTD/MWPAAC/RWQC
5	Draft Phase 1 Financial Policies	2026	WTD/MWPAAC/RWQC
4	Analysis of enhancement levels across each of the 8 categories of capital investment for each of the 3 approaches; agreement on enhancement levels for step 6	Q4 2025/ Q1 2026	WTD/MWPAAC/RWQC
3	Feedback and refinement of the 8 categories of capital investment for the 3 Conceptual Approaches	Q3-Q4 2025	WTD/MWPAAC/RWQC

⁷ Engagement with the Sound Cities Association for briefings and discussions on substantive topics can occur through coordination with WTD and RWQC member staff.

2	Develop descriptions for 3 Conceptual Approaches and their associated categories of capital investment	Q1-Q2 2025	WTD
1	<u>RWSP-Vision for Clean Water</u> engagement and Vision announcement	Q4 2024- Q4 2025	WTD / KC Executive

Appendix C: Vision for Clean Water

WTD is developing and recommending a set of Vision for Clean Water options to the King County Executive. The process will engage MWPAAC, RWQC, component agencies, community groups, and other regional audiences to develop a long-term vision for future wastewater services, as well as identify high-level goals to achieve that vision, both of which will be included in the final RWSP update. The vision will be consistent with WTD’s mission to protect public health and the environment by collecting and cleaning wastewater while recovering valuable resources for a healthy and resilient Puget Sound.

WTD will solicit input and feedback from other interested and affected parties to develop the Vision for Clean Water options for the Executive, an updated plan and policies; this includes revisiting and re-engaging with individuals and groups who previously contributed to the Clean Water Plan, as well as reaching new interested parties. WTD will regularly solicit community feedback and integrate it into work products and decision-making. Community feedback will be shared with MWPAAC and RWQC. The process will work to ensure that voices are heard and report back how input is considered and used.

Regional Vision for Clean Water

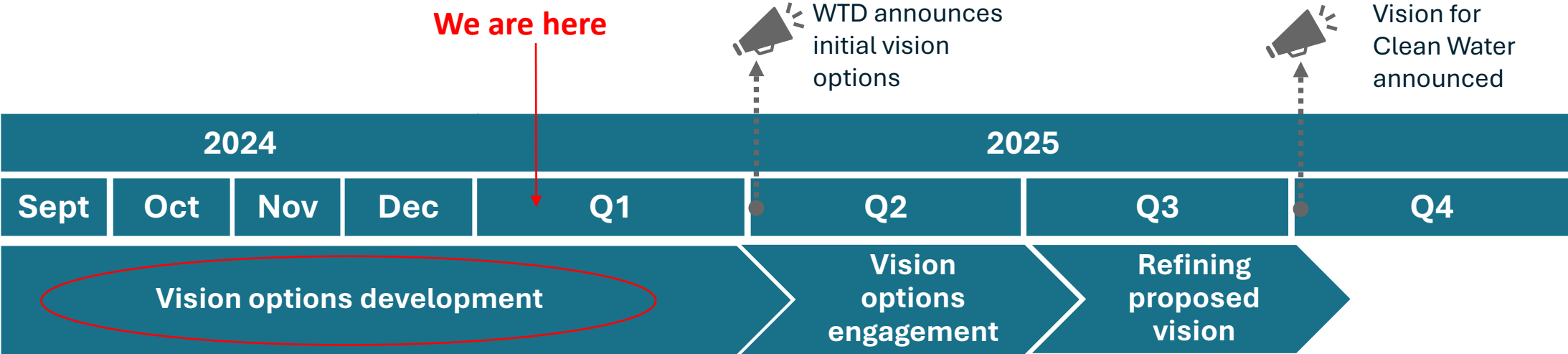
Status Briefing to RWQC
February 5, 2025



King County

Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Wastewater Treatment Division

Process to develop the Regional Vision for Clean Water



Regional Vision Package

Regional Vision statement

- Brief and high-level

Goals

- Complement/support the vision
- High-level implementation

Challenges and opportunities

- Drivers (regulation, capacity, climate, affordability...)



Upcoming Vision Touchpoints

1. **RWQC Feb 5:** Vision Process Touchpoints
2. **RWQC March 5:** (1) Outreach/engagement update, (2) Challenges and Opportunities framing
3. **RWQC April 2:** Emerging Themes
4. **RWQC May 7:** Presentation on Vision Options and Input on Vision Options
5. **RWQC June 4:** Opportunity for additional input on Vision Options



Questions ?



King County | Wastewater Treatment

**Vision for
Clean Water**

2100

King County

**Regional Wastewater
Services Plan Update**

2024

Regional Water Quality Committee

February 5, 2025

Agenda

- Mouth of Duwamish Wet Weather Facilities Overview
- Identifying the Best Solution
- Facilities Delivery Approach and Timeline



Mouth of Duwamish CSO Outfalls

- Seattle's wastewater pipes were originally built as combined sewer pipes, where stormwater and wastewater flow through the same pipes
- Mouth of Duwamish Wet Weather Facilities will address pollution from five King County outfalls at the mouth of the Duwamish River
- Coordinating with Seattle Public Utilities

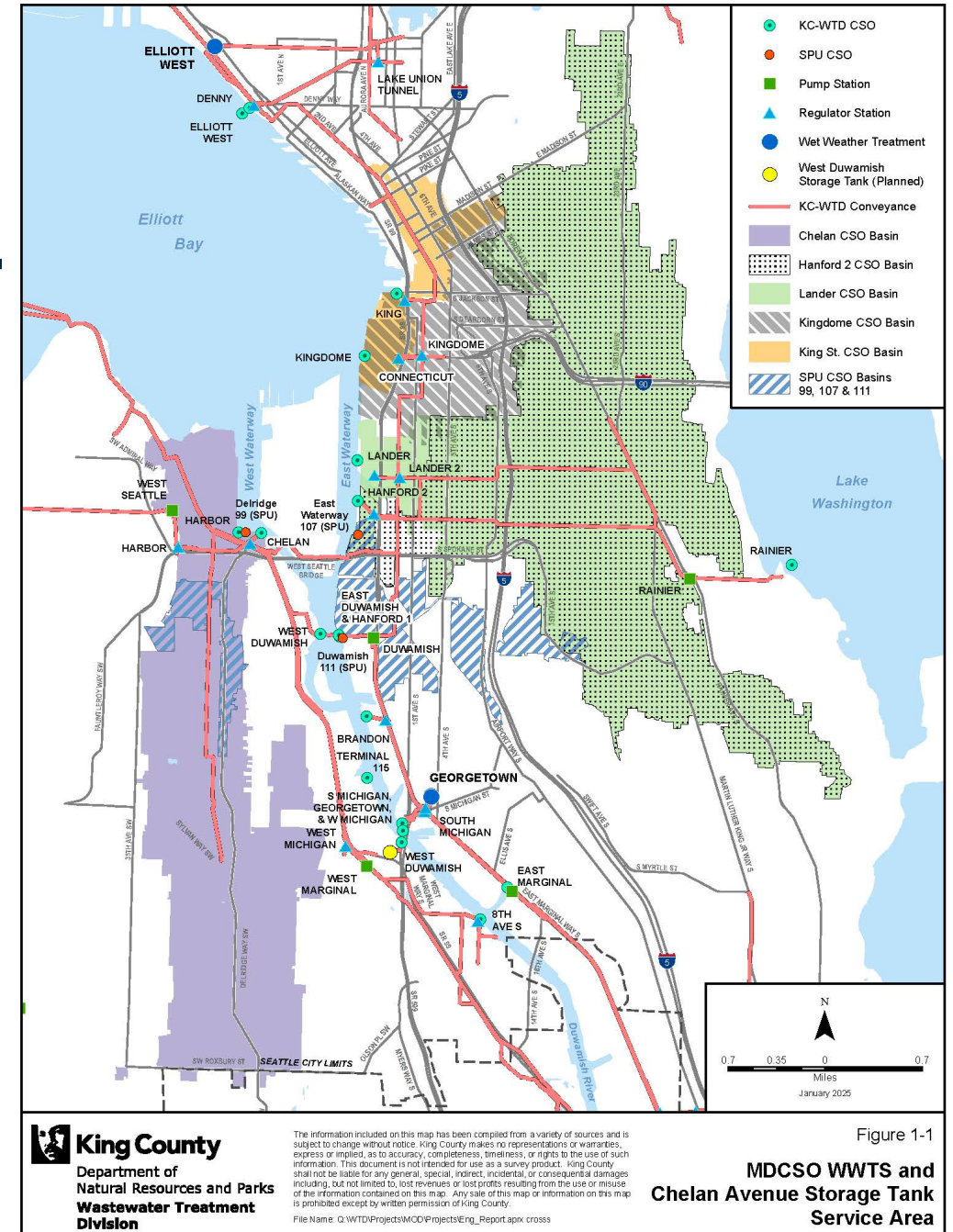


Map of Mouth of the Duwamish Wet Weather Facilities CSO Outfalls



Service Area

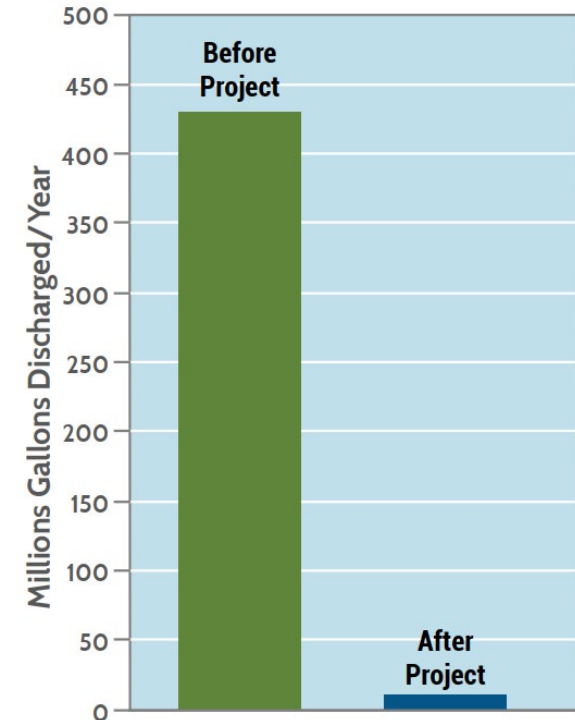
- Program to deliver wet weather facilities to meet regulations through addressing combined sewer overflows from areas in West Seattle, SODO, and Beacon Hill
- Capacity needs are similar to secondary treatment capacity at South Plant during wet weather conditions



Mouth of Duwamish Wet Weather Facilities Goals

King County established this program to:

- Improve water quality in the Duwamish River and Elliott Bay
- Build new infrastructure and invest in wet weather facilities to minimize pollution in Elliott Bay, the Duwamish River, and Puget Sound
- Meet legal requirement to control CSO overflows at each outfall to no more than one untreated release per year over a 20-year average

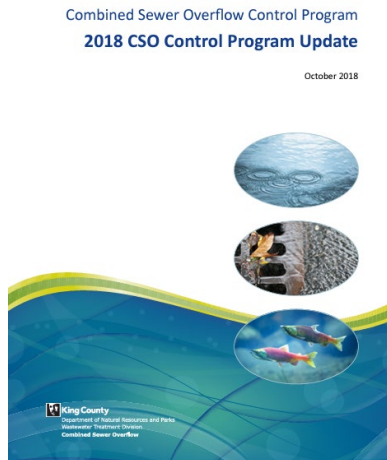


Mouth of Duwamish Outfalls

This effort will control about 430 million gallons per year of combined wastewater and stormwater

Current phase

- Mouth of Duwamish Wet Weather Facilities is in the facility planning phase
- We are developing and evaluating alternative system configurations
- This will help King County select a system that considers factors like cost, schedule, and meeting regulatory requirements



Potential Pollution Control Methods for the Program



Store it: Build underground tanks, tunnels, or pipes to store flows during heavy storms.



Treat it: Build treatment solutions to treat flows that are too large to store.



Move it: Build new pipelines or increase the size of existing pipelines.



GEORGETOWN WET WEATHER TREATMENT STATION

Georgetown Wet Weather Treatment Station, an award-winning facility, protects the Duwamish River by treating up to 70 million gallons of combined stormwater and wastewater on rainy days.

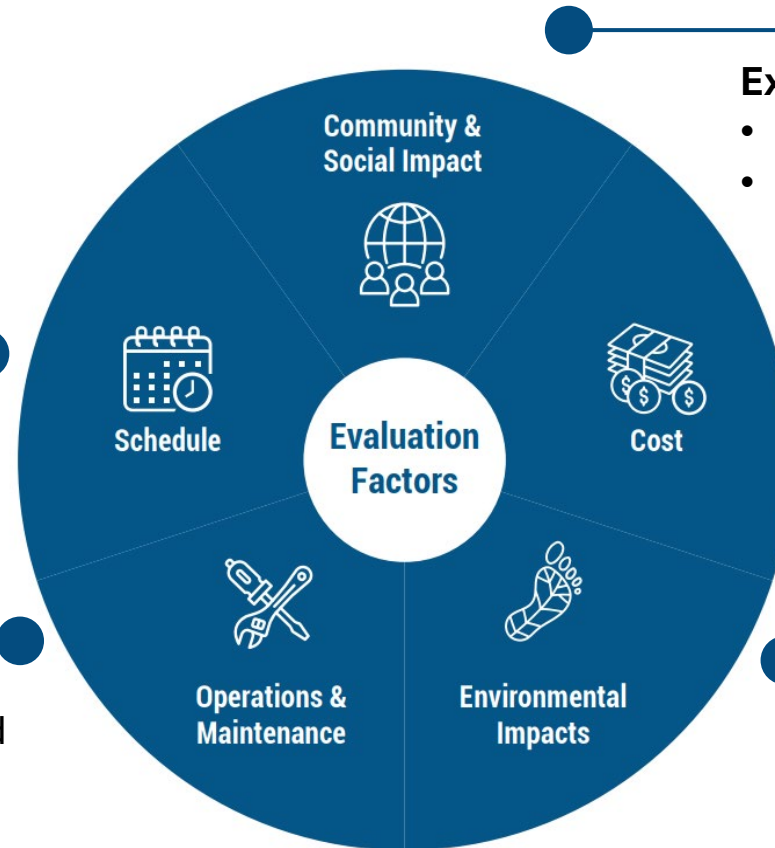
Program Area

- Developing alternative system configurations to control CSOs
- Configurations may include a combination of the following:
 - Storage
 - Example: Rainier Valley Wet Weather Storage
 - Wet weather treatment station
 - Example: Georgetown Wet Weather Treatment Station
 - Conveyance Pipelines/Tunnels
 - Example: Henderson/M.L. King CSO control
 - Outfall



Identifying the Best Solution

Our goal is to identify a solution that addresses pollution from the five outfalls and supports a healthy and thriving Puget Sound region.



Example Community Considerations

- Short-term and long-term impacts
- Disruptions to traffic, bus routes, and pedestrian mobility

Example Cost Considerations

- Construction methods
- Facility sizes

Example Environmental Considerations

- Impacts to air or water quality, shoreline habitat, wetlands, and endangered species

Example Schedule Considerations

- Permitting complexity
- Construction methods

Example O&M Considerations

- Size and complexity of treatment and conveyance system
- Safety for King County workers

Centering Community in our Infrastructure



Listening First in an Overburdened Community

- Researched SODO community conditions and existing plans and visions
- Launched community values survey and interviews to deepen understanding
- Communicating and listening through community briefings, online open house, virtual public meetings, fairs and festivals, job fair



Understanding Likely Impacts

- Seeking to minimize potential business relocations
- Assessing short and long-term construction impacts, disruptions to traffic, bus routes, and pedestrian mobility
- Striving to preserve public river access points
- Identifying overlaps with other projects in the SODO neighborhood



Centering Community Needs

- Providing equity-centered communication and outreach
- Fostering relationships with CBOs and other orgs
- Exploring strategies to mitigate construction impacts
- Advancing ESJ strategic initiatives (e.g., community greening, workforce development, pro-equity contracting)



Upcoming Considerations



Property Acquisition

- Any option will require the purchase of an estimated 4 to 8 acres in SODO
- Permanent and temporary easements may also be required for pipelines, outfall and other system needs



Preparing for Construction

- Construction will impact community members who live, work, and travel through the SODO neighborhood
- Impacts may include traffic congestion, lane or full road closures, temporary construction impacts, noise disruptions, and parking impacts

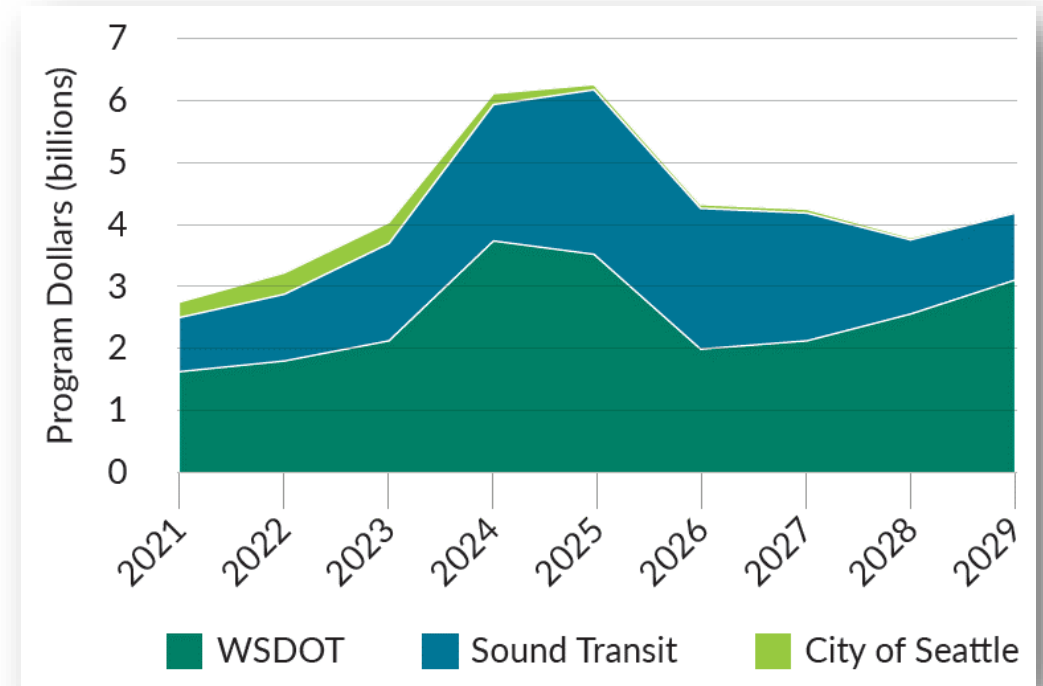
Cost Trends and Drivers

- Incorporation of climate change considerations increasing size of facilities.
- Outfall and conveyance pipe needs and construction techniques further defined
- Geotechnical and environmental factors further defined



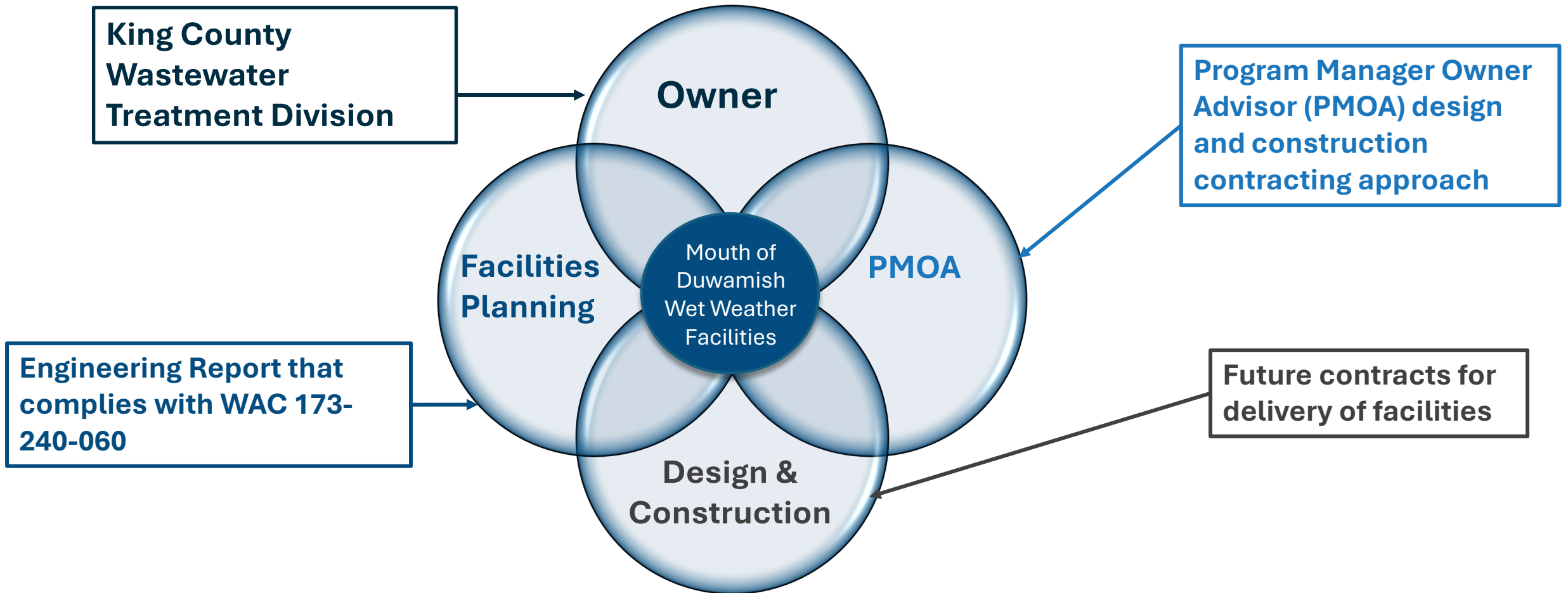
Cost Trends and Drivers – Contracting Market

- Material Escalation – Construction materials increased up to 20-30% in last 3 years
- Labor Escalation – Wages increased on average 11% from 2022 to 2024
- Concurrent Projects and Market Capacity
- Labor Shortages for construction workers and engineering

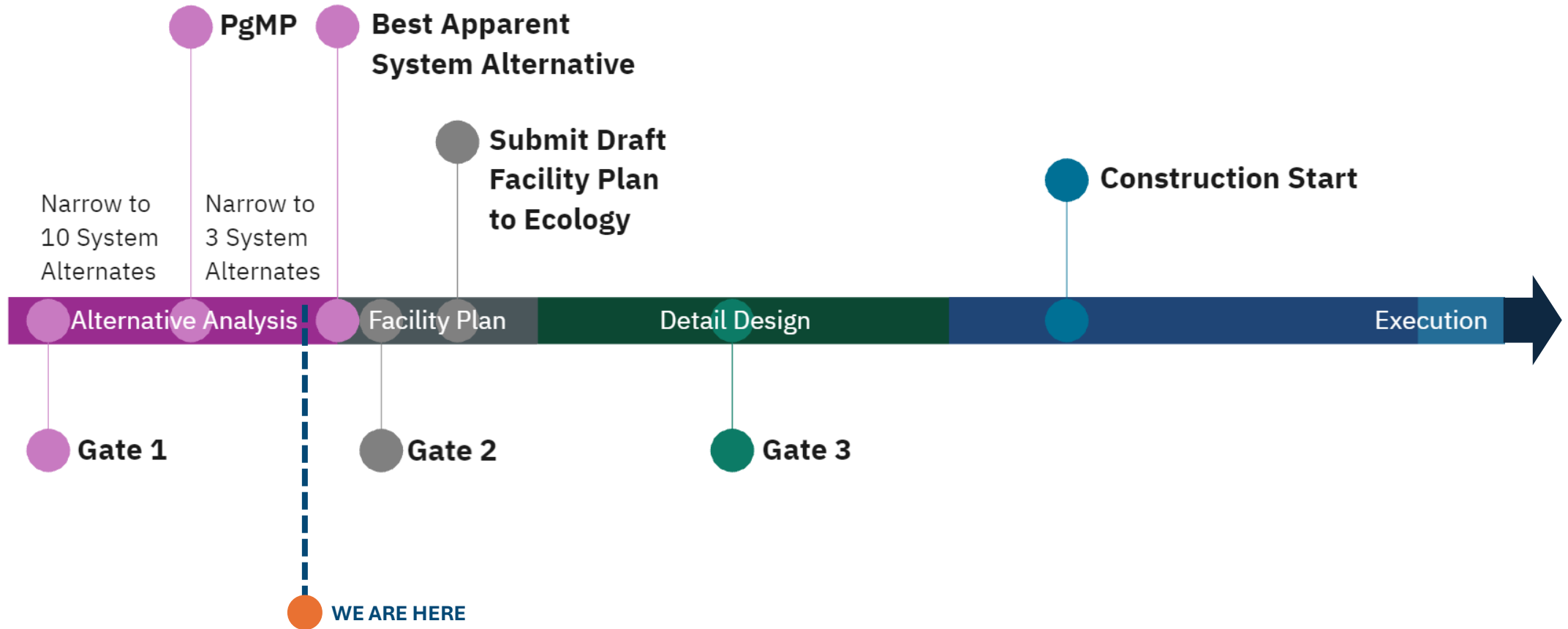


Sources: US Bureau of Labor Statistics – Producer Price Indices, Consumer Price Indices; Engineering News Record – Construction Cost Index; Mortensen Construction Labor Price Index; Puget Sound Regional Capital Improvement Plans – WSDOT, Sound Transit, City of Seattle

Facilities Delivery Approach



MDCSO Roadmap



Thank you

Stan Hummel, CSO Delivery Unit Manager



King County

Wastewater Treatment | Mouth of Duwamish Wet Weather Facilities

Q & A



King County

Wastewater Treatment | Mouth of Duwamish Wet Weather Facilities



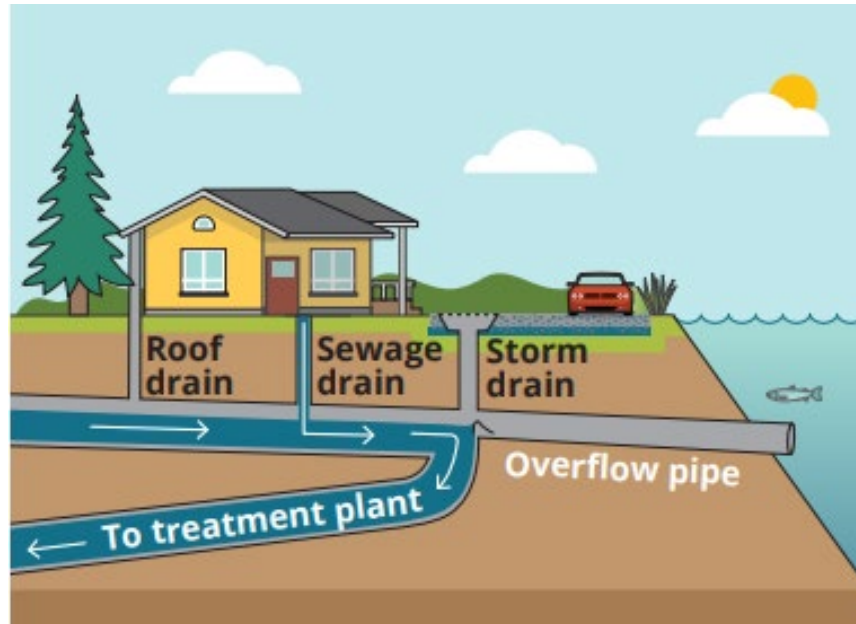
King County
Wastewater
Treatment

Mouth of
Duwamish
Wet Weather
Facilities

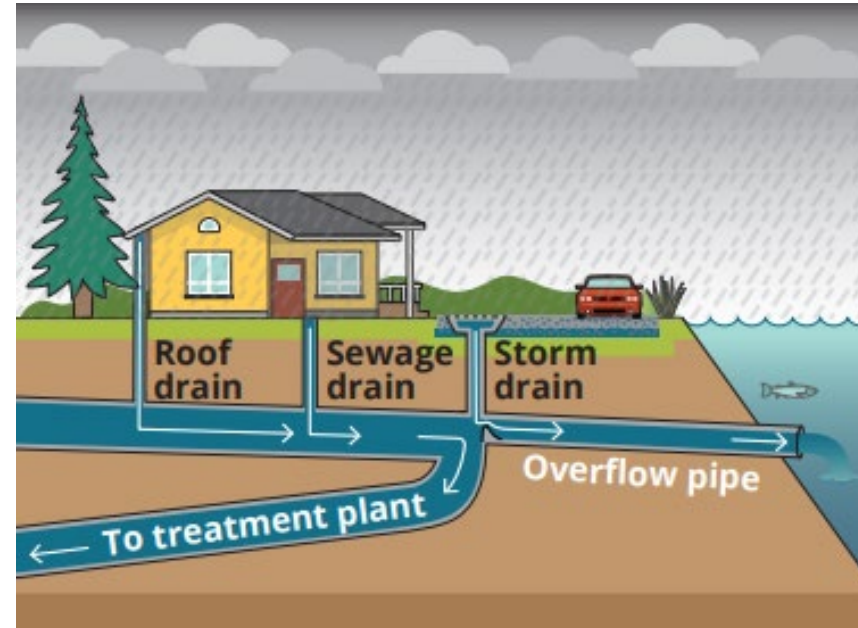
Appendix

Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO)

Seattle's wastewater pipes were originally built as combined sewer pipes, where stormwater and wastewater flow through the same pipes.



On dry days, wastewater goes directly to a treatment plant to be cleaned.



When heavy rainstorms overload pipes with stormwater, the flow is temporarily diverted through a CSO outfall into a local water body.



King County

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

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item:	10	Name:	Jenny Giambattista
Proposed No.:	2025-B0013	Date:	February 5, 2025

SUBJECT

Briefing on the “Robinswood Agreement” dated November 16, 1998.

SUMMARY

In 1998, the King County Executive and the Regional Wastewater Services Committee held a retreat to discuss financing the implementation of the RWSP. The “Robinswood” retreat resulted in guiding principles (Robinswood Agreement) for funding the RWSP. The “Robinswood Agreement” is the foundation of the current Regional Wastewater Services Plan.

At the request of the Chair, the Wastewater Treatment Division will present an overview of the Robinswood Agreement.

BACKGROUND

Regional Wastewater Services Plan. It is the responsibility of the County (associated with its metropolitan powers) to prepare and implement a comprehensive water pollution abatement plan, including provisions for “waterborne pollutant removal, water quality improvement, sewage disposal, and stormwater drainage for the metropolitan area” pursuant to policies and plans recommended by the RWQC and adopted by the Metropolitan King County Council. In 1995, the King County Council in assuming the legislative powers of Metro, readopted Ordinances 11032 and 12074, the Metro resolutions that comprise the comprehensive water pollution abatement plan for King County.

In 1991 King County also began its own planning process to develop a long-range wastewater plan to amend the 1959 comprehensive water pollution abatement plan and to develop long-term plans for reducing combined sewer overflows and managing biosolids and water reuse. These planning efforts were referred to as the **Regional Wastewater Services Plan (RWSP)**. The RWSP was intended to provide the direction for the operation and further development of wastewater treatment services for the next 30 years. In 1997, the King County Department of Natural Resources released the *RWSP Draft Plan*. Following a public engagement process, the Executive made his

recommendation for a long-term wastewater plan in the 1998 Regional Wastewater Services Plan Executive's Preferred Plan.

Robinswood Agreement. In October 1998, the King County Executive and the Regional Wastewater Services Committee held a retreat to discuss financing the implementation of the RWSP. The "Robinswood" retreat resulted in guiding principles (See Attachment 1) for funding the RWSP, and the Committee agreed to final language on the financing plan at its November 1998 meeting. Some of the key principles of the Robinswood Agreement are as follows:

- The wastewater system is a regional system. "All for one and one for all from this day forward."
- The regional wastewater financing structure should reflect uniform regional rates for existing and new customers and achieve the principle of "growth pays for growth."
- The RWQC will provide periodic, substantive review of RWSP implementation.
- Establish a uniform capacity charge within the service area to cover growth costs not captured by the monthly sewer rate for new customers.

The principles of the Robinswood Agreement (Attachment 1) were largely incorporated in the RWSP.

In 1999 following review by the Regional Water Quality Committee and King County Council, the Council passed Ordinance 13680 adopting the Regional Wastewater Services Plan (RWSP) as a supplement to the comprehensive water pollution plan which had been enacted by Metro. The plan identified capital projects, including a new treatment facility to serve north King County and south Snohomish County.

The RWSP is codified in King County Code Section 28.86.010 and 28.86.040 through 28.86.150 (Attachment 2). The RWSP outlines programs and projects through 2023 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.¹ 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)
- 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)

¹ Regional Wastewater Services Plan 2017 Annual Report

- Public involvement policies (K.C.C. 28.86.150)

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

INVITED

- Kamuron Gurol, Director, Wastewater Treatment Division, Department of Natural Resources and Parks
- Sharman Herrin, Government Relations Administrator, Department of Natural Resources and Parks

ATTACHMENTS

1. Robinswood Agreement Letter dated November 16, 1998

“Robinswood Agreement” Letter



Metropolitan King County Council
Regional Water Quality Committee

November 16, 1998

The Honorable Ron Sims
Room 400
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Executive Sims,

This letter is a follow-up to the Regional Water Quality Committee retreat you attended on October 29 at Robinswood House in Bellevue. As you recall, the purpose of the retreat was to discuss outstanding finance issues and come to an agreement on how to finance the Regional Wastewater Services Plan (RWSP). The financing policies for the RWSP provide the framework for establishing the funding mechanism necessary to implement the plan.

The Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC), which includes representatives of King County, suburban cities, the City of Seattle, and sewer districts is considering a Regional Wastewater Services Plan to manage wastewater in the Puget Sound through the year 2030. The RWQC will soon make a recommendation to the full King County Council who will adopt the final RWSP.

The following guiding principles framed the discussion at the retreat:

1. The wastewater system is a regional system. As one participant said at the retreat, "All for one and one for all. from this day forward."
2. As a region, we are committed to protecting the water quality of our waterways, lakes, and Puget Sound.
3. The Regional Water Quality Committee shall provide periodic, substantive review of RWSP implementation.
4. The regional wastewater financing structure should reflect uniform regional rates for existing and new customers and achieve the principle of "growth pays for growth."

The principle of growth pays for growth is best implemented at this time through specific policies whereby existing customers pay for existing capacity and new customers pay for excess existing capacity and new capacity.

Listed below are the points of consensus developed at the retreat along with a brief explanation:

Base Rate/Capacity Charge

- Maintain a uniform monthly sewer rate for both existing and new customers such that, in general, existing customers pay for the existing system and new customers pay for growth
- Establish a uniform capacity charge within the service area to cover growth costs not captured by the monthly sewer rate for new customers
- Develop a strategy to increase and restructure the capacity charge and build a coalition for support in the State Legislature
- Maintain the current rate structure until the capacity charge is increased

A capacity charge will be levied against new connections, reconnections, or new services that meet the definition of new growth. This charge and the monthly service rates paid by both existing and new customers is intended to ensure that system capacity built to serve new customers recovers the revenue necessary to pay for system expansion.

King County will achieve this objective by allocating wastewater system costs to new and existing customers. The revenue needed to recover costs allocated to existing customers will be used to establish the monthly rate for all customers. The revenue required to recover costs allocated to new customers not recovered by the monthly rates paid by new customers will become the capacity charge subject to the 15-year term per new connection.

Costs allocated to existing customers will include current treatment plant conveyance and solids capacity, Inflow / Infiltration (I/I) assessment and reduction, and new conveyance for existing customers. Costs allocated to new customers include new treatment, conveyance and solids capacity, and existing excess capacity. Costs allocated proportionally to existing and new customers include CSO control, operations, maintenance and administration for the entire system.

Regional Inflow / Infiltration (I/I) Assessment & Pilots; and CSO Control

- King County pays 100 percent of the cost of I/I assessments and any pilot projects that are done to demonstrate I/I effectiveness
- Discontinue CSO benefit charge when changes in state legislation authorizing the capacity charge increases are passed by the Washington State Legislature (Seattle CSO payment)

- Over the next five years, perform a substantive technical and financial review of the I/I assessments & pilot projects and the CSO control efforts for potential adjustments

The RWQC will review and consider the I / I and CSO program elements over the next five years, following the King County Council's adoption of the plan. The RWQC may make recommendations for modifying or amending the plan to the King County Council after the five-year program reviews. These program reviews may include:

- compliance with federal and state laws affecting water quality (e.g., ESA and the RWSP Habitat Conservation Plan);
- legal decisions impacting the implementation of the RWSP;
- scientific and economic evaluations of the methodologies for addressing water quality protection; and
- integration of the wastewater system with other water quality programs for the region.

Uniform Interceptor Policy

- Establish uniform financing, construction, operation, maintenance, and replacement policies for all interceptors in its service area
- Assume responsibility for interceptors under this policy at the time the RWSP is adopted

RWQC members will continue to review the financial implications of this policy as it is developed.

RWQC involvement in RWSP implementation

The RWQC expects to review the RWSP during implementation at key decision points and wants to ensure that there is language in the plan that ensures these reviews are done on a regular basis.

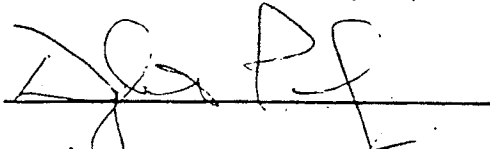
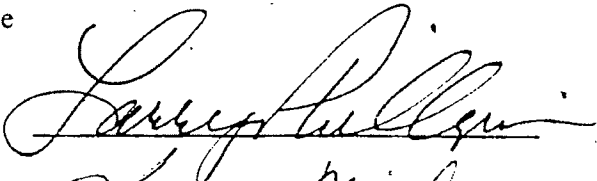
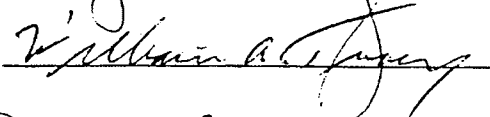
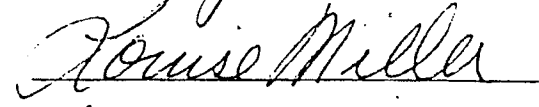
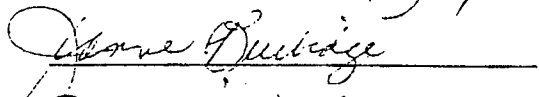

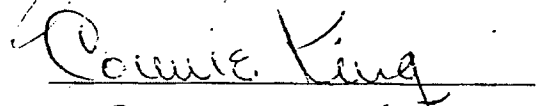
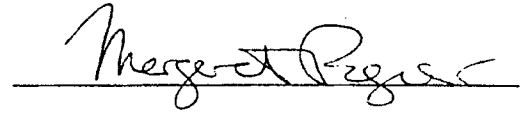
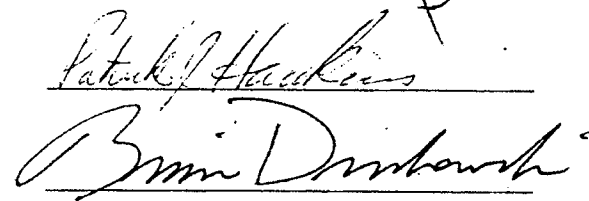
Liability Protection

In developing its response to Endangered Species Act (ESA) listings, the King County Wastewater Treatment Division could evaluate the opportunity and feasibility to include the programs of its component agency customers in any permits or agreements that may include local sewer operations, maintenance and construction activities. The feasibility analysis could include identifying the responsibilities for component agency participation in a King County Wastewater Treatment Division Habitat Conservation Plans or other ESA response and any protection to be obtained from participating.

In order to implement these points of consensus, the RWQC will be considering and incorporating amendments to the policies in the Executive' Preferred Plan and will vote on these amendments when the RWQC votes on the RWSP.

Sincerely,

Members, Regional Water Quality Committee

 _____	 _____
 _____	 _____
 _____	 _____
 _____	 _____
 _____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

CC: Regional Water Quality Committee Members

RWQC Monthly Work Program for 2025 February 5, 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**
 - Resolution Supporting Scope
 - Charter briefing
- ✓ 2025 Work Program

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 (35 minutes):**
 - Charter
 - Vision for Clean Water Plan
- Mouth of Duwamish CSO Briefing (35 minutes)
- A Look Back at the Robinswood Agreement (20 minutes)

March 5, 2025 Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update (30 minutes):

- Charter, if needed
- Briefing: WTD’s framing of Challenges and Opportunities which are informing (
- Briefing on Selected Capital Projects and Common themes in Capital program Delivery (35 minutes)
- Briefing only Lower Duwamish Waterway Consent Decree (Placeholder; Briefing date depends on transmittal) (25 minutes)

March 7, 2025 Georgetown Wet Weather Treatment Station Site Visit (Contact Olivia.Robinson@kingcounty.gov for details)

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)
- Update on Federal Funding (20 minutes)

May 7, 2025 (In-Person Meeting)

- 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)
- Update on Federal Funding (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

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

West Point on May 30th or June 6th

- 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 or Sharman.Herrin@kingcounty.gov) if interested in other tour locations or times.