



King County

1200 King County
Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Meeting Agenda Regional Water Quality Committee

Councilmembers:
Claudia Balducci, Chair
Reagan Dunn, De'Sean Quinn
Alternate:

Sound Cities Association: Vice Chair, Laura Mork, Shoreline;
Conrad Lee, Bellevue; 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

Non-Voting Member: John McClellan, Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee

Lead Staff: Jenny Giambattista (206-477-0879)
Committee Clerk: Marka Steadman (206-477-0887)

3:00 PM

Wednesday, October 1, 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.



Sign language and interpreter services can be arranged given sufficient notice (206-848-0355).
TTY Number - TTY 711.
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.



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

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

2. Roll Call

3. Approval of Minutes

September 3, 2025 meeting

4. Chair's Report

5. MWPAAC Report

6. Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) Report



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Discussion and Possible Action

7. [Briefing No. 2025-B0121](#) **p. 9**

A motion developed and proposed by the Regional Water Quality Committee, requesting the wastewater treatment division implement a work plan to improve transparency and accountability in the sewer rate-setting process.

Jenny Giambattista, Council staff

Andy Micklow, Council staff

Briefing

8. [Briefing No. 2025-B0145](#) **p. 27**

Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update

Darren Greve, WTD, Government Relations

Faon O'Connor, WTD, Combined Sewer Overflow Program Manager

Janice Johnson, WTD, RWSP Update Program Manager

9. [Briefing No. 2025-B0146](#) **p. 83**

Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) Capital Program Update: 2026-2027 Proposed Capital Budget and Program Highlights

Caitlyn Hall, Budget and Contracts Unit Manager, Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD)

Stan Hummel, PE, Unit Manager, Combined Sewer Overflow Delivery Unit, WTD

Chad Merrill, Project Planning and Delivery Section, WTD

10. [Briefing No. 2025-B0147](#) **p. 100**

Council Selected 2025 WaterWorks Grants

Jenny Giambattista, Council staff

11. [Briefing No. 2025-B0005](#) **p. 110**

Discussion of 2025 Regional Water Quality Committee Work Program

Jenny Giambattista, Council staff



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Other Business

Adjournment



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Meeting Minutes Regional Water Quality Committee

Councilmembers:

Claudia Balducci, Chair

Reagan Dunn, De'Sean Quinn

Alternate:

*Sound Cities Association: Vice Chair, Laura Mork, Shoreline;
Conrad Lee, Bellevue; 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*

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Alternate: Rob Saka*

*Lead Staff: Jenny Giambattista (206-477-0879)
Committee Clerk: Marka Steadman (206-477-0887)*

3:00 PM

Wednesday, September 3, 2025

Hybrid Meeting

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Chair Balducci called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present: 13 - Balducci, Clarke, Dunn, Lee, Mork, Moore, Rossman, Warren, Kettle,
Quinn, Sweet, Hooshangi and Trout-Manuel

Excused: 1 - Hollingsworth

3. Approval of Minutes

*Commission Warren moved approval of the July 2, 2025, meeting minutes. There
being no objections, the minutes were approved.*

4. Chair's Report

*Chair Balducci thanked Vice Chair Mork for running the last RWQC meeting,
commented on the recent biosolids tour, expressed appreciation for the work of WTD
staff in coordinating the various tours, and provided an overview of the meeting topics.*

5. MWPAAC Report

John McClellan, Chair, MWPAAC, commented on August 27th MWPAAC meeting where topics included a briefing and discussion related to the combined system actions by WTD and an update on the capacity charge process. The Engineering and Planning subcommittee will be receiving a briefing on the nutrient comment letter from the County to the Department of Ecology and will also be receiving an update on WTD's separated system conveyance. The next general meeting is September 24th. Noted that MWPAAC pays closed attention to the activities and work plan of RWQC and uses that to inform their planning and coordination efforts, also that one of most important things to achieve is to get to a collaborative working relationship with the Department of Ecology to be able to come to a useful, effective solution. Expressed appreciation for Kamuron and his work

6. Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) Report

Kamuron Gurol, Director, Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD), provided updates on various topics tied to nutrient regulation to include the status of litigation; submission of comments; cost and concerns related to plant upgrades; proposed Department of Ecology regulations and WTD comments, requests and questions; commented on the proposed work plan; and noted that the South Treatment Plant received a peak performance award from the Association of Clean Water Agencies recognizing five years of 100% permit compliance. Director Gurol answered questions from the members.

Discussion and Possible Action**7. [RWQC Resolution No. RWQC2025-03](#)**

A RESOLUTION recognizing John McClellan's designation as a nonvoting member of the regional water quality committee.

Jenny Giambattista, Council staff, briefed the committee.

Councilmember Sweet moved approval of RWQC resolution 2025-03. The resolution was adopted.

Due to the design of the legislative tracking software used to produce the proceedings, the vote on this item is misreported. The correct vote is:

Yes: 9 - Lee, Mork, Moore, Rossman, Kettle, Clarke, Warren, Quinn and Balducci

No: 0

Excused: 3 – Hollingsworth and Dunn

A motion was made by Councilmember Sweet that this RWQC Resolution be Passed. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Balducci, Clarke, Lee, Mork, Moore, Rossman, Warren, Kettle and Quinn

Excused: 6 - Dunn, Hollingsworth, Sweet, Hooshangi and Trout-Manuel

Briefing

8. [Briefing No. 2025-B0120](#)

Long-Term Rate Forecasting Briefing per Motion 16449

Courtney Black, Chief Financial Officer, King County Wastewater Treatment Division; and Joe Crea, Vice President, Raftelis Financial Consultants; briefed the committee and answered questions from the members.

This matter was Presented

Discussion and Possible Action

9. [Briefing No. 2025-B0121](#)

A motion developed and proposed by the Regional Water Quality Committee, requesting the wastewater treatment division implement a work plan to improve transparency and accountability in the sewer rate-setting process.

Jenny Giambattista, Council staff, briefed the committee and answered questions from the members. Kamuron Gurol, Director, Wastewater Treatment Division, answered questions from the members.

This matter was Deferred

Briefing

10. [Briefing No. 2025-B0122](#)

Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update

Darren Greve, Government Relations, Wastewater Treatment Division, briefed the committee and answered questions from the members.

This matter was Presented

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

Discussion of 2025 Regional Water Quality Committee Work Program

This matter was Deferred

Other Business

There was no further business to come before the committee.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:06 p.m.

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 Andy Micklow
Proposed No.:	2025-B0121	Date:	October 1, 2025

SUBJECT

Discussion and possible action to approve a motion relating to the Wastewater Treatment Division for consideration by the King County Council.

SUMMARY

At the Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC) meeting on July 2, 2025, the committee directed staff to develop a motion to request that the Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) implement a work plan to improve transparency and accountability in the sewer rate-setting process. At the RWQC meeting on September 3, the committee requested further staff work on the motion.

The motion, once approved by the committee, would be proposed for consideration by the King County Council under Section 270.30 of the King County Charter and K.C.C. 1.24.065, which allows for regional committees to develop and propose legislation for introduction to the King County Council. Councilmember Balducci, as chair of RWQC, would be the primary sponsor of the legislation.

BACKGROUND

2026 Sewer Rate and 10-Year Forecast. The Council adopted the 2026 sewer rate and capacity charge in June 2025.¹ The sewer rate is the primary funding source of the Wastewater Treatment Division. The monthly sewer rate collected by the County goes to support all WTD expenses, including operating costs, debt service, and capital expenses. The adopted monthly sewer rate for 2026 increased from 2025 7.5 percent from \$58.28 to \$62.66. This increase is 0.5 percent higher than what was projected as part of the forecast for the 2025 rate. The 2026 sewer rate is projected to generate \$592 million in revenue in 2026.

Beyond the 2026 rate, the proposed 10-year sewer rate forecast reflects substantive changes compared to the prior rate forecast. The 2026 10-year capital forecast is \$3.1

¹ Ordinance 19942

billion greater than the prior 10-year forecast, and the rate projection reflects this increased capital forecast with higher than previously projected rates for 2027-2031. WTD reports that most of this increase compared to the prior forecast is due to the updated cost estimates and newly finalized completion dates for projects included in the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Consent Decree as well as cost increases for other projects. With this new forecast, regulatory capital projects are projected to make up 52 percent of the 10-year capital forecast. A challenge for WTD as it implements this capital program is that many projects must be done concurrently and are costly and complex. The forecast also includes a revised approach to forecasting capital expenditures, which tries to take into consideration the complexity of the projects, the capacity to deliver the projects, and legally required timelines.

Sewer Rate Comment Letters. In response to the 2026 sewer rate and capacity charge, the Council received comment letters from the Metropolitan Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee, the Regional Water Quality Committee, and the cities of Bellevue, Kirkland, and Seattle, identifying significant concerns about affordability and transparency. WTD developed a draft work plan to address issues identified in the comment letters. WTD's draft work plan was shared with RWQC on July 2, 2025, and at that time the committee directed staff to work with WTD to further clarify the work plan and draft a motion for introduction to the Council requesting WTD implement the work plan..

ANALYSIS

The draft motion would request that WTD implement a work plan to improve transparency and accountability in the sewer rate-setting process. The work plan is included as Attachment A to the draft motion (Attachment 1 to this staff report). The work plan includes tasks associated with each of the major recommendations from the RWQC comment letter dated May 13, 2025 (Attachment 3). The workplan is summarized below.

Meaningful and timely engagement in development of the sewer rate.

- To promote meaningful and timely engagement, WTD will host regular meetings with MWPAAC and/or its subcommittees to review the 10-year Capital Improvement Program, project prioritization, timely updates on changes in large project costs that may impact rates, and expenditure forecast assumptions and impacts to different types of projects across the capital program. (Working timeline Q4 2025 and ongoing)
- As part of the 2027 rate proposal, the work plan specifies that WTD is to include options for multiple rate scenarios, including those that offer various capital portfolio options. The scenarios should detail tradeoffs and associated risks and benefits and should include a discussion about the level of service WTD is able to deliver under each option. (Working timeline Q2 2026)

- To increase transparency and credibility in the long-term forecasting model, WTD will work with a MWPAAC work group to identify the model details that should be shared and further refined. (Working timeline Q3 2025 and ongoing)
- Work with MWPAAC to develop a process for MWPAAC members to observe WTD capital portfolio management staff meetings while not hampering WTD's process and progress. (Working timeline Q1/Q2)

Early Visibility and Transparency on Large Project Planning.

- WTD is to develop a and implement a process for MWPAAC and RWQC (as requested) to review a limited number of large capital projects selected by MWPAAC that substantively affect the rate. These reviews will happen at key phases in the development of these selected projects, including concept definition, alternatives analysis, alternative selection, and final design. Each engagement will create an opportunity to influence outcomes by collaboratively discussing comments and questions with WTD before a decision in each phase identified above is finalized. (Working timeline Q1 2026)

Improve multi-year rate predictability.

- WTD is to prepare options for multi-year rate predictability, including options for a multi-year commitment. Options should be prepared in discussion with MWPAAC's Executive Board and partner agencies and in coordination with King County's Executive's Office and the county budget process. Any multi-year option should include a process for WTD to update the rate if there are significant changes that impact the rate forecast. The intent is for the options to be developed by end of 2025 with implementation by end of Q2 2027 for the 2028 and 2029 rates.

Evaluate regulatory requirements and develop options to address financial sustainability.

- WTD will evaluate the cost/benefit of seeking regulatory changes to improve the environmental and financial sustainability of the regional system. (Working timeline Q3 2025–Q1 2026)
- Coordinate on outreach plan with local agency partners, to state and federal government. The outreach plan should address regulatory issues and funding availability from state and federal agencies. (Working timeline Q3 2025–Q1 2026)

Independent, third-party oversight.

- WTD is to develop a proposal in coordination with MWPAAC's Executive board for review by the Executive's Office to procure an independent consultant to review WTD's capital program, including large capital projects. (Working timeline Q3 2025–Q1 2026)

Regional Utility Affordability Summit.

- For the Regional Utility Affordability Summit that will be held on November 14, 2025 WTD is to work with RWQC, Sound Cities Association (SCA), Seattle, and sewer districts to bring a wastewater perspective to the development and planning of the regional utility affordability summit. Following the summit, WTD is identify and implement resources to execute follow-up steps agreed upon at the summit. (Working timeline Q3 2026–Q1 2026.)
- WTD is to develop a public engagement strategy for rate payers, in coordination with local contract agencies, to explain why wholesale WTD rates are increasing and provide opportunities for public engagement. (Working timeline Q1 2026)

Process. The motion, once finalized and approved by the committee, would be proposed for consideration by the King County Council under Section 270.30 of the King County Charter and K.C.C. 1.24.065, which allows for regional committees to develop and propose legislation for introduction to the King County Council. Councilmember Balducci, as chair of RWQC, would be the primary sponsor of the legislation.

INVITED

- Kamuron Gurol, Director, Wastewater Treatment Division

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Motion (and its attachments)
2. Red-line version of Attachment A
3. Regional Water Quality Committee Comment Letter dated May 13, 2025

Date Created:	September 15, 2025
Drafted by:	Andy Micklow
Sponsors:	
Attachments:	A. Wastewater Treatment Division Sewer Rate and Capital Work Plan to Continue to Improve Engagement, Transparency and Accountability

1 ..Title

2 A MOTION requesting the wastewater treatment division
3 implement a sewer rate and capital work plan to continue to
4 improve engagement, transparency, and accountability.

5 ..Body

6 WHEREAS, the wastewater treatment division protects public health and the
7 environment by collecting and treating wastewater, and

8 WHEREAS, King County charges a sewer rate to the contract agencies that
9 deliver wastewater to King County for treatment and discharge, and

10 WHEREAS, sewer rate revenue is the wastewater treatment division's primary
11 funding source, and

12 WHEREAS, the monthly sewer rate revenue collected by the county goes to
13 support all wastewater treatment division expenses, including operating costs, debt
14 service, and capital expenses, and

15 WHEREAS, while rate increases are necessary to maintain and improve the
16 system, increases must be balanced with affordability for ratepayers, and

17 WHEREAS, the sewer rate increase is projected to be 12.75 percent in 2027 and
18 in 2028, and 13.5 percent in 2029, 2030, and 2031, and

19 WHEREAS, the council is deeply concerned that the projected rate increases will
20 no longer be affordable, including and extending beyond low-income ratepayers, and

21 WHEREAS, as the cost of living in the Central Puget Sound region continues to
22 outpace the national average, as utility bills grow, and income disparity increases, many
23 utility customers struggle to pay bills, and

24 WHEREAS, the process of setting sewer rates should be transparent, equitable,
25 data-driven, and reflective of both current system needs and long-term infrastructure
26 investment, and

27 WHEREAS, independent, third-party oversight of the wastewater treatment
28 division's capital improvement program can promote transparency and identify
29 opportunities for improvement, and

30 WHEREAS, the King County council passed Motion 16410 requesting the
31 wastewater treatment division research and identify methodologies to forecast the long-
32 term costs of its capital improvement needs, and

33 WHEREAS, the King County council passed Motion 16449 requesting the
34 wastewater treatment division develop and maintain a long-term financial and sewer rate
35 forecast, and

36 WHEREAS, the wastewater treatment division continues to improve the
37 methodology and the long-term capital forecasting related to the sewer rate, and

38 WHEREAS, decision makers desire information from the wastewater treatment
39 division to facilitate informed discussions on the policy decisions related to the sewer
40 rate, and

41 WHEREAS, in accordance with RCW 35.58.210 and K.C.C. 28.82.510 the
42 function of the metropolitan pollution abatement advisory committee is to advise the

King County council on matters relating to the performance of the water pollution abatement function, and

WHEREAS, the metropolitan pollution abatement advisory committee, regional water quality committee, and cities of Bellevue, Kirkland, and Seattle have submitted comment letters in response to the 2026 sewer rate and capacity charge to the King County council, identifying significant concerns about affordability and transparency, and

WHEREAS, the wastewater treatment division, in consultation with the regional water quality committee, has developed the attached work plan to improve the rate development process in response to the comment letters submitted in response to the 2026 sewer rate, and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Section 270.30 of the King County Charter and K.C.C. 1.24.065, the regional water quality committee developed this motion to be proposed to the King County council;

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

A. The wastewater treatment division is requested to implement the work plan, included as Attachment A to this ordinance, to continue to improve engagement, transparency, and accountability in the sewer rate-setting process.

B. The wastewater treatment division is requested to provide briefings to the regional water quality committee on the status of the implementation of the work plan by January 2026 and July 2026.

Attachment A. WTD’s Sewer Rate and Capital Work Plan to Continue to Improve Engagement, Transparency, and Accountability

Major Recommendations from RWQC Letter	Wastewater Treatment Division Tasks	Working Timeline
<p>1. Meaningful and Timely Engagement in Development of Sewer Rate. For the 2027 rate process and on-going, Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) should implement an updated rate process that includes:</p> <p>a. Regular discussions throughout the year with the Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee (MWPAAC), Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC), and King County Council at the relevant level of detail for each body on key factors and assumptions affecting the rate and forecast. This includes transparency on capital improvement program assumptions.</p> <p>b. Time for more in-depth review and understanding of costs, discussion of specific rate scenarios/options, and effects during rate discussions with MWPAAC, RWQC, and other stakeholders, at the relevant level of detail for each body.</p> <p>c. Ensure that the long-term rate forecast methodology requested by Motion 16449 is used to develop scenarios to evaluate options.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To promote meaningful and timely engagement, WTD will host regular meetings with MWPAAC and/or its subcommittees to review:<ul style="list-style-type: none">10-year Capital Improvement Program.Project prioritization, including transparency on how decisions are made and policy drivers of capital prioritization.Timely updates on changes in large project costs that may impact rates as information becomes available.Expenditure forecast assumptions and impacts to different types of projects across the capital program.Work with King County Executive's Office to schedule early 'look ahead' presentations on known and potential factors affecting the 2027 rate proposal and forecast.As part of the 2027 rate proposal, include options for multiple rate scenarios, including those that offer various capital portfolio options. Scenarios should detail tradeoffs and associated risks and benefits. This should include a discussion about the level of service WTD is able to deliver under each option.The report on long-term forecasting model required by Motion 16449 was presented to RWQC in September 2025. To increase transparency and credibility in the long-term forecasting model, WTD will work with a MWPAAC work group to identify the model details that should be shared and further refined in order to improve understanding of the assumptions, formulas, data sets, and policy implications embedded in the long-term rate model and	<p>Q4 2025 and ongoing</p> <p>Q1/Q2 2026</p> <p>Q2 2026</p> <p>Q3 2025 and ongoing</p>

Attachment A. WTD’s Sewer Rate and Capital Work Plan to Continue to Improve Engagement, Transparency, and Accountability

Major Recommendations from RWQC Letter	Wastewater Treatment Division Tasks	Working Timeline
	<p>allow for informed questions. The MWPAAC work group should identify areas of improvement to continue to align with industry best practices to inform suggestions for improvements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work with MWPAAC Executive Board member(s) to develop a process for members to observe WTD Capital Portfolio management staff meetings while not hampering WTD's process and progress.	Q1/Q2 2026
<p>2. Early visibility and transparency on large project planning. Develop mechanisms for MWPAAC and RWQC to engage in the planning and development process for large capital projects prior to decision-making to improve knowledge and confidence.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop and implement a process for MWPAAC and RWQC (as requested) to review a limited number of large capital projects selected by MWPAAC that substantively affect the rate. These reviews will happen at key phases in the development of these selected projects, including concept definition, alternatives analysis, alternative selection, and final design. Each engagement will create an opportunity to influence outcomes by collaboratively discussing comments and questions with WTD before a decision in each phase identified above is finalized.	Q1 2026
<p>3. Improve multi-year rate predictability. Develop options and implement a mechanism to improve rate predictability to help partner agencies better plan and lessen large changes in rate proposals, especially for the first three years of the rate. A multi-year rate would provide more time for an in-depth review and understanding of costs and how investments are prioritized, and discussion of options and tradeoffs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prepare and deliver of options for multi-year rate predictability, including options for a multi-year rate commitment. Options should be prepared in discussion with MWPAAC’s Executive Board and partner agencies and in coordination with King County Executive’s Office and county budget process. Any multi-year option should include a process for WTD to update the rate if there are significant changes that impact the rate forecast.	Q3 2025 – Q2 2026 (Options identified by end 2025 and multi-year rate implementation by end of Q2 2027 for 2028 and 2029 rates)

Attachment A. WTD’s Sewer Rate and Capital Work Plan to Continue to Improve Engagement, Transparency, and Accountability

Major Recommendations from RWQC Letter	Wastewater Treatment Division Tasks	Working Timeline
4. Evaluate regulatory requirements and develop options to address financial sustainability. Evaluate consent decree and permit deadlines for major projects and investments associated with multiple and concurrent requirements and identify options to address financial sustainability while optimizing water quality benefits and maintaining permit compliance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Evaluate the costs/benefits of seeking regulatory changes to improve the environmental and financial sustainability of the regional system.Coordinate on outreach plan with local agency partners, to state and federal government. The outreach plan should address regulatory issues and funding availability from state and federal agencies.	Q3 2025 – 2026 Q3 2025 – 2026
5. Independent, third-party oversight. Provide for independent third-party review for WTD's capital program, including <i>mega</i> capital projects such as the Mouth of Duwamish Combined Sewer Overflow Program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Develop a proposal in coordination with MWPAAC's Executive Board for review by the Executive's Office to procure an independent consultant to review WTD's capital program, including large capital projects.	Q4 2025 – Q2 2026
6. Regional Utility Affordability Summit. In partnership with local municipal leaders, prepare a multi-jurisdictional summit to address affordability and access to essential utilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Work with RWQC, Sound Cities Association, Seattle, and sewer districts to bring a wastewater perspective to the development and planning of the regional utility affordability summit.Identify and implement resources to execute follow-up steps agreed upon at the summit.Develop public engagement strategy for rate payers in coordination with local contract agencies to explain why wholesale WTD rates are increasing and provide opportunities for public engagement.	Q3 2025 – Q1 2026 Q4 2025-Q1 2026 Q1 2026

Major Recommendations from RWQC Letter	Wastewater Treatment Division Tasks	Working Timeline
<p>1. Meaningful and Timely Engagement in Development of Sewer Rate. For the 2027 rate process and on-going, Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) should implement an updated rate process that includes:</p> <p>a. Regular discussions throughout the year with the Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee (MWPAAC), Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC), and King County Council at the relevant level of detail for each body on key factors and assumptions affecting the rate and forecast. This includes transparency on capital improvement program assumptions.</p> <p>b. Time for more in-depth review and understanding of costs, discussion of specific rate scenarios/options, and effects during rate discussions with MWPAAC, RWQC, and other stakeholders, at the relevant level of detail for each body.</p> <p>c. Ensure that the long-term rate forecast methodology requested by Motion 16449 is used to develop scenarios to evaluate options.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To promote meaningful and timely engagement, WTD will host regular meetings with MWPAAC and/or its subcommittees to review:<ul style="list-style-type: none">10-year Capital Improvement Program.Project prioritization, including transparency on how decisions are made and policy drivers of capital prioritization.Timely updates on changes in large project costs that may impact rates as information becomes available.Expenditure forecast assumptions and impacts to different types of projects across the capital program.	Q4 2025 and ongoing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Work with King County Executive's Office to schedule early 'look ahead' presentations on known and potential factors affecting the 2027 rate proposal and forecast.	Q1/Q2 2026
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">As part of the 2027 rate proposal, include options for multiple rate scenarios, including those that offer various capital portfolio options. Scenarios should detail tradeoffs and associated risks and benefits. This should include a discussion about the level of service WTD is able to deliver under each option.	Q2 2026
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Report on long-term forecasting model required by Motion 16449 will be available to RWQC in September 2025. To increase transparency and credibility in the long-term forecasting model, WTD will work with MWPAAC's rate model subcommittee to identify the model details that should be shared <u>and further refined</u> in order to allow for a	Q3 2025

Major Recommendations from RWQC Letter	Wastewater Treatment Division Tasks	Working Timeline
	<p>better understanding of the assumptions, formulas, data sets, and policy implications embedded in the long-term rate model and allow for informed questions. A MWPAAC 's rate model subcommittee work group should identify areas of improvement to continue to and misalign nment with industry best practices to inform and suggestions for improvements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work with MWPAAC Executive Board member(s) to develop a process for members to observe WTD Capital Portfolio management staff meetings while not hampering WTD's process and progress.	Q1/Q2 2026
<p>2. Early visibility and transparency on large project planning. Process for large project alternatives evaluation. Develop mechanisms for MWPAAC and RWQC in the planning and development process for large capital projects prior to decision-making to improve knowledge and confidence.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop and implement a process for MWPAAC and RWQC (as requested) to review a limited number of large capital projects selected by MWPAAC that substantively effect- effect the rate. These reviews will happen at key phases in the development of these large capital projects selected - projects by MWPAAC, including: concept definition, alternatives analysis, alternative selection and final design. Each engagement will should include a presentation at MWPAAC and RWQC as requested. This process creates an opportunity for MWPAAC to influence outcomes in its advisory role by collaboratively discussing and responding to comments and questions with WTD before a decision in each phase identified above is finalized.	Q1 2026

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Attachment A. Wastewater Treatment Division work plan to improve transparency and accountability in the sewer rate setting process

Major Recommendations from RWQC Letter	Wastewater Treatment Division Tasks	Working Timeline
3. Improve multi-year rate predictability. Develop options and implement a mechanism to improve rate predictability to help partner agencies better plan and lessen large changes in rate proposals, especially for the first three years of the rate. A multi-year rate would provide more time for an in-depth review and understanding of costs and how investments are prioritized, and discussion of options and tradeoffs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Preparation and delivery of options for multi-year rate predictability commitment. This should include options for a multi-year rate commitment. Options should be prepared in discussion with MWPAAC’s Executive Board and partner agencies on potential options for rate predictability and in coordination with Executive Office and county budget process. AnyThe multi-year options should include allow for a process for WTD to update the rate if there are significant changes that impact the rate forecast. The options for a multi-year rate should describe how scenarios and tradeoffs would be presented if WTD proposes rate changes during the multi-year rate period.	Q3 2025 – Q2 2026 (Options identified by end 2025 and multi-year rate implementation by end of Q2 2027 for 2028 and 2029 rates)
4. Evaluate regulatory requirements and develop options to address financial sustainability. Evaluate consent decree and permit deadlines for major projects and investments associated with multiple and concurrent requirements and identify options to address financial sustainability while optimizing water quality benefits and maintaining permit compliance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Evaluate the costs/benefits of seeking regulatory changes to improve the environmental and financial sustainability of the regional system.Coordinate on outreach plan with local agency partners, to state and federal government. The outreach plan should address regulatory issues and funding availability from state and federal agencies.	Q3 2025 – 2026 <u>Q3 2025 – 2026</u>

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Major Recommendations from RWQC Letter	Wastewater Treatment Division Tasks	Working Timeline
5. Independent, third-party oversight. Provide for independent third-party review for WTD's capital program, including "mega" capital projects such as the Mouth of Duwamish Combined Sewer Overflow Program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Develop a proposal in coordination with MWPAAC's Executive board for review by the Executive's Office to procure an independent consultant to review WTD's capital program, including large capital (s) projects.	Q4 2025 – Q2 2026
6. Regional Utility Affordability Summit. In partnership with local municipal leaders, prepare a multi-jurisdictional summit to address affordability and access to essential utilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Work with RWQC, Sound Cities Association, Seattle, and sewer districts to bring a wastewater perspective to the development and planning of the regional utility affordability summit.Identify and implement resources to execute follow-up steps agreed upon at the summit.Develop public engagement strategy for rate payers in coordination with local contract agencies to explain why wholesale WTD rates are increasing and provide opportunities for public engagement.	Q3 2025 – Q1 2026

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King County

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

May 13, 2025

The Honorable Girmay Zahilay
Chair, King County Council
King County Courthouse
516 3rd Ave.
Seattle, WA 98104

RE: Proposed Ordinance 2025-0129 2026 Proposed Sewer Rate and Capacity Charge

Dear Chair Zahilay,

Over the last two and a half years, the Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC) has been working to address the complex and often competing challenges facing our regional wastewater system. In 2023, the King County Council adopted Motions 16410 and 16449, developed by RWQC, requesting that the Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) develop a long-term forecast for capital needs and a long-term rate forecast. The RWQC acknowledges and appreciates the work that WTD has done in making progress on rate methodologies, and we appreciate the additional briefings WTD has provided to both RWQC and the Metropolitan Water Pollution and Abatement Advisory Committee (MWPAAC) this year in support of the proposed 2026 sewer rate and capacity charge.

RWQC recognizes that rate increases are necessary to maintain and improve the system, but increases must be balanced with affordability for ratepayers. Our deepest concern is that the rates forecasted in the future, particularly in 2027, are untenable and unsustainable for our ratepayers. As the Central Puget Sound Region experiences growing costs of living and income disparity, our customers face significant affordability concerns. We are particularly concerned that sewer rates will no longer be affordable among all ratepayers, including and extending beyond low-income ratepayers.

While the RWQC can support the 2026 rate based on relative consistency with the prior forecast, we are very concerned about the projected rate path. RWQC would likely not support the 2027 rate or the projected rate path without WTD providing better communication about the reason for the rate changes, various scenarios considered, efforts made to minimize the rate impacts to ratepayers, and more meaningful engagement by MWPAAC, RWQC, and the King County Council in the development of the 2027 rate.

To achieve more predictability, affordability, and transparency for the 2027 and future rates, the Regional Water Quality Committee would like to offer the following recommendations:

Approach for 2027 Rate Development. The challenges facing the regional wastewater system and the significant projected rate increases in the near term will require an approach to developing the 2027 rate that increases the confidence of RWQC members that rate increases are necessitated by maintenance needs, regulatory compliance, objective standards for maintaining water quality, and that

the Executive has made every effort to minimize the burden of rate increases on ratepayers. We believe such an approach necessitates earlier and more meaningful engagement with MWPAAC, RWQC, and the King County Council.

Rather than wait until the next rate is presented, we urge WTD to partner with MWPAAC, RWQC, and the King County Council to continue the discussions started during this rate cycle on the factors driving the 2027 rate and future projections. This engagement should include ongoing discussions with MWPAAC and RWQC on capital improvement program assumptions, including understanding the ability to deliver a capital program of this size and policy drivers of capital prioritization, particularly for projects not principally related to asset management or regulatory compliance. Beginning this work now will allow time for a more in-depth review and understanding of costs, discussion of options and tradeoffs, and prioritization of investments.

Furthermore, we urge the King County Council to ensure that the long-term rate forecast methodology requested by Motion 16449 will result in multiple forecast scenarios that can be reviewed beginning with the 2027 forecast so we can understand the tradeoffs involved in various rate scenarios.

Develop and implement a proactive regulatory strategy. Given the new information about the cost of regulatory investments, we encourage King County to develop and implement a regulatory strategy for renegotiating consent decrees or permit deadlines for major projects and investments to address affordability challenges while simultaneously achieving optimal water quality benefits to the region.

Good governance requires good oversight. WTD has a massive \$11 billion capital forecast over the next 10 years. Having a review by independent experts could promote transparency and identify opportunities for improvement. We recommend that WTD develop a proposal for a third-party review of the capital program, including “mega” capital projects such as the Mouth of Duwamish Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO).

Early visibility and transparency on large project planning. The planning and development of large capital projects should include opportunities to bring MWPAAC, RWQC, and other stakeholders into the process early enough to witness the alternatives analysis so that the benefits and tradeoffs of different alternatives can be examined and understood.

Rate predictability for multiple years. WTD should explore a multi-year rate commitment, which would provide more time for an in-depth review and understanding of costs, discussion of options and tradeoffs, and prioritization of investments. The intent of a multi-year approach would be to achieve better long-term planning and stability for WTD and contract agencies, which must plan for their budgets. This extended timeframe will also allow for greater engagement across cities and sewer districts to impact the proposed rate. Lastly, it would allow for increased accountability that would serve the region well.

Long-term forecasting. We appreciate WTD’s efforts to provide a long-term forecast for the rates in accordance with previous motions. As part of extending the forecast, WTD has noted that the forecast for the second decade has a high level of uncertainty. We recommend that WTD continue strengthening its capital forecasting methodology to increase the reliability, predictability, and sustainability of the second decade of the rate forecast.

Support the Regional Utilities Affordability Summit. Many regional utilities are forecasting significant annual rate increases for the foreseeable future. We are deeply concerned about the cumulative impact of these increases on King County's residents and businesses. We support Executive Braddock's plan to prepare a multi-jurisdictional summit to address affordability and access to essential utilities (solid waste, sewer, water, and energy) and encourage the Council's support of this summit.

Continue focus on Regional Wastewater Services Plan (RWSP) update and adhere to timelines for major milestones in the RWSP update process. Given the many complex issues facing the regional wastewater system, the need for a plan and policy review that addresses the needs of the system and its users has never been greater. RWQC is looking forward to participating in the policy discussions that are to occur as part of the RWSP Update to address rate structures, affordability, cost recovery structures, capacity demands, and many other important issues that directly impact the rate. We encourage the King County Council to ensure the timelines are adhered to for this important planning effort.

Sincerely,

Claudia Balducci

Claudia Balducci (May 13, 2025 12:06 PDT)

Claudia Balducci, Chair
Regional Water Quality Committee

Laura Mork

Laura Mork (May 13, 2025 11:03 PDT)

Laura Mork, Vice Chair
Regional Water Quality Committee

Cc: King County Councilmembers
Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff, King County Council
Jeff Muhm, Chief Policy Officer, King County Council
Stephanie Pure, Director of Council Relations, Office of the Executive
Melani Hay, Council Clerk, King County Council
Regional Water Quality Committee

5-13-25 RWQC Letter to Council re 2025-0129

Final Audit Report

2025-05-13

Created:	2025-05-13
By:	Marka Steadman (Marka.Steadman@kingcounty.gov)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAA-G8r6rkFkNZriKNiw9dQpW3E2cqLhRf

"5-13-25 RWQC Letter to Council re 2025-0129" History

-  Document created by Marka Steadman (Marka.Steadman@kingcounty.gov)
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-  Document emailed to Laura Mork (lmork@shorelinewa.gov) for signature
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-  Document e-signed by Claudia Balducci (claudia.balducci@kingcounty.gov)
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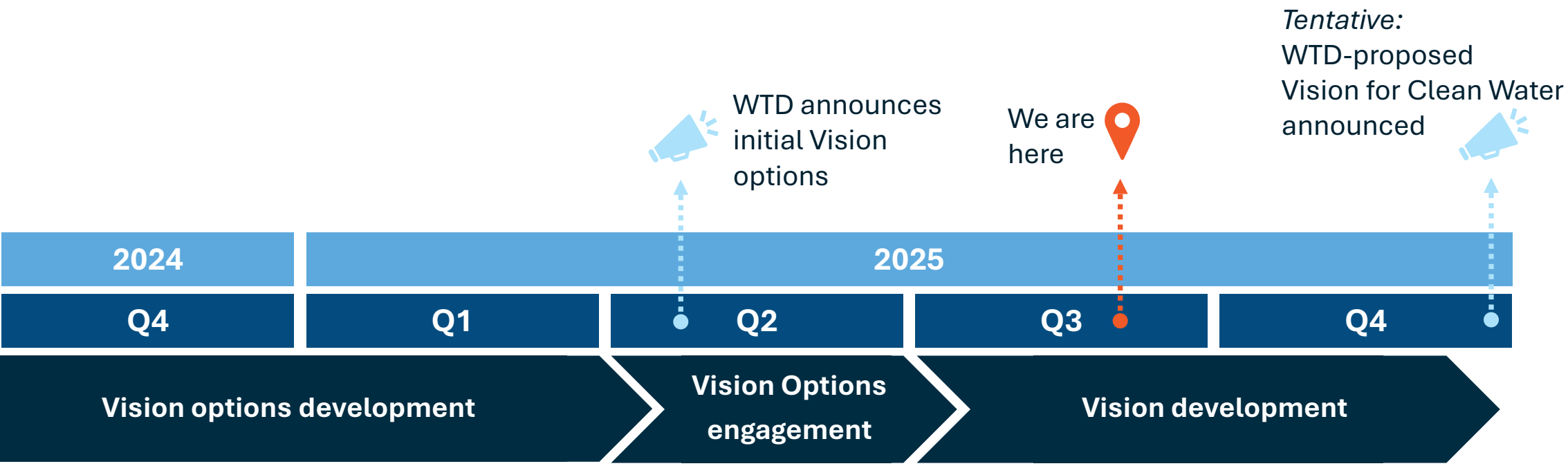


Regional Wastewater Services Plan (RWSP) Update

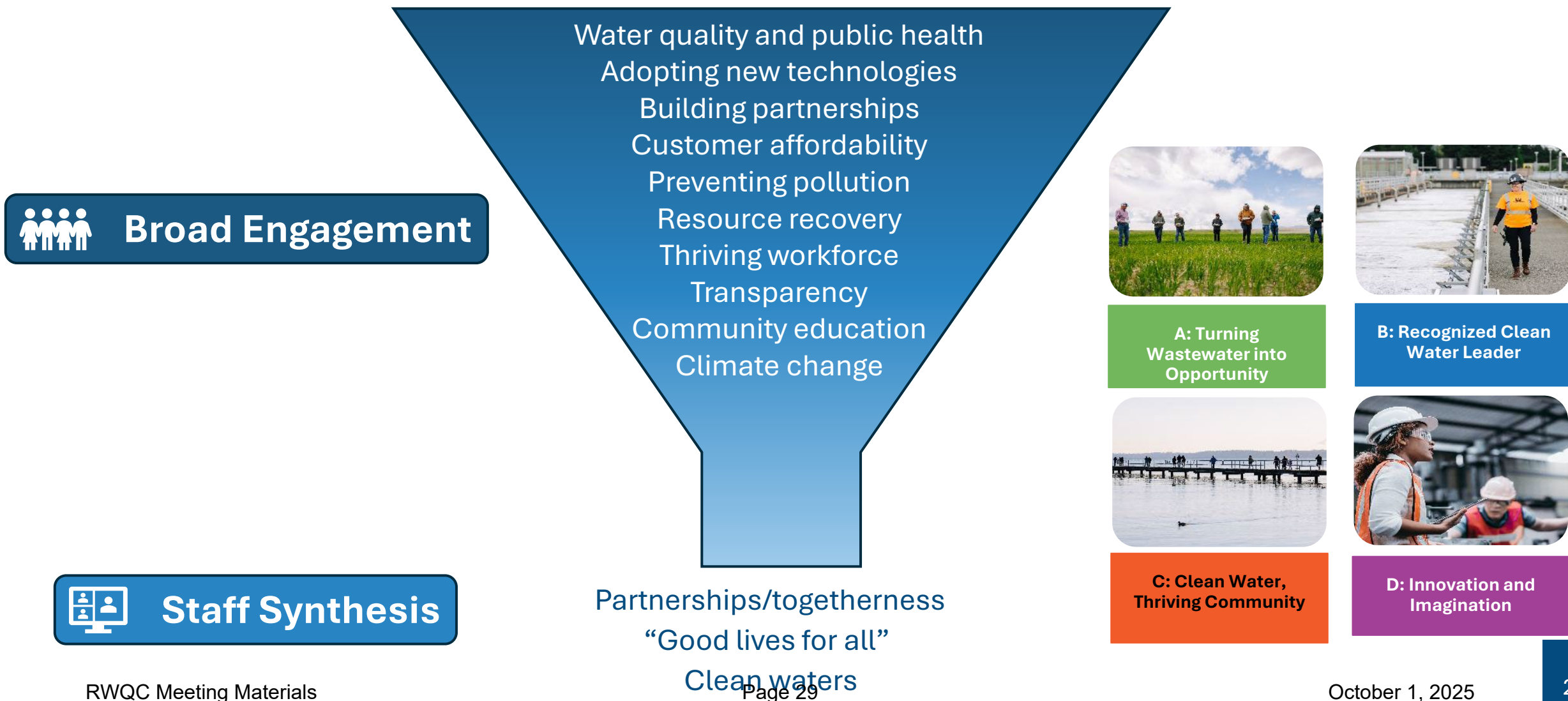
Regional Water Quality Committee

October 1, 2025

Vision for Clean Water



Engagement Themes



RWSP Update Roadmap – *Tentative*

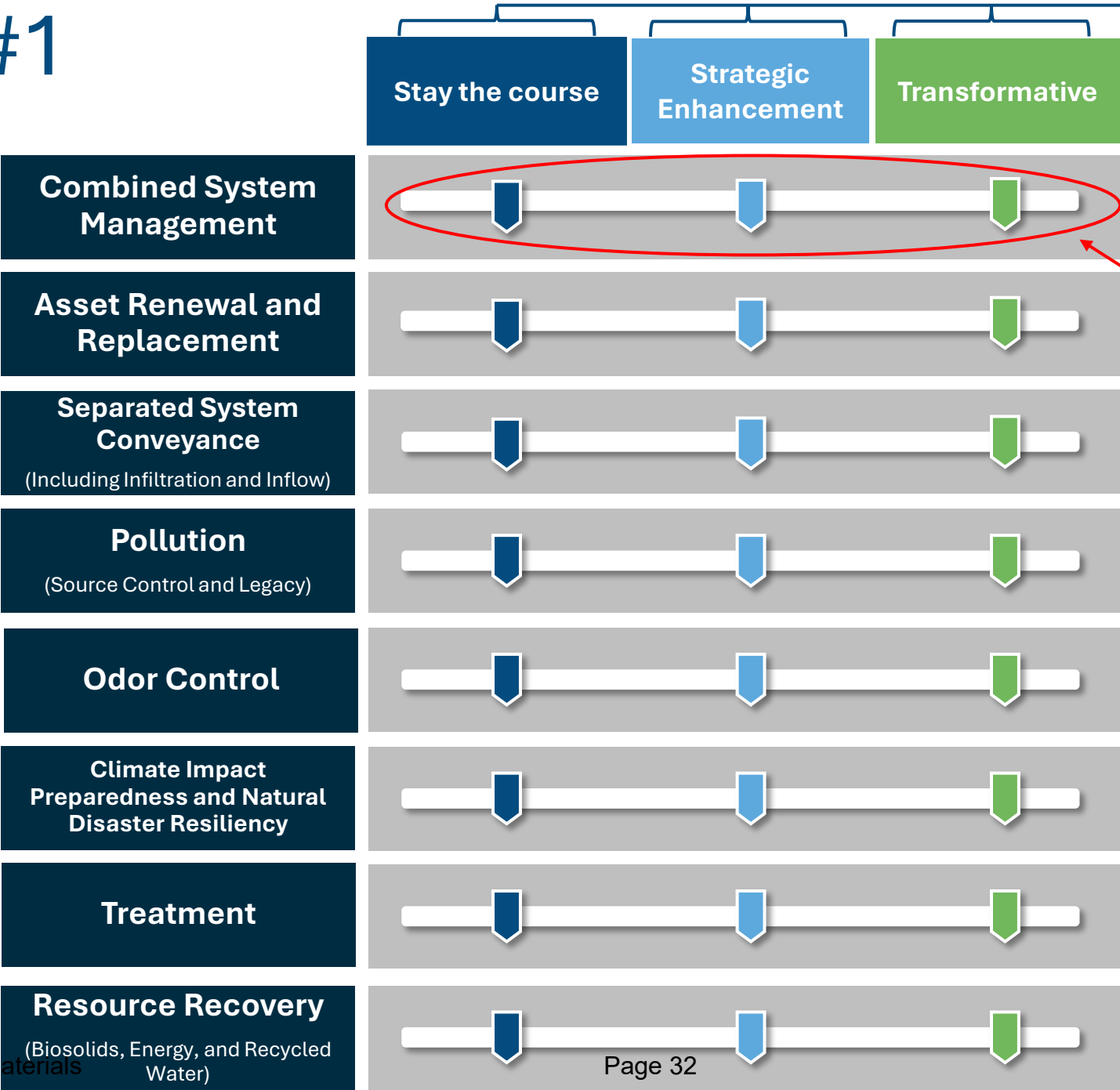
- **Module #1:** Draft “Actions” for 8 categories of capital investments for 3 Conceptual Approaches Q2 2025 – Q1 2026
- **Module #2:** Evaluation Framework and Affordability Metrics to compare Approaches and evaluate tradeoffs to inform selection of Final Proposal Q2 2026 – Q3 2026
- **Module #3:** Planning level cost estimation of the Actions for each of the 8 categories from Module #1 Q2 2026 – Q1 2027
- **Module #4:** Phase 1 Financial Policies Q3 2026 – Q4 2026

RWSP Update Roadmap – *Tentative*

- **Module #5:** *Draft* RWSP with 3 Conceptual Approaches with associated Actions and cost estimates (and DEIS, if needed) 2027
- **Module #6:** Apply Evaluation Framework from Module #2 to determine *which* sets of Actions 2027/28
- **Module #7:** Final Proposed Plan (may be a hybrid set of actions from the 3 Approaches) with RWSP Policies and Phase 2 Financial Policies (and FEIS, if needed) 2028/29

Module #1

Categories of Capital Investment



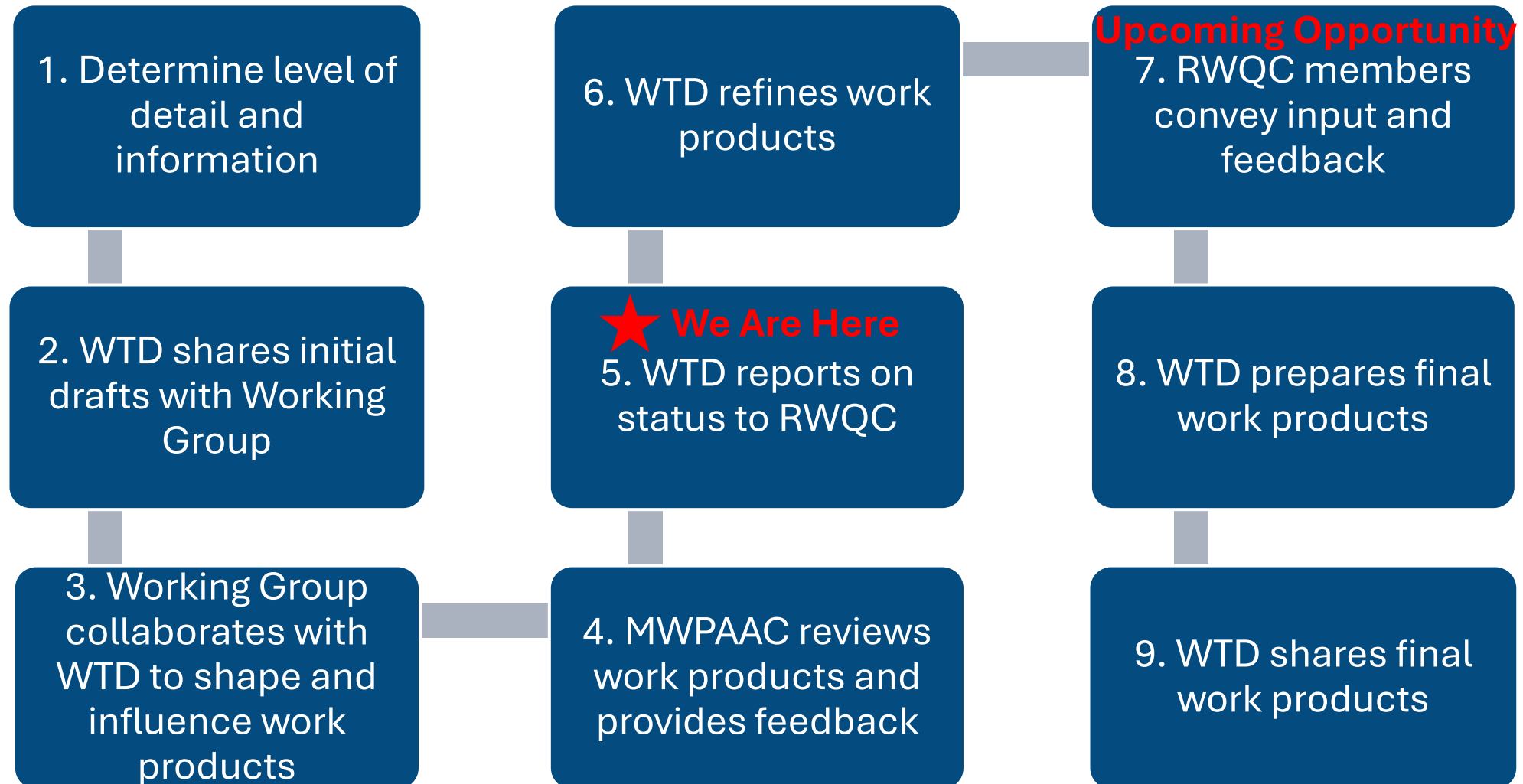
Conceptual Approaches

Today's Possible Actions

Module #1: What are “Actions” ?

- Actions are “what” WTD would do based on different policy choices and direction decided upon by RWQC and the Council
 - *Not asking RWQC to decide on which action(s) to choose today*
- Actions will provide policy makers the necessary information to evaluate tradeoffs and make informed decisions on different policy options
- Actions are building blocks and not standalone solutions. They will be shaped and combined throughout the planning process to guide specific policies

RWSP Process Agreed Upon in RWSP Charter



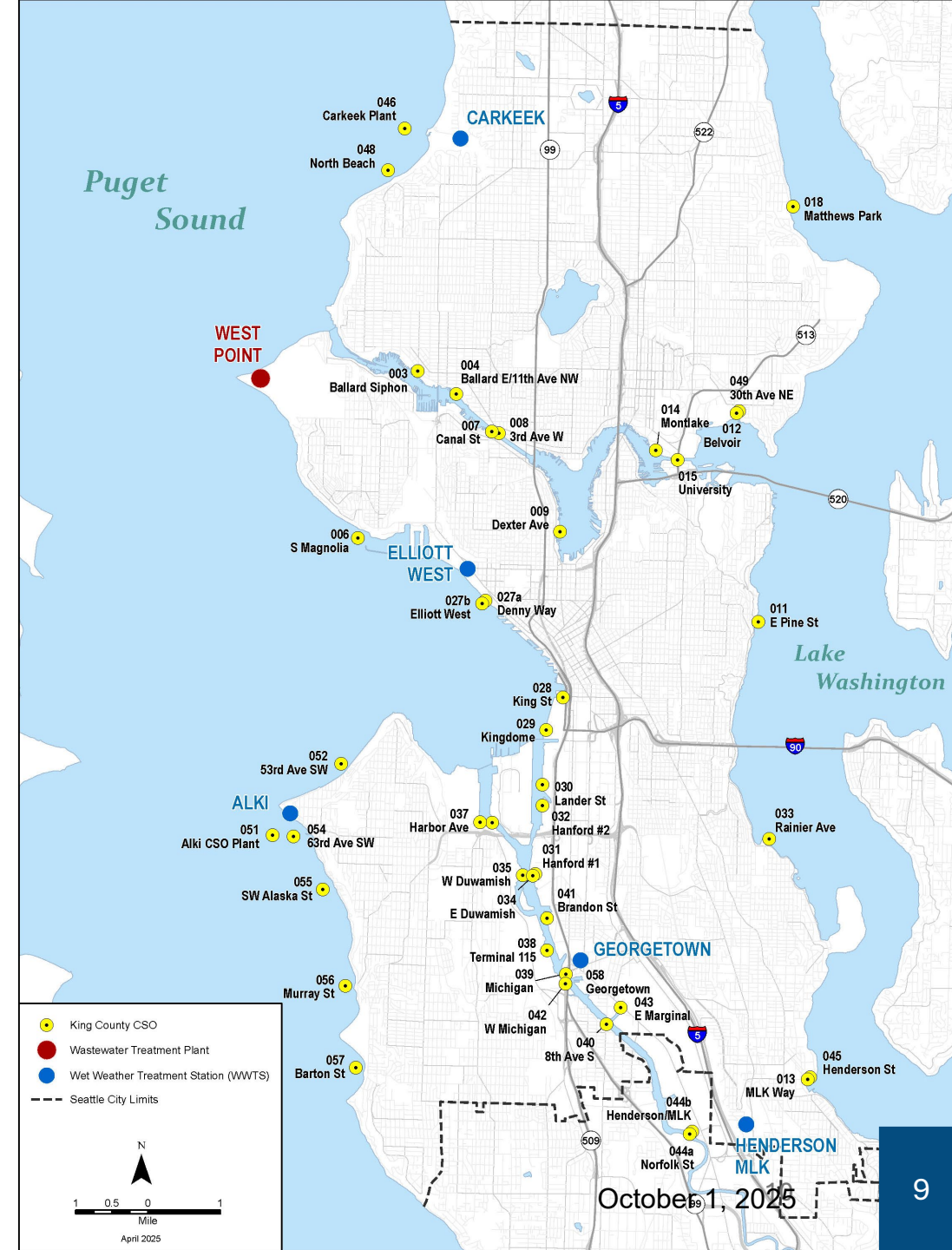
RWSP Module #1 Topic 1: Combined System Management *Actions*

King County and Seattle each manage their own CSO systems

King County has 38 CSO outfalls.

King County has 5 wet weather treatment stations that provide primary treatment and disinfection before discharge during wet weather events.

Seattle has 82 CSO outfalls.



King County and Seattle each manage their own CSO systems

King County has 38 CSO outfalls.

King County has 5 wet weather treatment stations that provide primary treatment and disinfection before discharge during wet weather events.

Seattle has 82 CSO outfalls.



Current King County CSO Policies

King County Code (K.C.C. 28.86.080) and the CSO control policies guide the County's combined sewer management.

- Control CSOs by 2030 (now 2037 with recent CD Modification)
- Adherence to state and federal regulations and agreements
- Prioritization of CSO control activities for human health and environmental benefits
- Coordination with Seattle
- Preclusion of design for new or contaminated stormwater sources unless certain considerations are addressed
- Consideration of green stormwater infrastructure projects
- Implementation of sediment management strategies
- Implementation and regular amendments of the Long-term CSO Control Plan with most current studies and information and appropriate Council and regulatory approvals.

RWSP Scoping Document (2024) : "Major Policy Questions" relevant to Combined System Management

1. **Should** the County evaluate costs and plan for levels of treatment **beyond current legal requirements**?
2. How should WTD efforts **support the water quality** of Puget Sound and applicable inland waterways?
3. How proactive vs. reactive should WTD be when deciding to **refurbish or replace aging infrastructure**?

Combined System Management Policy Issues

1. What to do about untreated CSO discharges

Scoping Document: Go beyond legal requirements? How to support water quality?

2. What to do with aging (pre-2006) wet weather treatment stations

Scoping Document: How to support water quality? Replace or refurbish aging infrastructure?

3. Managing risk of non-compliance

Scoping Document: Go beyond Legal Requirements?

4. What to do about wet weather flows into the combined system

Scoping Document: Go beyond Legal Requirements?

Conceptual Approaches for Combined System Management

- **Stay the Course (status quo)** – These actions represent continued regulatory compliance according to current requirements and standard approaches consistent with existing combined system management.
- **Strategic Enhancement (advancement)** – These actions could enhance some stay the course strategies toward further water quality objectives associated with combined system management.
- **Transformative** – These actions represent a dramatic departure from current combined system management to substantially improve the quality of receiving water bodies.

Draft Combined System Mgmt. Action Menu

		Stay the Course (SC)	Strategic Enhancement (SE)	Transformative (T)
Untreated Discharges		SC.1 Comply with Consent Decree / Meet state standards and NPDES permit requirements for controlling untreated CSO discharges	NA	T.1 Eliminate all untreated CSO discharges
	Wet Weather Treatment Stations	SC.2 Comply with NPDES permit requirements for upgrading WWTS to meet effluent limits	NA	T.2a Upgrade wet weather treatment stations to increase minimum treatment performance T.2b Store additional flows and retrofit, replace, or retire aging (pre-2006) wet weather treatment stations
Managing Risk of Non Compliance		SC.3 Adhere to the existing control target by designing CSO projects larger for higher confidence of compliance	SE.3 Design CSO projects for late century climate volumes for new CSO projects	NA
Wet Weather Flow Management		SC.4 Implement green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) to support CSO control where it is cost competitive with gray	SE.4a Reduce demand on West Point and improve combined sewer system capacity through flow shedding and separation SE.4b Prioritize GSI over gray capital projects if it is technically feasible, even if not cost competitive with gray alternatives. SE.4c Programmatic measures to remove stormwater from the CSS in partially separated areas where flows can be directed to an existing stormwater system SE.4d I/I reduction in targeted combined areas or separated areas that directly contribute to the combined sewer system	T.4 Prevent stormwater from entering the CSS (system-wide separation, I/I reduction, and GSI) even if there is no MS4 system to tie into

Actions to address Policy Issue #1:

What to do about untreated CSO discharges

Stay the Course (SC)	Strategic Enhancement (SE)	Transformative (T)
SC.1 Comply with Consent Decree / Meet state standards and NPDES permit requirements for controlling untreated CSO discharges	NA	T.1 Eliminate all untreated CSO discharges

Actions to address Policy Issue #2:
What to do with aging (pre 2006) wet weather stations

Stay the Course (SC)	Strategic Enhancement (SE)	Transformative (T)
SC.2 Comply with NPDES permit requirements for upgrading wet weather treatment stations to meet effluent limits	NA	T.2a Upgrade wet weather treatment stations to increase minimum treatment performance T.2b Store additional flows and retrofit, replace, or retire aging (pre-2006) wet weather treatment stations

Actions to address Policy Issue #3:

Managing risk of non-compliance

Stay the Course (SC)	Strategic Enhancement (SE)	Transformative (T)
SC.3 Adhere to the existing control target by designing CSO projects larger for higher confidence of compliance	SE.3 Design CSO projects for late century climate volumes for new CSO projects	NA

Actions to address Policy Issue #4:

What to do about wet weather flows into the combined system

Stay the Course (SC)	Strategic Enhancement (SE)	Transformative (T)
<p>SC.4 Implement green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) to support CSO control where it is cost competitive with gray</p>	<p>SE.4a Reduce demand on West Point and improve combined sewer system capacity through “flow shedding” and separation</p> <p>SE.4b Prioritize GSI over gray capital projects if it is technically feasible, even if not cost competitive with gray alternatives.</p> <p>SE.4c Programmatic measures to remove stormwater from the CSS in partially separated areas where flows can be directed to an existing stormwater system</p> <p>SE.4d I/I reduction in targeted combined areas or separated areas that directly contribute to the combined sewer system</p>	<p>T.4 Prevent stormwater from entering the CSS (system-wide separation, I/I reduction, and GSI) even if there is no MS4 system to tie into</p>

Draft Combined System Mgmt. Action Menu

		Stay the Course (SC)	Strategic Enhancement (SE)	Transformative (T)
Managing Wet Weather Risk of Non Compliance	Untreated Discharges	SC.1 Comply with Consent Decree / Meet state standards and NPDES permit requirements for controlling untreated CSO discharges	NA	T.1 Eliminate all untreated CSO discharges
	Wet Weather Treatment Stations	SC.2 Comply with NPDES permit requirements for upgrading WWTS to meet effluent limits	NA	T.2a Upgrade wet weather treatment stations to increase minimum treatment performance T.2b Store additional flows and retrofit, replace, or retire aging (pre-2006) wet weather treatment stations
	Managing Risk of Non Compliance	SC.3 Adhere to the existing control target by designing CSO projects larger for higher confidence of compliance	SE.3 Design CSO projects for late century climate volumes for new CSO projects	NA
	Wet Weather Flow Management	SC.4 Implement green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) to support CSO control where it is cost competitive with gray	SE.4a Reduce demand on West Point and improve combined sewer system capacity through flow shedding and separation SE.4b Prioritize GSI over gray capital projects if it is technically feasible, even if not cost competitive with gray alternatives. SE.4c Programmatic measures to remove stormwater from the CSS in partially separated areas where flows can be directed to an existing stormwater system SE.4d I/I reduction in targeted combined areas or separated areas that directly contribute to the combined sewer system	T.4 Prevent stormwater from entering the CSS (system-wide separation, I/I reduction, and GSI) even if there is no MS4 system to tie into
RWQC Meeting Materials			Page 47	October 1, 2025

Q & A



King County | Wastewater Treatment

Draft Actions – 1. Untreated Discharge

	SC.1	T.1
Description	Comply with Consent Decree / Meet state standards and NPDES permit requirements	Eliminate all untreated CSO discharges
Justification	Focus on regulatory compliance. By following the State and Federal regulations, WTD will avoid penalties and settlements.	Prevent untreated sewage from discharging into our region's water bodies due to wet weather events.
Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefits in regional water quality • Avoidance of penalties and legal action • Accountability and positive public opinion in following through on commitments to standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water quality improvements • Expansive additions to regional infrastructure • Exceeds regulatory requirements

Draft Actions – 2. Wet Weather Treatment Stations

	SC.2	T.2a	T.2b
Description	Comply with NPDES permit requirements for upgrading wet weather treatment stations to meet effluent limits	Upgrade wet weather treatment stations to increase minimum treatment performance	Store additional flows and retrofit, replace, or retire aging (pre-2006) wet weather treatment stations
Justification	Focus on improving the performance of wet weather treatment facilities to stay in compliance with requirements included in the NPDES permit	Improve effluent quality through enhanced treatment	Ensures all treated wet weather flows are put through the newest technology wet weather treatment facilities or secondary treatment
Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effluent quality for the treated CSO discharges will follow State standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All treated flows in the combined system would receive a higher minimum level of treatment Exceeds regulatory requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoids enforcement actions and penalties at aging wet weather facilities Exceeds regulatory requirements

Draft Actions – 3. Managing Risk of Non-Compliance

	SC.3	SE.3
Description	Adhere to the existing control target by designing CSO projects larger for higher confidence of compliance	Design CSO projects for late century climate volumes for new CSO projects
Justification	Increases confidence in meeting current regulatory requirements	Ensures infrastructure investments remain in control for decades to come
Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• High confidence of meeting performance standard of one overflow per year• Avoids additional compliance requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Designs account for late-century flows• Avoids additional compliance requirements• May present O&M challenges in near term
RWQC Meeting Materials	Page 51	October 1, 2025

Draft Actions – 4. Wet Weather Flow Management (1/2)

	SC.4	SE.4a	SE.4b
Description	Implement green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) to support CSO control where it is cost competitive with gray	Reduce demand on West Point and improve combined sewer system capacity through flow shedding and separation	GSI first before grey capital projects when technically feasible to prioritize multi-benefit control strategies for enhanced environmental benefit
Justification	GSI provides community and environmental benefits beyond just helping to control a CSO and can offer greater flexibility for climate adaptation	Flow shedding and separation could reduce CSO control volumes and improve combined system capacity	Flows infiltrating through GSI are far less likely to enter the combined sewer system. GSI provides additional benefits that go beyond CSO control
Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-benefits of GSI Manages delivery complexity and cost by implementing GSI only where it is cost competitive with gray alternatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved capacity in combined system Reduced demand on West Point could add flexibility to meet future requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-benefits of GSI
RWQC Meeting Materials		Page 52	October 1, 2025

Draft Actions – 4. Wet Weather Flow Management (2/2)

	SE.4c	SE.4d	T.4
Description	Programmatic measures to remove stormwater from the CSS in partially separated areas where flows can be directed to an existing stormwater system	I/I reduction in targeted combined areas or separated areas that directly contribute to the combined sewer system	Prevent stormwater from entering the CSS (system-wide separation, I/I reduction, and GSI) even if there is no MS4 system to tie into
Justification	Reduction of stormwater contributions to the combined system has the potential to reduce burden on the combined system	Reduction of contributing I/I flows could improve combined system capacity	Relieves peak flow challenges and wet weather variability
Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved capacity in combined system May increase discharge of untreated stormwater 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extent and effectiveness unknown, I/I scale is much smaller than designed stormwater connections in combined system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beyond current authority Extensive additional infrastructure Regional wastewater system would be maintaining local stormwater treatment Reduced demand on West Point could add flexibility to meet future requirements Exceeds regulatory requirements

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 Gurol

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:

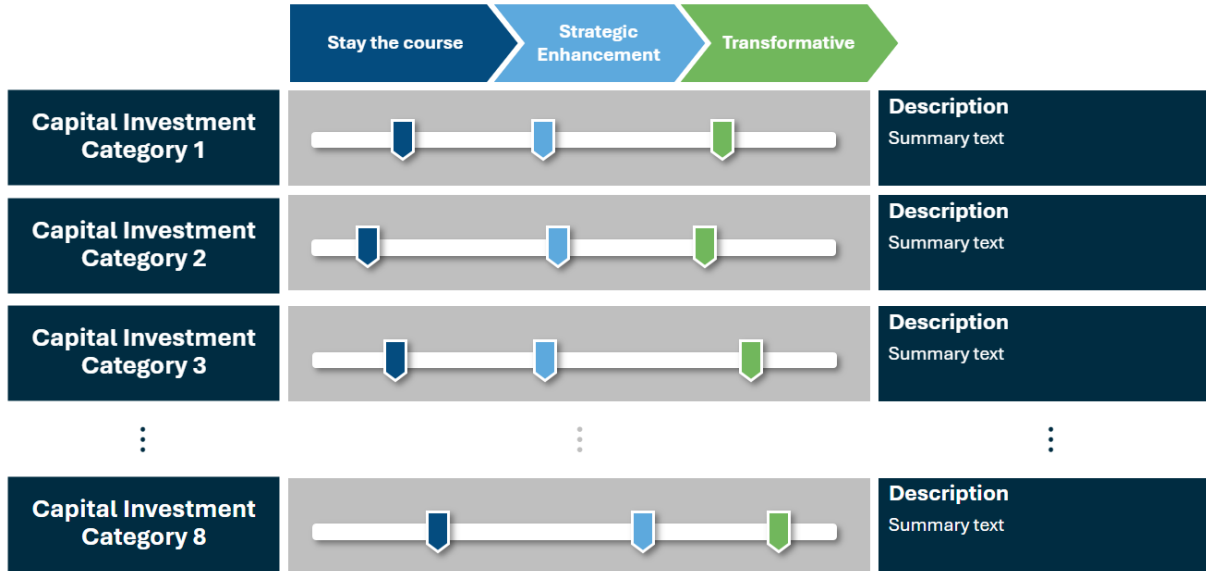
1. **Stay the Course:** Under this approach, WTD would provide fundamental services. WTD would implement operations and a capital program that focus on compliance for all applicable current and future regulations. WTD would use industry-accepted standard operating procedures and proven and reliable technologies. 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

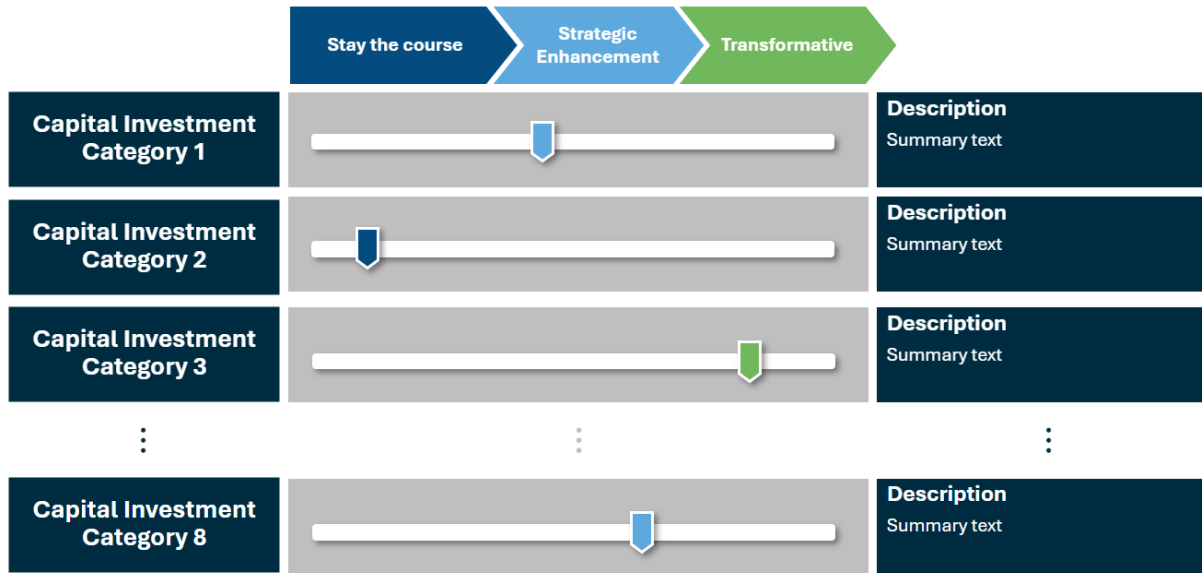


The planning process will include the development and application of criteria to compare the approaches and discuss tradeoffs to ultimately recommend a final proposal. Criteria may include, but not limited to, environmental sustainability, reliability, Equity and Social Justice, impacts to rate payers, 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.

Revised January 16, 2025

Scoping Document for Updating the Regional Wastewater Services Plan

Prepared by the Wastewater Treatment Division – January 2025

Introduction

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

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

Key Terms

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

Term	Definition
Equity and Social Justice	<i>Equity</i> is defined as full and equal access to opportunities, power, and resources so that all people achieve their full potential and thrive. <i>Social justice</i> refers to all aspects of justice – including legal, political, economic, and environmental – and requires the fair distribution of and access to public goods, institutional resources, and life opportunities for all people (source: King County Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan 2016-2022).
Rate Equity and Fairness	“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.”
Customer Affordability	“The National Coalition for Legislation on Water Affordability defined water affordability as the cost of provision that does not impede people from meeting other basic needs or human rights. There is, however, currently no one generally accepted definition of water affordability. It varies depending on the purpose of the water affordability assessment... Affordability researchers generally agree that no one single metric can or should be used in measuring water affordability, rather, a variety of quantitative and qualitative data should be considered.” (source: Schneemann, M., 2019, Defining & Measuring Water Affordability: A Literature Review; Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant). The measure of customer affordability will need to be further quantified and defined during the RSWP update process.

Background

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

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

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

Project Objectives

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

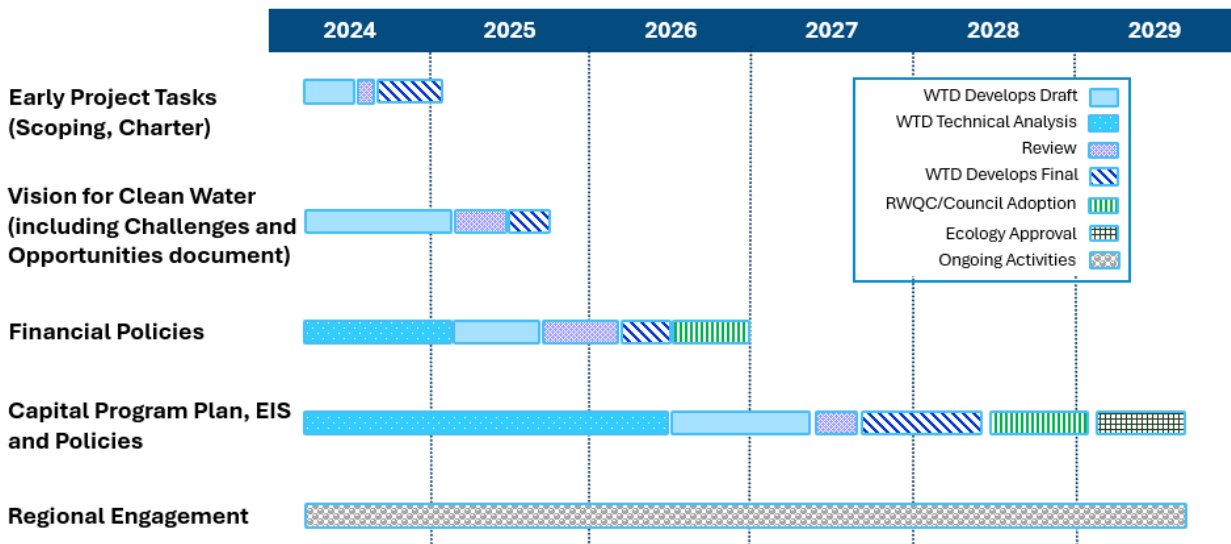
The Vision for Clean Water will inform but not constrain policies and investments that are included in the final RWSP Update. The planning process will produce an RWSP Update that will guide future investments; support the core mission to protect water quality; seek to achieve affordable wastewater utility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

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

Scope for the Effort

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

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



Tasks/Deliverables

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

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

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

Timeline: Final completed in 1st quarter 2025.

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

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

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

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

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

Timeline: Final completed in 1st quarter 2025.

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

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

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

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

Timeline: Final completed in 1st quarter 2025.

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

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

Timeline: Final completed in 3rd quarter 2025.

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

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

Timeline: Final completed in 4th quarter 2026.

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

Technical analysis

- Identifying current/existing conditions in our service area in terms of demographics, the economy, water quality, and wastewater infrastructure.
- Gathering background information on current policies.
- Developing a range of options/strategies for policy questions. All options/strategies will meet legal obligations. Note that the approaches below should not be construed to mean least costly, more costly, and most costly, and that the recommended option may be a combination of the 3 below.
 - **Stay the Course:** Under this strategy, WTD would largely maintain current policies while investing, as needed, to meet current and future regulatory obligations with as little disruption as possible.
 - **Strategic Enhancement:** Under this strategy, WTD would largely maintain current policies but look to enhance or proactively invest in key areas that may include asset management, resource recovery (biosolids, recycled water), and additional treatment capacity.
 - **Pioneering Utility:** Under this strategy, WTD would shift to an even more innovative, future-focused utility, including, but not limited to, investing earlier in upgraded treatment levels to meet all future legal obligations, eliminating Puget Sound discharges, maximizing resource recovery, proactively managing assets, and actively managing infiltration/inflow (I/I) to the system.
- Evaluating possible policy revisions.
- Identifying the capital projects, including timelines, costs, and rate impacts, associated with the options/strategies.

Draft Plan and EIS

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

Final Plan and EIS

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

Approvals

- Council adopting the RWSP Update.

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

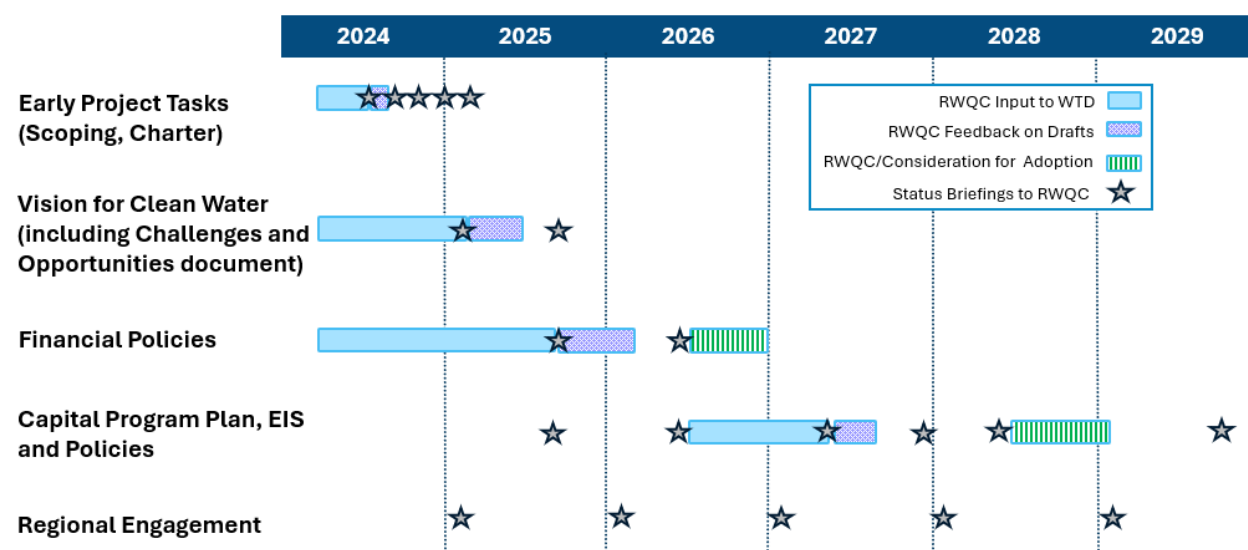
Timeline: Final completed in 3rd quarter 2029.

Regional Engagement – Regional engagement throughout the planning process ensures that interested and affected parties are informed and involved with the project. In addition to RWQC and MWPAAC, the following categories of interested and potentially affected parties may be engaged in the process (note: more detailed audience lists will be developed along with work plans and supporting outreach or event plans during each phase):

- Local Jurisdictions and Local Sewer Utilities
- Sound Cities Association
- Wastewater Professionals and industry peers
- Community-Based Organizations (Equity and Social Justice, Immigrant and Refugee, Environmental Justice)
- Communities that have/are experiencing the greatest environmental and health burdens
- Environmental Organizations /Nongovernmental Organizations
- Regulators and Resource Managers
- Neighborhood Groups
- Public Health Community-Based Organizations
- Water Resource Organizations
- Ratepayers
- Youth and Students
- Business community
- Agricultural community
- Faith-Based Organizations
- Homeowner Associations
- Labor Unions
- Thought leaders and experts from inside and outside the region

Timeline: Final completed in 3rd quarter 2029.

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

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


Major Policy Issues and Questions

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

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

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

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

Challenges and Opportunities – Topics/Themes	Major Policy Questions to be Analyzed in RWSP Update
<p>requirements, opportunities for larger regional partnerships to address water concerns, requirement to comply with future total maximum daily loads</p>	<p>What upstream or source control actions should the region undertake to prevent contaminants and reduce costs?</p> <p>How should WTD efforts support the water quality of Puget Sound and applicable inland waterways?</p>
<p>Capacity Demands</p> <p>I/I, population growth, conveyance and treatment capacity demand, including on-site septic systems in urban areas</p>	<p>Given the uncertainties in future growth rates reported by Washington State and the Puget Sound Regional Council, how aggressively beyond legal requirements should WTD expand capacity to account for future population growth?</p> <p>To what extent should WTD prioritize use of existing facility sites vs. acquiring new property to accommodate future treatment needs (including capacity)?</p> <p>Should the region continue to provide a centralized approach for regional wastewater treatment, or should the region move towards a more decentralized approach?</p> <p>How should I/I be managed and how can costs be fairly apportioned? Should system capacity be expanded to account for increases in I/I? Should I/I policies change to support reducing the capacity needed for I/I?</p> <p>How should the conversion of on-site septic systems to sewers in the service area be managed and should WTD implement programs to encourage conversion within the service area?</p>
<p>Infrastructure Resiliency</p> <p>Asset management, maintenance, improvements, renewal, replacement, labor and supply chain disruptions, natural hazard resiliency</p>	<p>How proactive vs. reactive should WTD be when deciding to refurbish or replace aging infrastructure?</p> <p>What level of resiliency should WTD plan for regarding seismic and other natural hazards to avoid or minimize risks? What level of risk tolerance should WTD accept? How can these considerations be best informed by the long-term capital motion work in progress?</p> <p>What level of redundancy of critical systems should WTD have?</p>
<p>Equity and Social Justice</p> <p>Distributional equity, WTD role in safeguarding public health</p>	<p>What actions should WTD take to increase equity and social justice for the regional wastewater system?</p> <p>How will equity and social justice be interwoven in the update: community engagement, rate structure analysis, etc.?</p>

Challenges and Opportunities – Topics/Themes	Major Policy Questions to be Analyzed in RWSP Update
	<p>How should the regional wastewater system address environmental justice concerns as described in the 2021 Healthy Environment for All Act¹, such as addressing the disproportionate environmental health impacts of vulnerable populations and overburdened communities?</p>
<p>Climate Change</p> <p>Mitigation – green building, eliminating/reducing fossil fuel use, energy and water efficiency, renewable energy, materials management, tree planting, etc. Adaptation – sea level rise, more extreme heat, increased storm intensities, wildfire smoke, increased river flooding, etc.</p>	<p>Should existing wastewater policy language (KCC 28.86) be revised to specifically call out planning for future climate conditions in addition to population growth and other environmental factors?</p> <p>How much should WTD reduce energy use and reduce greenhouse gas emissions?</p> <p>How should WTD prepare and adapt to climate impacts (e.g., precipitation/storm intensities, sea level rise, river flooding, etc.) in line with the Strategic Climate Action Plan? What level of climate impact risk tolerance should WTD plan for to avoid or minimize risks to the system?</p>
<p>Resource Recovery</p> <p>Recycled water, biosolids, energy capture</p>	<p>Energy production and heat recovery – Should WTD be expanding its efforts to capture energy and heat? If so, at what level of effort?</p> <p>Biosolids – Should WTD further expand its efforts to develop Class A biosolids? What changes are needed to biosolid recovery policies to get to Class A?</p> <p>Recycled water – Under what circumstances should the region expand the use of reclaimed water? Which uses (e.g., environmental benefits, groundwater recharge, industrial uses, irrigation) are most appropriate?</p> <p>How can WTD best support environmental benefits while instituting safeguards to protect against environmental risks of contamination? How should cost considerations be weighed?</p>
<p>Finance / Customer Affordability</p> <p>Rate equity, fairness, and structure, capital financing and debt management, financial planning and revenue sufficiency</p>	<p>How will WTD measure customer affordability for contract agencies and ratepayers?</p> <p>Is there a better rate structure for the sewer rate? (Note: WTD has identified a work plan to further evaluate the residential customer equivalent conversion factor of 750 cubic feet per month.)</p>

¹ RCW 70.A.02

Challenges and Opportunities – Topics/Themes	Major Policy Questions to be Analyzed in RWSP Update
	<p>Will WTD maintain a single uniform sewer rate per residential customer equivalent (Robinswood “one for all, all for one”), or consider alternative cost recovery rate structures to reflect other system impacts?</p> <p>Should WTD update the rate structure for the capacity charge to align with current industry standards? (Note: The capacity charge rate structure was updated in 2021. A capacity charge methodology study is in progress.)</p> <p>What other rate relief approaches should WTD implement to improve customer affordability for those who may struggle to pay their sewer bill?</p>
Relationship to Contracts and Functional Plans	<p>How will policies embedded in the current component agency contracts and WTD Functional Plans be evaluated for consideration of a) inclusion in the RWSP as currently implemented, b) inclusion in the RWSP but modified from current implementation, or c) not included in the RWSP at this time but recommended for further study and analysis?</p> <p>How will WTD implement the RWSP Update consistent with direction and requirements expected of contract agencies?</p>

Capital Projects Briefing

Regional Water Quality Committee
October 1, 2025



King County | Wastewater Treatment

A background image showing a port area at sunset. In the foreground, there are industrial buildings and parking lots. In the middle ground, several large red cranes are visible on a barge or pier. The water is calm, and the sky is a mix of orange, pink, and blue. In the distance, there are mountains.

Capital Budget Highlights

Continued significant ramp up of capital program to meet needs in the 2026 Sewer Rate. Major cost drivers for Wastewater Treatment Division's (WTD) proposed budget include:

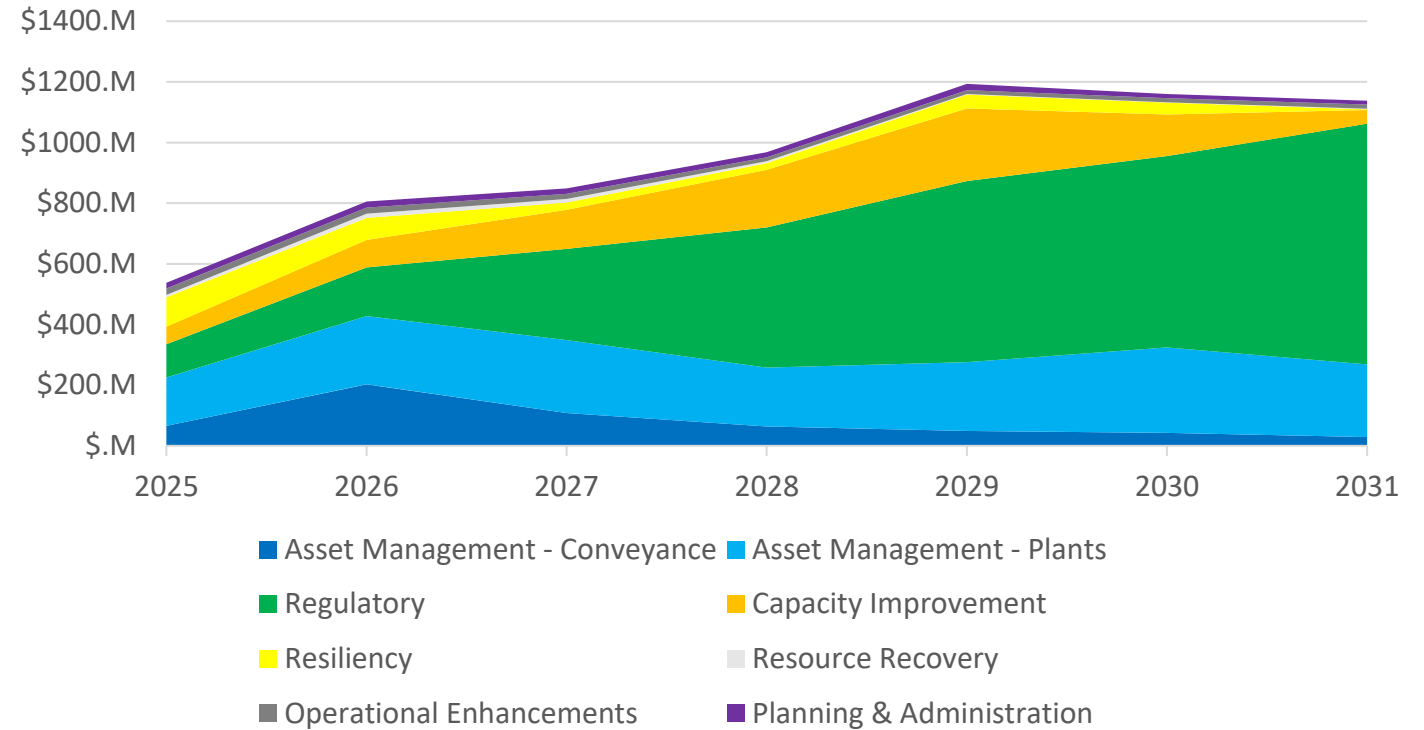
- Meeting regulatory requirements
- Reaching critical asset management (renewal and replacement) goals
- Addressing growth in the region

The proposed 6-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) aligns with the adopted 2026 sewer rate.

Key Appropriations

- **Mouth of the Duwamish Wet Weather Facilities**
- **East Ship Canal Wet Weather Facilities**
- **Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Supplemental Compliance and Corrective Action**
- **South Park Conveyance Rerouting to Rainier Vista Interceptor**

WTD Proposed 2026-2031 CIP



Key Project Changes compared to 2025 Adopted Budget

- **Elliott West Wet Weather Treatment Station:** Estimate at completion increased ~\$75M as project moved from 15% to 30% design, project scope refined, and contractor overhead and delivery costs were updated. WTD anticipates further increases during 2027 proposed sewer rate process.
- **Division Wide Offsite Level Controls and Communication Upgrade:** Programmatic cost estimate increased ~\$320M to \$500M upon completion of programmatic alternatives analysis driven by increased scope complexity. Project will be phased to reduce near-term impacts on sewer rate.
- **South Plant Electrical Improvements:** Programmatic charter level cost estimate increased ~\$170M to \$240M from initial conceptual cost estimate based on additional identified scope and updated material pricing.
- **Sammamish Plateau Diversion:** Cost estimate updated for alternatives analysis increased ~\$160M to \$270M from initial cost estimate based on increased scope definition of pipe alignment.

Key Cash Flow Changes since Adoption of 2026 Sewer Rate

- **Mouth of Duwamish Wet Weather Facilities** – Shifted \$550M of costs (net) into 2032-2034
- **East Ship Canal (University/Montlake) Wet Weather Facilities** – Increased ~ \$200M
- **South Treatment Plant Secondary Aeration Modified Ludzak Ettinger Retrofit** – Shifted \$85M beyond 6-year CIP
- **Conceptual regulatory projects** – Deferred ~ \$165M beyond the 6-year CIP for these projects
- **Eastside Interceptor Section 8** – \$104M reduction from deferral based on asset condition
- **West Point Treatment Plant Critical Gate Refurbishment** – Deferred \$87M by extending program timeframe to balance funding in the short-term.
- **Division Wide Level Controls** – Deferred \$60M by extending program timeframe to balance funding in the short-term
- **Lake Hills and NW Lake Sammamish** – Increased \$90M due to updated cost estimates

Capital Projects Overview



Mouth of Duwamish Wet Weather Facilities



Overview

- **Objective:** Control overflows from five combined sewer overflow (CSO) outfalls at the mouth of the Duwamish River.
- **Project Scope:** Construct wet weather facilities to meet regulations by controlling combined sewer overflows from areas in West Seattle, SODO, and Beacon Hill
- Project required to be complete by 2034 under Consent Decree with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Washington state Department of Ecology.
- Draft Engineering Report submitted to Ecology on September 2, 2025, and on track to meet the December 31, 2026, submission deadline.
- **Benefit:** Project will prevent ~430 million gallons of polluted water from entering Elliott Bay and the Duwamish River every year on average.



East Ship Canal (University / Montlake) Wet Weather Facilities



Overview

- University Regulator Station (RS), Montlake RS and Belvoir Pump Station (PS) outfalls do not meet the state Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) control standard.
- **Objective:** Control the University RS, Montlake RS and Belvoir PS CSO outfalls to the CSO control performance standard.
- **Project Scope:** Conceptual project scope anticipates construction of a large storage facility around the University / Montlake area and an upgrade to the Densmore Pump Station.
- Project required to be complete by 2037 under Consent Decree with EPA and Ecology.
- **Benefit:** Reduction of combined stormwater and sewage entering the Ship Canal.

Division-Wide Offsite Level Control and Communication Upgrade



Overview

- **Objective:** Bring all offsite facility wet well level controls and communications equipment up to modern design standards.
- Wet well level controls at offsite facilities help prevent overflows and keep systems running efficiently.
- No direct replacements are available for the existing equipment and WTD faces increasing challenges to find parts for the equipment.
- **Project Scope:** Programmatic upgrade of obsolete level controls and communication systems at approximately 70 facilities.
- **Benefits:** Improved system reliability, maintenance, and operability.



West Point Treatment Plant Electrical Improvements



Overview

- **Objective:** Modernize and enhance electrical infrastructure.
- Electrical assets installed in West Point's original construction (1960s) and secondary treatment expansion (1990s) are beyond or near end of expected life.
- **Project Scope:** Replace approximately 330 aged electrical assets.
- **Benefits:**
 - Risk reduction by replacing aged assets.
 - Enhances system resiliency by reducing single points of failure and relocating critical assets out of flood-prone areas.



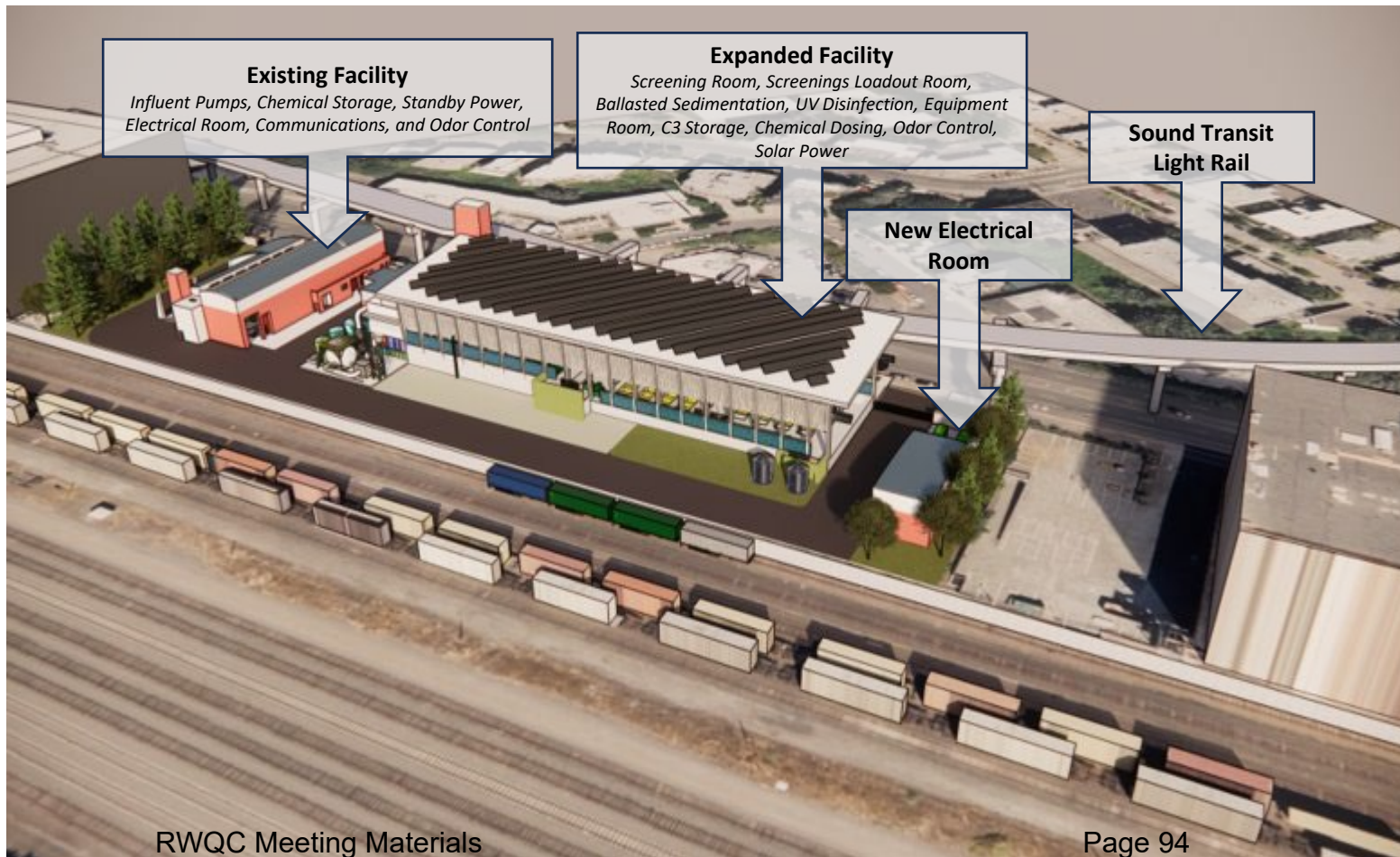


Elliott West Wet Weather Station (EWWTS)

Overview

- **Objective:** Bring EWWTS into full compliance with discharge permit and water quality standards.
- Effluent quality not always compliant with discharge permit since facility completed in 2005.
- **Project Scope:** Upgrade treatment at EWWTS to meet permit standards.
- 2024 discharge permit from Ecology includes compliance schedule with interim milestones, targeting full completion by December 2031.
- **Benefits:**
 - Ability to meet stricter environmental standards and adapt to changing climate.
 - Compliance with discharge permit.

EWWTS Project Overview



October 1, 2025

EWWTS Project Team is:


- WTD communicated to Ecology concern with meeting completion requirement of December 2031.
- Developing documentation to support request to Ecology for extending project schedule.
- Anticipating presentation to Ecology in October 2025 and resubmittal of Engineering Report to Ecology in November 2025




Market Trends in Capital Delivery





Market Conditions at a Glance

 Continuing to experience **high cost** but **less volatility** within the industry.

 **Growth** in the in Seattle Metro area construction sector remains **at an all time high**.

 Local bidding environment reflects construction industry's overall trend **limited labor capacity**.

 Uncertainty due to tariffs and the fear of record inflation (again) may lead to speculation and **possible volatility** (again).

 These market conditions result in **increased construction costs and O&M costs**.

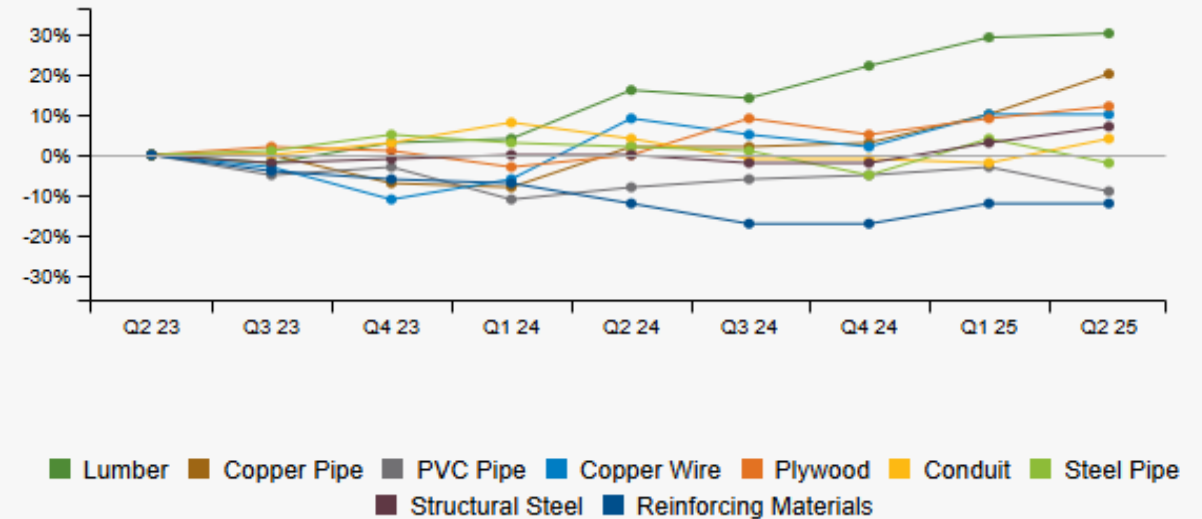
Potential Tariff Impacts on WTD Projects

- 50% tariff on imported steel and aluminum (effective June 4, 2025), plus 25% tariff on most imports from Canada and Mexico, including lumber, cement, and most construction materials
- 30% total tariff on Chinese imports, affecting equipment, electrical components, and fixtures
- 10% baseline tariff on all countries
- WTD issued interim guidance on potential tariff impacts in early 2025.
- Whenever feasible, project teams consider options to reduce the reliance on high-tariff regions by allowing alternative sourcing options.

RWQC Meeting Materials

MATERIAL PRICING CHANGES

(Cumulative Q2 2023 to Q2 2025)



Q & A



King County | Wastewater Treatment



King County

Metropolitan King County Council Regional Water Quality Committee

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item:	10	Name:	Jenny Giambattista
Proposed No.:	2025-B0147	Date:	October 1, 2025

SUBJECT

A briefing on the Council designated projects funded through the WaterWorks grant program for the 2025 cycle.

SUMMARY

Today's briefing will discuss Proposed Ordinance 2025-0276.2 that would approve the Council WaterWorks grant allocation for 2025 funded from the Wastewater Treatment Division's operating budget under the Regional Wastewater Services Plan Financial Policy-8 (FP-8), which permits limited use of funds for water quality projects. This one-year Council-directed cycle supports 35 projects led by cities, non-profits, schools, and community groups. Projects range from stormwater retrofits and lake monitoring to salmon habitat restoration, environmental education, and green infrastructure.

BACKGROUND

WaterWorks Grant Program. The Regional Wastewater Services Plan (RWSP) adopted in 1999 contains financial policy FP-8, which specifies the allowable use of up to 1.5 percent of the annual Wastewater Treatment Division's (WTD) operating budget for the purpose of "water quality improvement activities, programs and projects."

Appropriation and allocation of funds for water quality improvement activities, programs, and projects was suspended while a lawsuit regarding the alleged illegal use of wastewater system funds for the purposes specified in policy FP-8 (and other topics) was pending. In 2013, the Supreme Court of Washington State upheld a lower court ruling that use of the wastewater system operating funds was allowable for the purposes described in policy FP-8. The appeal process for the lawsuit was exhausted in early 2014.

Subsequently, WTD staff worked with the Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee (MWPAAC) to develop the WaterWorks grant program. In 2015, the County Council adopted Ordinance 18031 establishing the criteria for awarding funds for water quality improvement projects, activities, and programs. In 2016,

Ordinance 18031 was amended by Ordinance 18261 to change the composition of the WaterWorks Grant Ranking Committee and to allow the Council to annually specify priorities in addition to the regular criteria for evaluating funding proposals. To be eligible for a grant, a project must:

- Create a benefit to or improvement of water quality within the County Wastewater Treatment Division's (WTD) service area and benefit its ratepayers; and
- Demonstrate that water quality benefits are related to WTD's regional water quality responsibilities.

Non-profit groups, cities, counties, special purpose districts, and tribes, as well as entities such as private businesses that are partnered with an otherwise-eligible entity, are eligible to receive funding, following a competitive review process.

WaterWorks Funding is Split Between Council Selected and Committee Selected Projects. The Council selects the projects for one-half of the available WaterWorks funding through its selection process, and the other half of the WaterWorks funding is allocated through a competitive grant process conducted by the WaterWorks Grant Ranking Committee. Generally, the Council and the competitive committee process open for applications at similar times. However, since 2025 was an annual rather than a biennial budget, the Executive chose to roll the 2025 funding for committee selected projects into the 2025/26/27 competitive grant cycle rather than run a grant cycle for one year, 2025.

The Council will allocate funding for a one-year 2025 grant cycle. The Council amended the 2025 Budget Ordinance¹ to set aside \$1,687,843 from the Wastewater Treatment Division's operating budget to establish a 2025 round of funding for Council selected water quality improvement projects. Of this amount, \$136,376 is set aside for administrative support. In addition, there is \$123,500 available from prior year unspent funds.

Each Council district received an allocation of funding from which to award grants based on the percentage of overall ratepayers that reside in each Council district. The WaterWorks program provides administrative support for management of those projects, including completing an eligibility screening of all projects. Those projects that were not selected by the Council for funding or received partial funding, will automatically be considered for funding through the 2025/26/27 competitive track and do not need to reapply.

The list of Council selected 2025 WaterWorks projects is listed in Table 1 and in Proposed Ordinance 2025-0276.

¹ Ordinance 19956, Section 59, ER 1 Expenditure Restriction

Table 1
Council Proposed WaterWorks Projects

Organization	Project Title	Amount
Beavers Northwest	Urban Beavers and Water Quality Volunteer Program;	\$39,000
Bellevue College	Coal Creek Stormwater System Phased Design and Build Stage 1	\$50,000
Cascadia College	Cascadia College Stormwater and Wetland Community Education	\$35,000
City of Covington	170 th Place SE Water Quality Retrofit Project	\$80,392
City of Kent	Kent Lakes Water Quality Monitoring 2026-2027	\$71,000
City of Maple Valley	Witte Road SE Green Stormwater Infrastructure Improvements	\$80,392
Clean Lake Union	Eastern Avenue and Fremont Bridge Bioswales	\$49,234
Earthcorps and UW Green Futures Lab	Floating Wetlands: Shilshole and Beyond	\$60,000
Environmental Coalition of South Seattle	Expansion of Household Hazardous Waste Program with Immigrant Youth Water Stewards.	\$94,874
Environmental Science Center	Salmon Heroes: from Watershed Engagement to Schoolyard	\$55,000
Friends of Cottage Lake	Cottage Lake Water Quality Improvement	\$100,000
Lake Advocates	Determination of Factors Driving Toxic Algal Blooms in Lake Washington's North Basin	\$13,000
Lake Forest Park Stewardship Foundation	"Urban Stream Ecology Internship (USE-IT) of McAleer and Lyon Creek Sub-Basin 2	\$41,300
Long Live the Kings	Addressing Water Quality in the Lake Washington Ship Canal to Protect Salmon	\$95,160
Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group	Salmon in Schools and Stewardship	\$40,000
Mother Africa	Clean Water 4 All	\$23,237
Nature Vision	Youth Watershed Education, Stewardship, and Community Science	\$37,000
Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides	Cultivating Clean Water with Spanish-Speaking Landscapers in King County	\$45,000
Northwest's Child Inc.	Accessible Waters: Inclusive	\$19,000

	Education and Rain Garden Stewardship for Cleaner Puget Sound	
Pacific Science Center	Camps for Curious Minds: Water Quality Education at Mercer Slough	\$29,329
Puget Soundkeeper	Lost Urban Creeks Project 2026-2028	\$25,000
Reumo	ReuMo and Highschool with Rain Gardens	\$10,784
River Access Paddle Program	Increasing Education, Safe Community Access, and Recreation on the Duwamish River	\$69,110
Sno-King Watershed Council	Lake Leota Water Quality Monitoring	\$25,000
Stewardship Partners	City of Carnation Green Infrastructure Expansion Phase 3	\$50,000
Three Rivers Chapter of Trout Unlimited	Engaging Community to Help Restore a Native Lake Washington Salmon Population	\$25,000
Trout Unlimited	Assessing the Role of Mysis in Lake Sammamish: Implications for Water Quality	\$50,000
United Indians of All Tribes	Lake Union Pocket Forests/Bernie Whitebear Way Stormwater Diversion	\$25,000
University of Washington Bothell	Development of Advanced E. Coli DNA Toolkit for Fecal Source Tracking in Bothell Streams	\$60,058
Villa Comunitaria	Futuro del Agua: Family and Youth Water Career Pathways	\$69,110
Weld Seattle	Green Sodo Pilot Program	\$69,110
Whale Scout	Student and Community-led Sammamish River Trail Buffer Restoration	\$30,000
Whale Scout	Valhalla Creek Restoration Phase 2 Benefitting Waynita/Sammamish River Project	\$24,000
YMCA of Greater Seattle	Youth in Action: Stewardship, Education & Leadership 2025-2027	\$5,000
Zero Waste Washington	Youth reducing stormwater pollution in the greater Duwamish Valley.	\$79,874
Total		\$1,674,966

Proposed Ordinance 2025-0276.2 received a do pass recommendation in the Committee of the Whole on September 23, 2025. It is scheduled for Council action on October 6, 2025.

INVITED

- Elizabeth Loudon, WaterWorks Grant Manager, King County Wastewater Treatment Division
- Sharman Herrin, Government Relations Manager, King County Wastewater Treatment Division

ATTACHMENTS

1. Proposed Ordinance 2025-0276.2



KING COUNTY
Signature Report

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

Ordinance

Proposed No. 2025-0276.2

Sponsors Quinn

1 An ORDINANCE approving the grant funding allocation
2 for the council-designated projects funded through the
3 WaterWorks grant program, for the 2025 cycle, in
4 accordance with Ordinance 18031, Section 1 as amended,
5 and the 2025 Annual Budget Ordinance, Ordinance 19861,
6 Section 114, as amended by Ordinance 19956, Section 59.

7 STATEMENT OF FACTS:

- 8 1. Ordinance 18031, Section 1, as amended by Ordinance 18261, Section
9 1, established the grant award criteria and process for the WaterWorks
10 grant program in accordance with the 2015-2016 Biennial Budget
11 Ordinance, Ordinance 17941, Section 110, Proviso P2.
12 2. Attachment A to Ordinance 18261 contains the implementation
13 guidelines for the WaterWorks grant program, including the project
14 criteria, eligibility, and administration of grants.
15 3. As described in Attachment A to Ordinance 18261, projects approved
16 for funding must meet eligibility criteria for water quality improvements.
17 4. The 2025 Annual Budget Ordinance, Ordinance 19861, Section 59, as
18 amended by Ordinance 19956, Section 59, appropriated funding for the
19 WaterWorks grant program.

20 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

21 SECTION 1. The King County council authorizes funding of WaterWorks
22 projects recommended by the council for the 2025 cycle, totaling \$1,674,967 as follows:

23 A. Beavers Northwest: \$39,000 for "Urban Beavers and Water Quality
24 Volunteer Program";

25 B. Bellevue College: \$50,000 for "Coal Creek Stormwater System Phased
26 Design and Build Stage 1";

27 C. Cascadia College: \$35,000 for "Cascadia College Stormwater and Wetland
28 Community Education";

29 D. City of Covington: \$80,392 for "170th Place SE Water Quality Retrofit
30 Project";

31 E. City of Kent: \$71,000 for "Kent Lakes Water Quality Monitoring 2026-
32 2027";

33 F. City of Maple Valley: \$80,392 for "Witte Road SE Green Stormwater
34 Infrastructure Improvements";

35 G. Clean Lake Union: \$49,234 for "Eastern Avenue and Fremont Bridge
36 Bioswales";

37 H. Earthcorps and UW Green Futures Lab: \$60,000 for "Floating Wetlands:
38 Shilshole and Beyond";

39 I. Environmental Coalition of South Seattle: \$94,874 for "Expansion of
40 Household Hazardous Waste Program with Immigrant Youth Water Stewards";

41 J. Environmental Science Center: \$55,000 for "Salmon Heroes: from Watershed
42 Engagement to Schoolyard";

43 K. Friends of Cottage Lake: \$100,000 for "Cottage Lake Water Quality
44 Improvement";

45 L. Lake Advocates: \$13,000 for "Determination of Factors Driving Toxic Algal
46 Blooms in Lake Washington's North Basin";

47 M. Lake Forest Park Stewardship Foundation: \$41,300 for "Urban Stream
48 Ecology Internship (USE-IT) of McAleer and Lyon Creek Sub-Basin 2";

49 N. Long Live the Kings: \$95,160 for "Addressing Water Quality in the Lake
50 Washington Ship Canal to Protect Salmon";

51 O. Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group: \$40,000 for "Salmon in Schools
52 and Stewardship";

53 P. Mother Africa: \$23,237 for "Clean Water 4 All";

54 Q. Nature Vision: \$37,000 for "Youth Watershed Education, Stewardship, and
55 Community Science";

56 R. Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides: \$45,000 for "Cultivating
57 Clean Water with Spanish-Speaking Landscapers in King County";

58 S. Northwest's Child Inc.: \$19,000 for "Accessible Waters: Inclusive Education
59 and Rain Garden Stewardship for Cleaner Puget Sound";

60 T. Pacific Science Center: \$29,329 for "Camps for Curious Minds: Water
61 Quality Education at Mercer Slough";

62 U. Puget Soundkeeper: \$25,000 for "Lost Urban Creeks Project 2026-2028";

63 V. Reumo: \$10,784.94 for "ReuMo and Highschool with Rain Gardens";

64 W. River Access Paddle Program: \$69,110 for "Increasing Education, Safe
65 Community Access, and Recreation on the Duwamish River";

- 66 X. Sno-King Watershed Council: \$25,000 for "Lake Leota Water Quality
67 Monitoring";
- 68 Y. Stewardship Partners: \$50,000 for "City of Carnation Green Infrastructure
69 Expansion Phase 3";
- 70 Z. Three Rivers Chapter of Trout Unlimited: \$25,000 for "Engaging Community
71 to Help Restore a Native Lake Washington Salmon Population";
- 72 AA. Trout Unlimited: \$50,000 for "Assessing the Role of Mysis in Lake
73 Sammamish: Implications for Water Quality";
- 74 BB. United Indians of All Tribes: \$25,000 for "Lake Union Pocket
75 Forests/Bernie Whitebear Way Stormwater Diversion";
- 76 CC. University of Washington Bothell: \$60,058 for "Development of Advanced
77 E. Coli DNA Toolkit for Fecal Source Tracking in Bothell Streams";
- 78 DD. Villa Comunitaria: \$69,110 for "Futuro del Agua: Family and Youth
79 Water Career Pathways";
- 80 EE. Weld Seattle: \$69,110 for "Green Sodo Pilot Program";
- 81 FF. Whale Scout: \$30,000 for "Student and Community-led Sammamish River
82 Trail Buffer Restoration";
- 83 GG. Whale Scout: \$24,000 for "Valhalla Creek Restoration Phase 2 Benefitting
84 Waynita/Sammamish River Project";
- 85 HH. YMCA of Greater Seattle: \$5,000 for "Youth in Action: Stewardship,
86 Education, and Leadership 2025-2027";

87 II. Zero Waste Washington: \$79,874 for "Youth Reducing Stormwater Pollution
88 in the Greater Duwamish Valley."

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Girmay Zahilay, Chair

ATTEST:

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, ____.

Shannon Braddock, County Executive

Attachments: None

RWQC Monthly Work Program for 2025 October 1, 2025

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

January–Special Meeting January 16, 2025

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

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

- ✓ Wastewater Treatment Division's Preliminary 2026 Sewer Rate (20 minutes)
- ✓ Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update (20 minutes):
 - **Briefing: WTD's framing of Challenges and Opportunities which are informing development of the Options for the Vision for Clean Water**
- ✓ Briefing on Selected Capital Projects and Common themes in Capital program Delivery (25 minutes)
- ✓ Briefing only Lower Duwamish Waterway Consent Decree (25 minutes)

Optional March 7, 2025 Georgetown Wet Weather Treatment Station Site Visit. This is not a RWQC meeting.

April 2, 2025

- ✓ WTD's 2026 Rate Recommendations and Status Update on Long Term Rate Motion 16449 (75 minutes)
- **Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update (15 minutes)**
 - **Briefing on Emerging Options for the Vision for Clean Water (Deferred)**

May 7, 2025

- ✓ Executive's Proposed 2026 Sewer Rate and Capacity Charge (45 minutes)
- Status Update on Long-Term Rate Motion 16449 (10 minutes) (Deferred)
- **Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update (25 minutes):**
 - **Input on Vision Options for Clean Water** (Deferred)
- PFAS Briefing: Update on Voluntary Testing for PFAS in Wastewater and Landfills (15 minutes) (Deferred)

Optional May 30th Site Visit West Point Available to members and staff. This is not a RWQC meeting.

June 4, 2025

- ✓ Executive's Proposed 2026 Sewer Rate and Capacity Charge (15 minutes)
- ✓ Status Update on Long-Term Rate Motion 16449 (15 minutes)
- ✓ Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update (25 minutes)
 - **Discussion on Vision Options for Clean Water**
- ✓ PFAS Briefing: Update on Voluntary Testing for PFAS in Wastewater and Landfills (15 minutes)

July 2, 2025

- ✓ Follow-Up on 2026 10-Year Sewer Rate Forecast (25 minutes)
- ✓ Update on Puget Sound Nutrient Issue (25 minutes)
- ✓ Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update (20 minutes)
RWSP Roadmap and Module #1
- ✓ Capital Projects in 2026 10-Year Sewer Forecast (25 minutes)

August 6, 2025 (Council Recess)**August 28th Optional Forest Biosolids Tour.****September 3, 2025**

- ✓ Long-Term Rate Forecasting Final Briefing per Motion 16449 (45 minutes)
- ✓ RWQC Requesting WTD implement a sewer rate and capital work plan to continue to improve engagement, transparency, and accountability (35 minutes)
- ✓ Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update (15 minutes)

October 1, 2025

- RWQC Motion Requesting WTD implement a sewer rate and capital work plan to continue to improve engagement, transparency, and accountability. (25 minutes)
- **Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update (50 minutes)**
 - **Update on Vision for Clean Water**
 - **Briefing on Module #1 Topic 1: Combined System / CSO Actions**
- Capital Program Update: 2026-2027 Capital Budget and Program Highlights (30 minutes)

- ☐ Council Selected 2025 WaterWorks Grants

November 5, 2025

- ☐ **Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update (40 minutes)**
 - ☐ **Briefing on Module #1 Topic 3: Separated System Conveyance & Inflow/Infiltration Actions Asset Renewal & Replacement Actions**
- ☐ Briefing Executive's Proposed 2026-2027 WTD Operating Budget (40 minutes)
- ☐ ~~Stormwater Solutions~~

December 3, 2025

- ☐ **Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update (50 minutes)**
 - ☐ **Briefing on Module #1 Topic 2: Asset Renewal and Replacement Actions**
 - ☐ **WTD's final Vision for Clean Water**
- ☐ Briefing Strategic Asset Management Plan (30 minutes)
- ☐ PFAS Annual Update (20 minutes)