516 Third Avenue, Council Chambers, 10th Floor, Seattle, WA 98104

King County

Meeting Agenda

Regional Water Quality Committee

Councilmembers:
Claudia Balducci, Chair
Reagan Dunn, Rhonda Lewis

Sound Cities Association: Vice Chair, Laura Mork, Shoreline; Dave Hamilton, Bellevue; Sarah Moore, Burien; Jessica Rossman, Medina

Alternates: Hanan Amer, Auburn; Melissa Stuart, Redmond

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, Eddie Lin
Alternate: Rob Saka

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

Lead Staff: Jenny Giambattista (206-477-0879)
Committee Clerk: Angelica Calderon (206-477-0874)

3:00 PM | **Wednesday, November 4, 2026** | **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 committees@kingcounty.gov. If your comments are submitted before 1:30 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).
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Dial: 1 253 215 8782
Webinar ID: 827 1536 1574

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

1. **Call to Order**

2. **Roll Call**

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

   Minutes of October 7, 2026 meeting

4. **Chair's Report**

5. **Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee (MWPAAC) Report**

6. **Wastewater Treatment Division Report** p. 7

Briefing

7. Briefing No. 2026-B0134 p. 16

   Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update: 2027 Schedule

   Darren Greve, Government Relations, Water Treatment Division, (WTD)
   Janice Johnson, RWSP Program Manager, WTD

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8. Briefing No. 2026-B0135 **p. 19**

Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update Policy Questions Initial Analysis Group 9: Rate structure questions

Darren Greve, Government Relations, WTD
Janice Johnson, RWSP Program Manager, WTD
Luke Slaughterbeck, RWSP Lead Financial Analyst, WTD

Discussion Only

9. Proposed Ordinance No. 2026-0320 **p. 55**

AN ORDINANCE relating to the production, sale, and use of biosolids and biosolids products; and amending Ordinance 13680, Section 9, and K.C.C. 28.86.090 and Ordinance 13680, Section 18, as amended, and K.C.C. 28.86.180.

Sponsors: Balducci

Erika Kinno, Policy & Research Supervisor, Resource Recovery Unit, WTD

Briefing

10. Briefing No. 2026-B0002 **p. 77**

Discussion of 2026 Regional Water Quality Committee Work Program

Jenny Giambattista, Council staff

Other Business

Adjournment

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Meeting Minutes

Regional Water Quality Committee

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1. Call to Order

Chair Balducci called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present: 13 - Balducci, Clarke, Dunn, Hamilton, Lewis, Moore, McClellan, Mork, Rossman, Warren, Lin, Stuart and Hooshangi

Excused: 1 - Hollingsworth

3. Approval of Minutes

Mayor Moore moved approval of September 2, 2026, meeting minutes. There being no objections, the minutes were approved.

4. Chair's Report

Chair Balducci provided an overview of the agenda.

5. Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee (MWPAAC} Report

MWPAAC Chair McClellan, reported to the Committee and answered questions from the members.

6. Wastewater Treatment Division Report

Kamuron Gurol, Director, Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD), Department of Natural Resources and Parks, briefed the committee via PowerPoint presentation and answered questions from the members.

Briefing

7. Briefing No. 2026-B0113

Puget Sound Institute Briefing on Low Oxygen Impacts in Puget Sound

This matter was Presented

Joel Baker, Director, UW Puget Sound Institute, University of Washington, (UW), briefed the Committee via PowerPoint presentation and answered questions from the members. General Manager McClellan and Kamuron Gurol, Director, Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD), Department of Natural Resources and Parks, also commented to the committee.

8. Briefing No. 2026-B0114

Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update Policy Questions Initial Analysis Group 8: Resource Recovery

This matter was Presented

Darren Greve, Government Relations, Wastewater Treatment Division Report, (WTD), Erika Kinno, Policy and Research Supervisor, WTD, Dr. Shirlee Tan, Environmental Scientist, Seattle King County Public Health, Janice Johnson, RWSP Program Manager, WTD, Kristina Westbrook, Recycled Water Program Lead, WTD and Landon Reigelman, Biosolids Program Lead, WTD, briefed the Committee via PowerPoint presentation and answered questions from the members.

9. Briefing No. 2026-B0002

Discussion of 2026 Regional Water Quality Committee Work Program

This matter was Deferred

Chair Balducci provided updates on the work program.

Other Business

There was no further business to come before the committee.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

Approved this _____ day of _____.

Clerk's Signature

Regional Water Quality Committee

Item 6

Director's Report:
Wastewater Treatment Division
Capital Project Report

November 4, 2026

Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD's) Sewer Rate and Capital Work Plan to Continue to Improve Engagement, Transparency, and Accountability – November 4, 2026, Status Update

Note: Changes from last month's update are in bold, blue font.

Major Recommendations from RWQC Letter	Wastewater Treatment Division Tasks	Working Timeline	
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: 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. 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. c. Ensure that the long-term rate forecast methodology requested by Motion 16449 is used to develop scenarios to evaluate options.	• To promote meaningful and timely engagement, WTD will host regular meetings with MWPAAC and/or its subcommittees to review: • 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	Briefings provided on WTD's capital project prioritization process and key capital projects impacting the rate in Q3/Q4 2025. Most recently, MWPAAC received a Capital Projects briefing on June 24, 2026. A draft rate engagement calendar for Q4 2026 – Q2 2027 is in development and will be shared with MWPAAC's Executive Board for input. WTD is meeting with individual Board members to explore what success looks like for engagement for the next rate cycle. A draft sewer rate engagement calendar has been developed. On November 5, WTD will provide a look back at performance 2025 and prior, including items such as accomplishment rate, debt market, etc., to the MWPAAC Rates and Finance Subcommittee (R&F). WTD also plans to brief R&F on drivers, challenges, affordability, predictability, and project updates at the subcommittee's December 5 meeting. **WTD provided a sewer rate and engagement calendar for the November 4 RWQC meeting packet.**
	• 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	"Look Ahead" briefings to MWPAAC scheduled for Q4 2025 and Q1 2026. WTD briefed MWPAAC on 1/28/26 on the rate strategy for 2027 and assumptions. WTD provided a preliminary sewer rate and capacity charge briefing to MWPAAC on 2/5/26 and 2/25/26, and a briefing on WTD's proposed rate on 3/5.
	• 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	Q2 2026	WTD presented preliminary scenarios for illustrative purposes to RWQC on 2/4/26 and MWPAAC Rates and Finance Subcommittee on 2/5/26, and as part of WTD's proposed rate on 3/5/26. Two

Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD's) Sewer Rate and Capital Work Plan to Continue to Improve Engagement, Transparency, and Accountability – November 4, 2026, Status Update

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Major Recommendations from RWQC Letter	Wastewater Treatment Division Tasks	Working Timeline	
	about the level of service WTD is able to deliver under each option.		scenarios, in addition to the Executive's proposed rate, are included in the Technical Memorandum transmitted to Council with proposed Ordinance 2026-0103.
	• 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 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.	Q3 2025 and ongoing	An independent consultant selected by MWPAAC members briefed MWPAAC on 1/28/26 and a video of the presentation can be found here. Further briefings on implementation of the long-term forecasting model will be provided to MWPAAC with an opportunity to suggest any further improvements to align with industry standards. A briefing on the long-term forecast model and refinements was presented to MWPAAC's Rates and Finance Subcommittee on October 1, 2026.
	• 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	WTD is engaged with MWPAAC's Executive Board to provide an opportunity to observe the Definition and/or Delivery Board meetings in the Portfolio Management process beginning in Q1 2026. MWPAAC's Executive Board selected two representatives to attend WTD Capital Portfolio management meetings beginning in Q2 2026. The two MWPAAC representatives attended an orientation on WTD's governance board structure on June 22 and their first WTD Project Oversight Board on July 7, 2026. WTD will identify other governance board opportunities for the MWPAAC representatives for Q4 2026.

Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD's) Sewer Rate and Capital Work Plan to Continue to Improve Engagement, Transparency, and Accountability – November 4, 2026, Status Update

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Major Recommendations from RWQC Letter	Wastewater Treatment Division Tasks	Working Timeline	
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.	• 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	MWPAAC representatives' attendance at WTD Project Oversight Board meetings will help inform MWPAAC members regarding WTD's process for project prioritization and decisions. The topic of alternatives analysis for selected projects will be revisited at the next MWPAAC Executive Board in Q3 2026.
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.	• Prepare and deliver 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)	WTD began discussions with MWPAAC's Executive Board and King County's budget office in Q3/Q4 2025 on options for rate predictability. MWPAAC received an initial briefing and provided feedback on potential options at its 12/4/25, Rates and Finance Subcommittee meeting. Further discussion of options for rate predictability is planned for MWPAAC's Rates and Finance Subcommittee on June 4, 2026. Based on feedback from MWPAAC and local agency partners on the options, WTD plans to recommend a two-year rate for 2028-2029 to help with predictability and align with the County's biennial budget. The sewer contracts still require the Council to adopt the rate annually.
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.	• Evaluate the costs/benefits of seeking regulatory changes to improve the environmental and financial sustainability of the regional system.	Q3 2025 – 2026	WTD's Planning team is coordinating with the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office and County Executive's Office to evaluate potential regulatory changes. WTD is exploring options for an environmentally protective and financially sustainable path in preparation for initiating discussions with regulators. WTD met with Washington State Department of Ecology on June 24 and July 30. WTD met with Ecology staff in September **and again in October** to continue discussions on potential

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			alternative options to better prioritize regulatory requirements under the Clean Water Act, including Integrated Planning.
	• 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	WTD is initiating outreach with its local agency partners on a federal/state outreach strategy. WTD and Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) coordinated on delegation meetings as part of Water Week (April 12 – 18, 2026) in Washington, D.C. Additionally, WTD is coordinating with City of Bellevue on key messages in advance of the city's D.C. trip in June 2026. WTD shared information with local agency government relations on EPA's comment period for the Financial Capability Assessment guidance which closed May 26. WTD staff briefed MWPAAC on June 26 regarding the draft discharge permit for West Point Treatment Plant issued by Ecology which includes requirements for nutrients. MWPAAC submitted a comment letter in August 2026 on the draft permit to Ecology. King County is a member of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies which also submitted a comment letter on nutrients requirements to Ecology.
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.	• 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	WTD provided an opportunity for MWPAAC's Executive Board to review the scope of work to procure an independent third-party consultant. The King County Auditor's Office has agreed to serve as the Project Representative. MWPAAC has selected a representative from its Executive Board to participate in the consultant proposal and interview process. The advertisement

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			for the independent consultant contract opened on 2/10/26 and closed on 3/11/26. The selected consultant, PMA Consultants, executed a contract with WTD and received notice to proceed on June 11. The consultant held a kick-off meeting on June 25 with the King County Auditor's Office (KCAO) as the project manager**.** KCAO and the consultant have met with stakeholders to get their input on focus areas for the third-party review. A briefing to MWPAAC will be scheduled for December 2026/January 2027. **The consultant has received the first work order that will focus on evaluation of cost and schedule estimating practices, Capital Improvement Program performance metrics, and risk management.**
6. **Regional Utility Affordability Summit.** In partnership with local municipal leaders, prepare a multi-jurisdictional summit to address affordability and access to essential utilities.	• 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.	Q3 2025 – Q1 2026	The Regional Utility Rate Summit was held in SeaTac on November 14, 2025, with approximately 150 attendees. WTD participated in the Staff Committee and Steering Committee for planning the Summit and as a participant presenting at the Summit.
	• Identify and implement resources to execute follow-up steps agreed upon at the summit.	Q4 2025-Q1 2026	Follow-up will be coordinated with participants, including a potential second summit in 2026. Sound Cities Association (SCA) and County staff participated in a discussion with MWPAAC at its April 28 General Meeting to solicit input on next steps. WTD and SCA staff met in May to consider this initial input and how it would shape a second summit. WTD will continue to gather input from interested parties. The Department of

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Major Recommendations from RWQC Letter	Wastewater Treatment Division Tasks	Working Timeline	
	• 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.	Q1 2026	Natural Resources and Parks and WTD met with Sound Cities Association (SCA) on June 16 and again on July 20 regarding a second summit. WTD continues to coordinate with the Executive's Office on a Utility Summit with a target timeframe of December 2026. WTD held two sessions in January 2026 with local agency public information officers and similar staff to gather feedback. The sessions included discussion of what local agencies are hearing from customers, more information on current outreach efforts, and ideas for coordination with WTD on rate messages. This feedback will inform WTD's communications strategy development in Q1/Q2 2026. WTD hosted a virtual meeting local agency public information staff on 4/28/26 and shared a communications tool kit for the proposed 2027 sewer rate. WTD's Director also participated in an interview with Bellevue TV regarding utility rates. In response to comments received, WTD will develop a bill stuffer or something similar that local sewer agencies can send to customers explaining the King County wastewater rate increase for 2027 and the importance of the regional system in protecting public health and the environment. WTD provided information on the adopted 2027 sewer rate to local agency communications staff to help with coordinated messaging to ratepayers. One local agency has shared these materials with their ratepayers; WTD is encouraging local agencies to use these materials in advance of the 2027 rate taking effect on January 1. Council staff shared the Partner Toolkit materials with

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			RWQC members on September 25.

King County Wastewater Treatment Division – 2028/2029 Rate Engagement Calendar

	Audience	Description
1-Oct-26	MWPAAC Rates and Finance (R&F)	Rate Model Improvements
5-Nov-26	MWPAAC R&F	Initial Rate Touchpoint: Look back at performance 2025 and prior. Tech memo items, accomplishment rate, debt market, etc.
2-Dec-26	RWQC	Early sewer rate engagement: Drivers, challenges, affordability, predictability, project updates.
3-Dec-26	MWPAAC R&F	Early sewer rate engagement: Drivers, challenges, affordability, predictability, project updates.
3-Feb-27	RWQC	Preliminary Sewer Rate Presentation
4-Feb-27	MWPAAC	Preliminary Sewer Rate Presentation
24-Feb-27	MWPAAC General	Preliminary Sewer Rate Presentation
3-Mar-27	RWQC	WTD Sewer Rate Proposal
4-Mar-27	MWPAAC R&F	WTD Sewer Rate Proposal
24-Mar-27	MWPAAC General	Discussion and vote on rate recommendation letter to Executive on WTD Sewer Rate Proposal
7-Apr-27	RWQC	Briefing pending Council schedule
8-Apr-27	MWPAAC R&F	Rate recommendation letter discussion
22-Apr-27	Executive	Anticipated transmittal of Executive rate proposal to Council
28-Apr-27	MWPAAC General	Discussion and vote on rate recommendation letter to King County Council
5-May-27	RWQC	Briefing pending Council schedule
12-May-27	BFM	Pending Council schedule
26-May-27	BFM	Pending Council schedule
8-Jun-27	Council	Pending Council schedule
15-Jun-27	Council	Rate ordinance approved by this date for Executive signature to meet contract deadline of June 30

RWSP Schedule Changes/Adjustments

Optimized, sequenced schedule allows us to:

- Produce a high quality, defensible, and durable plan
- Reflect direction from elected leaders
- Support more meaningful engagement with interested parties



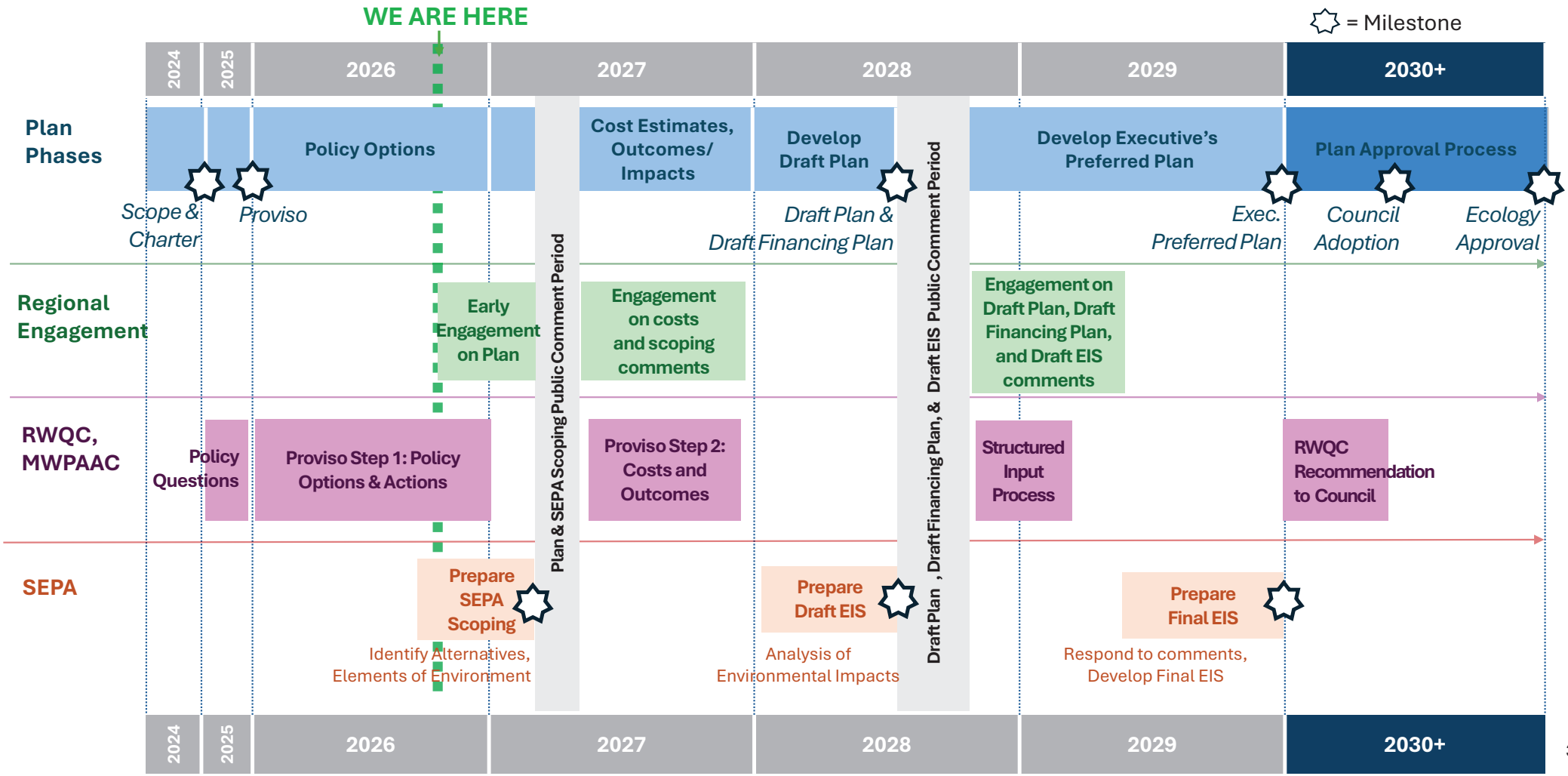
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Schedule Adjustments – Key Points

- SEPA Scoping & Public Comment Period Feb 16 – April 2, 2027
- Step 2 deliverables starting in July 2027 – Nov 2027
- Draft Plan with Alternatives, Draft Financing Plan, and Draft EIS in June 2028

RWSP Update Timeline *(as of September 2026)*



Process Overview

- **Step 1 (2026)** focused on identifying ranges of policy options for all major RWSP topics
  - ➢ *RWQC role: Are we missing any options that should be included? No decisions*
- **Step 2 (2027)** provides more detail on each policy option by:
  a) Developing cost estimates of specific actions for each policy option from Step 1, not including rate impacts
  b) Identifying specific "system outcomes"
  - ➢ *RWQC role: Any additional options that should be included? Deepen understanding of options and associated actions. No decisions*
- **Step 3 (mid-2028)** will combine ALL policy options into full Alternatives in the Draft Plan, Draft Financing Plan, and the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), including rate impacts and environmental impacts
  - ➢ *A 90-day comment period will follow for official comments and a structured input process for RWQC. Executive will consider feedback and transmit Preferred Plan in 2029 to County Council for RWQC and Council consideration and action.*

Step 2 Overview

Cost methodology - What do Action costs include?

Costs with monetary estimates	Other costs we will consider but not estimate
Capital, operating, repair/replacement	Potential cost offsets (e.g., avoided future compliance, avoided risk, etc.)
Revenue	Future potential revenue (for example, growth in market demand for reuse products)
Avoided Costs to WTD (for example, elimination of hauling costs)	Costs incurred by others TBD

- ✓ Planning level estimate – standard for long-range planning (10+ years out)
- ✓ Range of costs for each policy option
- ✓ The analysis will allow us to understand costs relative to each other

- ✗ Design-level estimate
- ✗ Specific, single dollar amount
- ✗ Monetization of all costs and benefits
- ✗ Rate Impacts (this will be determined and included with the Draft Plan in 2028)

Step 3 (mid-2028)

Step 4 (2029)

DRAFT PLAN

includes all alternatives

Categories of Capital Investment	Stay the Course	Strategic Enhancement	Transformative
Category #1	Action	Action	Action
Category #2	Action	Action	Action
Category #3	Action	Action	Action
Category #4	Action	Action	Action
Category #5	Action	Action	Action
Category #6	Action	Action	Action
Category #7	Action	Action	Action
Category #8	Action	Action	Action

Selections based on Draft EIS and public comments

PREFERRED PLAN

Mix of Alternatives
Action
Action
Action
Action
Action
Action
Action
Action

Simplified representation

Regional Wastewater Services Plan (RWSP) Update:

Rate Structure Options

Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC)

November 4, 2026

Step 1 Policy Analysis Schedule

11 "Groups" of Policy Analyses with policy options for MWPAAC & RWQC in 2026:

March	Group #1: Separated System Conveyance
April	Group #2: Pollution Source Control & Legacy Pollution
May	Group #3: Asset Renewal & Replacement
June	Group #4: Climate Impact Preparedness & Natural Hazard Resiliency
July	Group #5: Affordability Metrics & Rate Relief Approaches
August	Group #6: Combined System Management
September	Group #7: Treatment
October	Group #8: Resource Recovery
November	**Group #9: Finance/Rate Structure**
December	Group #10: Equity & Social Justice
June 2027	Group #11: Relationship to Contracts

RWQC's Major Policy Questions: Finance / Rate Structure

1. Is there a better rate structure for the sewer rate?
   (residential customer equivalent conversion factor of 750 cubic feet per month)

2. 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?

Relevance Across Key Topics of the RWSP Update

- **Infiltration & Inflow (I/I):** *How should I/I be managed and how can costs be structured differently?*

- **Combined Sewer Overflows:** *How should combined system costs be recovered?*

- **Affordability:** *What rate relief approaches should WTD implement to improve affordability for those who may struggle to pay their sewer bill?*

Problem Statement

- WTD is a regional wholesale system that brings together 34 agencies with different histories, local infrastructure, geographies, and customer base
- WTD's existing rate structure last underwent meaningful review with partners almost 30 years ago. Conditions have changed since (for example, Brightwater has now been constructed)
- Some component agencies are asking about different approaches to allocate costs differently given high projected costs of CSO/regulatory projects and the impacts of worsening inflow/infiltration on the regional system
- All rate structures inherently have tradeoffs, including in terms of who pays more. WTD and its partners need to evaluate these tradeoffs as options are explored
- No one option is likely to meet the desires of all 34 agencies or other local partners

Current Policies in Code, Contract, or in Practice

Relevant Policies	Description
LSA Contracts (Sewage Disposal Agreements)	The Local Sewer Agency (LSA) contracts (section 5) dictate a uniform rate structure and the allowed uses of wastewater rate revenue. The contracts also define a Residential Customer Equivalent (RCE) as equivalent to 750 cubic feet per month, with single-family homes equivalent to one RCE, but do not define how each LSA passes on WTD's treatment charge through their own rates
KCC 28.86.160 (3) FP-15	King County Code requires WTD to "maintain a uniform monthly sewer rate expressed as charges per residential customer equivalent for all component agencies". It also defines an RCE as "a factor of seven hundred fifty cubic feet per month" and requires King County to "periodically review the appropriateness of this factor to ensure that all component agencies pay their fair share of the cost of the wastewater system"
RCW 36.94.140	State law (and federal case law) includes restrictions on utilities that ensure a uniform rate for the same class of customers, and customer classification needs to follow cost-of-service principles except for low-income assistance

Why is the Rate Structure Important?

- Rate structure needs to generate sufficient and stable revenue for WTD to maintain the system ("full cost recovery")
- Rate structure needs to fairly apportion costs between those using the system (households and businesses served by the component agencies)
- Potential tool to address policy issues or incentivize beneficial changes (such as charging more for I/I)
- Many low-income households struggle to pay utility bills—rate structure can have a major impact on those bills

Background & Context

- Nearly 30 years into a 30-year Plan – it is time to update the Plan and policies for the next 30 years
- Regionalism and common interests
  - 65+ years ago, in 1958, the regional system was established to protect water quality across jurisdictional boundaries
  - Regional system has grown over time and geography, and has evolved to a partnership with 34 contract agencies today
- When considering geography and levels of investment into the regional system, important to look across long time horizon – i.e., since 1961 when the first sewer contract was signed
  - Funds spent and prioritized based on the system's needs (e.g., like an old house, some years we invest in the roof, other years we invest in the basement plumbing)
  - In the short-term, certain portions of the service area may see more/less investment
  - Over long term, it is the **"system as a whole"** that is invested in to ensure ALL 34 agencies receive the level of service WTD delivers to protect water quality across the Region

Pre-Robinswood—Seattle to "Metro" (1880-1961-1999)

- First pipes in the Seattle area installed in the 1880s before the creation of "Metro" (now King County WTD), and many are still in service.
- When Metro was formed in 1961, a regional approach was taken where the combined system in Seattle was part of the design.
- After Metro's formation, negotiations created the **"Basic Sewage Disposal Agreement"** and was signed between Metro and component agencies. Key components:
  - Seattle to subsidize expansion of sewer system into the suburban cities
  - Metro took ownership of sewer facilities with capacity to serve larger than 1,000 acres, including some Combined Sewer Overflow outfalls in Seattle
  - Uniform rates per Residential Customer Equivalent (initially 900 cubic feet (cf)/month for non-single-family flows) to be paid by all component agencies

Robinswood Agreement (1999 RWSP to Present)

- The 1998 RWQC retreat at Robinswood Community Park in Bellevue produced a roadmap for financial policies to establish the funding mechanism to implement the RWSP through 2030. The "Robinswood Agreement" is the foundation of the current RWSP policies.

  Key Guiding Principles

  - The wastewater system is a regional system. As one participant said at the retreat, "**All for one and one for all**, from this day forward."
  - The regional wastewater financing structure should reflect **uniform regional rates** for existing and new customers and achieve the principle of "**growth pays for growth**."

- **Base Rate and Capacity Charge:** Maintain a uniform monthly sewer rate for both existing and new customers, and establish a uniform capacity charge within the service area to cover growth costs

- **Regional Infiltration / Inflow (I/I) Assessment & Pilots; and CSO Control:** WTD pays 100% of cost of I/I assessments and any pilot projects, and CSO benefit charge discontinued once cap on capacity charge amount is lifted in state law

Introduction to Rate-Setting Principles ("System Must-Dos")

1. **Revenue Requirement:** Compares the revenues of the utility to its operating and capital costs to determine the adequacy of the existing rates to recover the utility's costs

   → WTD completes this annually through sewer rate process

2. **Allocation to Customer Classes (Cost of Service Analysis):** Allocates the revenue requirement to the various customer classes in a fair and equitable manner

   → Single-family residential, multi-family/commercial, industrial waste surcharge

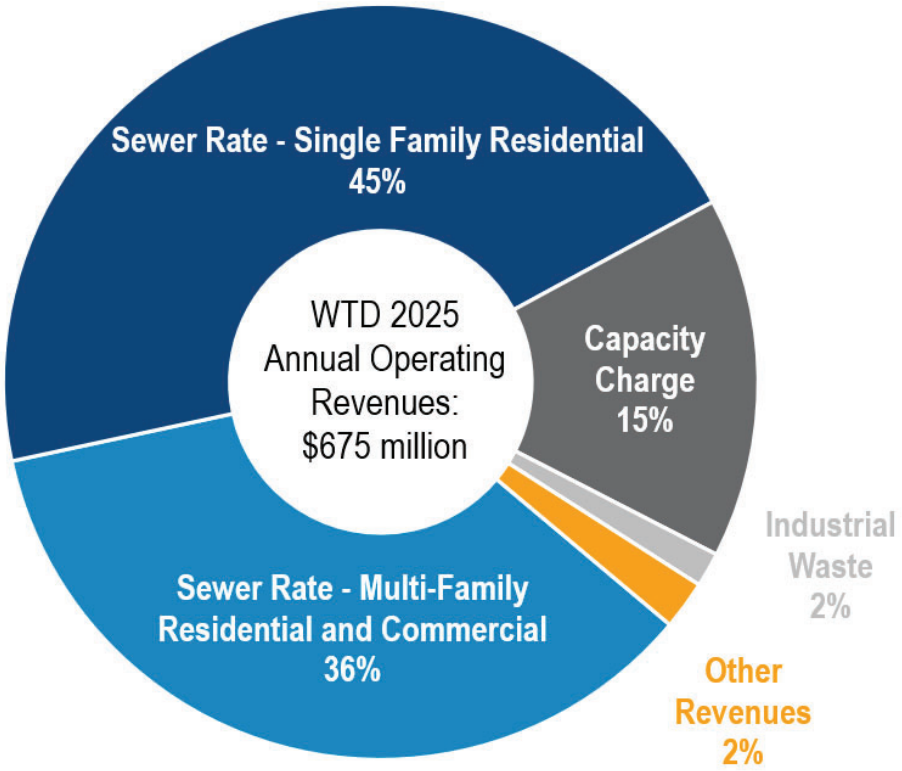
3. **Rate Design:** Develop a rate structure that meets forecast revenue requirement, cost of service allocations, and other policy goals (e.g., water conservation, admin. simplicity)

   → One sewer rate fee per RCE (750 cubic feet of water use per month)

Determined by existing contracts with LSAs

Note: Adapted from AWWA M1 Manual: Principles of Water Rates, Fees, and Charges (Chapter I.1: Overview of Cost-Based Water Utility Rate-Making)

WTD Current Revenue Structure ("Status Quo")



Single Family Residential (SFR)

- Fixed (flat) uniform rate: same payment regardless of size or water use
- Defined as one RCE ($62.66 per month in 2026)

Multi-Family Residential (MFR) and Commercial

- Volumetric (flow-based) uniform rate: variable payment based on water use
- Defined as one RCE per 750cf of monthly usage
- Estimated 50% residential and 50% commercial

Capacity Charge

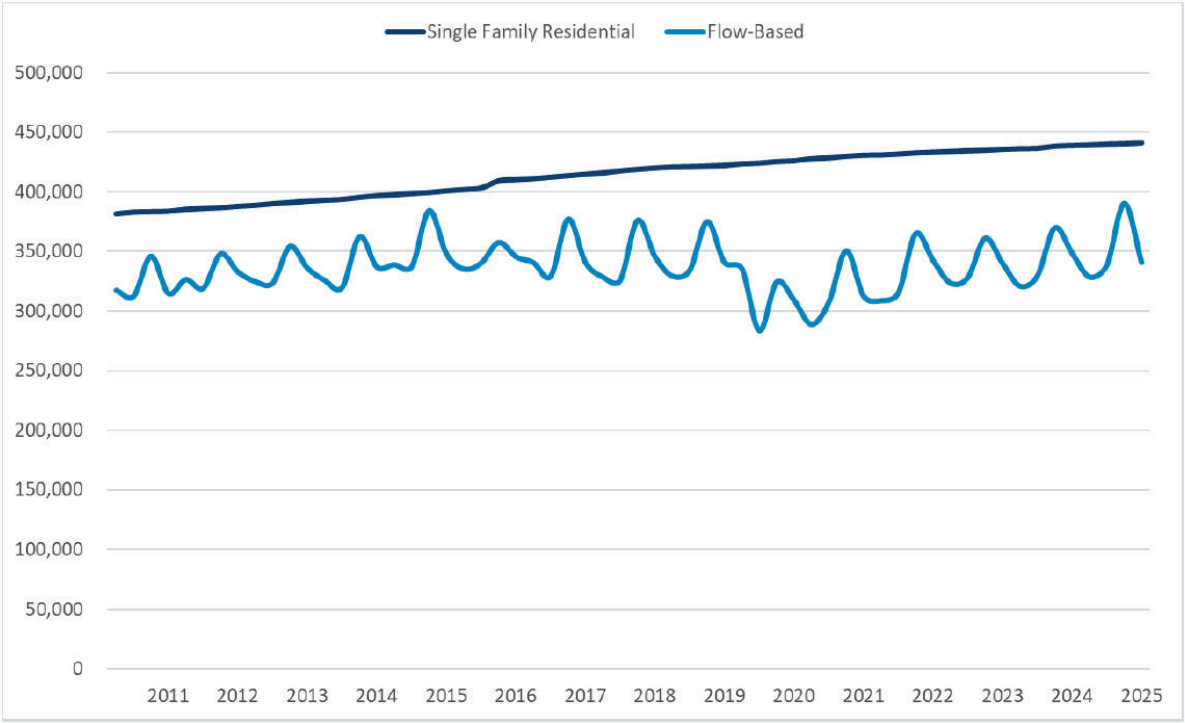
- Charge on new or upgraded connections to the system, paid over 15 years
- $77.99 per month for a mid-size single-family home connecting in 2026
- In addition to sewer rate

Industrial Waste Customers

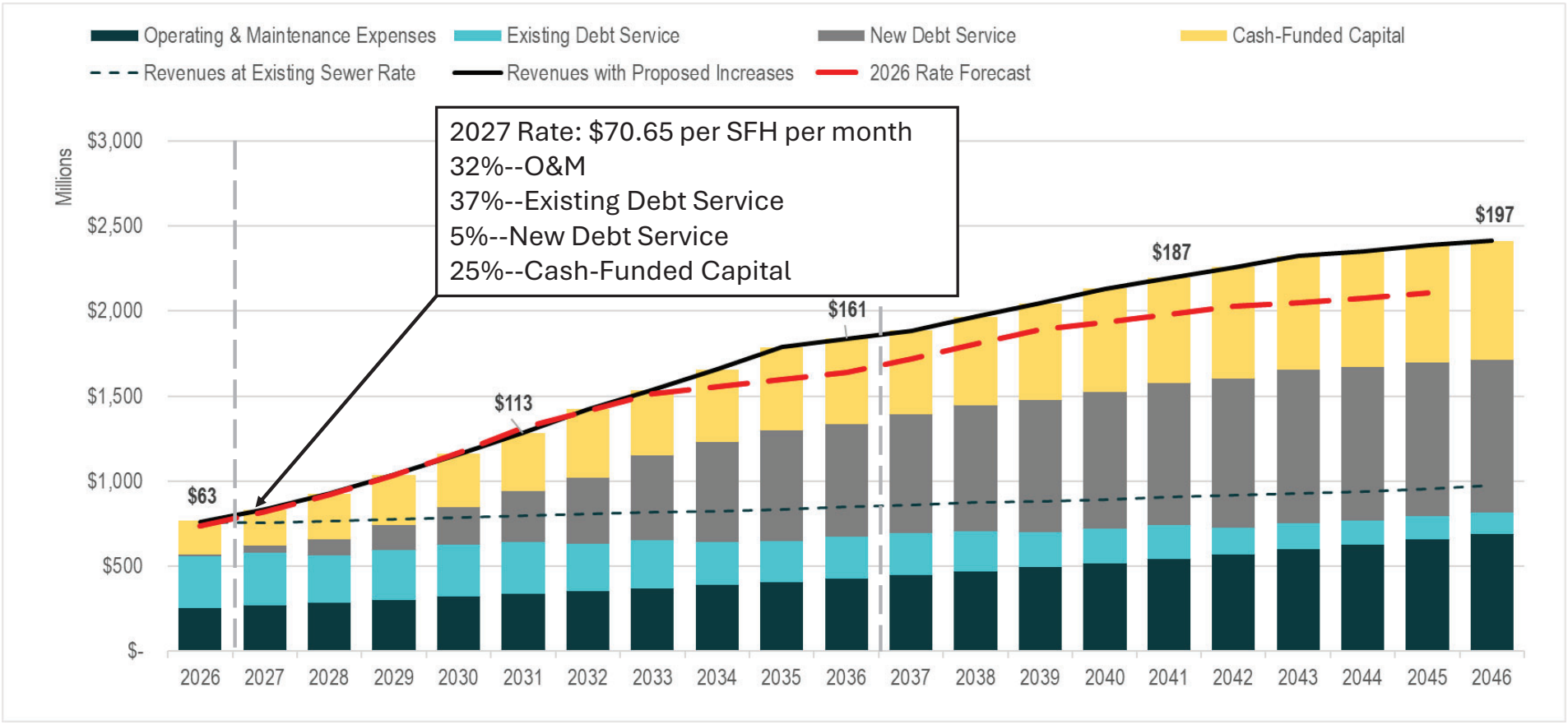
- High-strength surcharge (operating costs only)
- 2026 fees: $0.4890 per pound of BOD and $0.5675 per pound of TSS
- In addition to sewer rate

Reported SFRs and Flow-Based RCEs by Quarter (2011-2025)

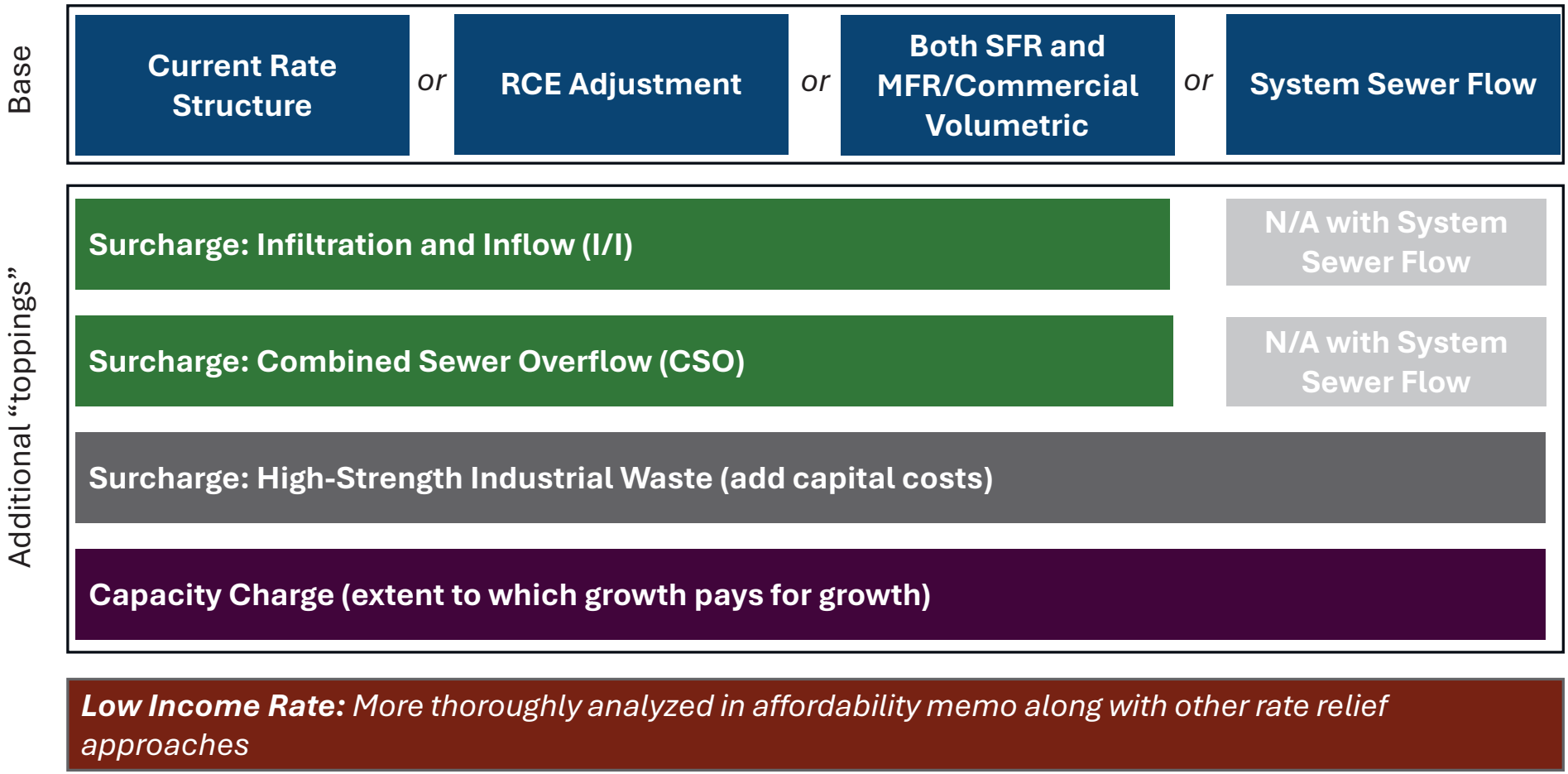
- Single-family residential customers have grown steadily over time
- A fixed (or flat) rate has provided stable and predictable revenues for WTD, reducing its financial risk
- Water conservation measures have significantly offset the increase in flow-based RCEs, despite strong multi-family residential construction and employment growth
- Seasonal variability is mitigated through a 4-quarter average billing system
- Other, unexpected variability (e.g., pandemic shutdowns) is harder to mitigate but reserves play an important role



20-Year Rate Forecast



Policy Options – Finance / Rate Structure



Caveats:

- Future cost estimates for RWSP topics (Step 2) will inform the alternative rate structure evaluation
- Evaluation will require some level of cost-of-service analysis
- Cost shift comparisons ("who pays more") for each option will be developed in Step 2
  - Pre-existing analysis on cost shift resulting from RCE adjustment is included in Appendix
- Financial tools (such as I/I surcharge) are not the only incentives available to reduce flows, 'carrots' will also be evaluated

Base Rate Options

Base Policy Option: WTD Current Rate Structure

Description:

- Single-family homes are one RCE
- Other properties converted to RCEs at 750 cubic feet per month of use
- All RCEs pay the same rate

Potential benefits:

- Clear nexus between amount paid and impact on the system
- Stable revenue source and relatively easy to forecast
- Administrative structure already in place

Potential drawbacks:

- RCE conversion factor hasn't been updated in more than 30 years
- Geographically isolated problems like I/I and CSOs are not charged more
- Low-income customers pay the same as everyone else

Who pays more (than status quo)?

- This is the status quo rate structure
- Everyone pays the same rate per RCE

Base Policy Option: RCE Adjustment

Description:

- Maintains current rate structure
- Adjusts RCE to be more reflective of current residential water usage (750 cf to ~600 cf) with mechanism to adjust periodically as water usage changes

Potential benefits:	Potential drawbacks:	Who pays more (than status quo)?
• Customers charged more accurately • Reduces the rate for single-family residences compared to not adjusting	• Increases costs to multi-family homes, including lower-income households	• Jurisdictions with high percentage of non-SF homes (Kent, Tukwila, Seattle)

Base Policy Option: Both SFR and MFR/Commercial Volumetric

Description:

- Same basic rate structure as status quo, but <u>all</u> customers are converted to RCEs based on flow, including SF homes

Potential benefits:

- Allows SF homes to reduce their bill by reducing usage
- More accurately reflects individual impacts on the system
- RCE conversion factor never becomes outdated

Potential drawbacks:

- Potential administrative challenges with individual LSAs without water utilities
- More variable revenues

Who pays more (than status quo)?

- In aggregate, costs would shift to LSAs with higher percentages of MF and commercial customers, individual results may vary
- SF homes with high usage would pay more than SF homes with low usage

Base Policy Option: System Sewer Flow

Description:

- Each component agency is charged on the actual amount of flow that is discharged to WTD's system (million gallons), rather than water usage by individual customers as an estimate for sanitary flow (RCEs)

Potential benefits:

- Clear nexus between amount paid and impact on the system
- Financially incentivizes each agency to reduce its flow to the system

Potential drawbacks:

- Data gap and significant modeling efforts required
- Revenue variability, financial policies may need to be adjusted

Who pays more (than status quo)?

- Higher flow jurisdictions (more analysis required)

Surcharges/Non-Base Rate Options

Surcharge Policy Option: Infiltration and Inflow (I/I)

Description:

- Same basic rate structure, but a surcharge is imposed on excess I/I above set cap
- Would only be imposed on the separated system, likely would be paired with CSO surcharge
- Surcharge could be a range between 0% and 100% of I/I costs

Potential benefits:	Potential drawbacks:	Who pays more (than status quo)?
• Financially incentivizes jurisdictions to fix I/I problems	• Relies on accurate monitoring and agreement on baseline conditions • More variable revenue source	• Jurisdictions with high I/I (see map in appendix)

Surcharge Policy Option: Combined Sewer Overflows

Description:

- Same basic rate structure, but a surcharge is imposed for CSO construction and operation
- Would only be imposed on the combined system, likely would be paired with I/I surcharge
- Surcharge could be a range between 0% to 100% of CSO costs

Potential benefits:	Potential drawbacks:	Who pays more (than status quo)?
• CSO costs are rebalanced; separated system customers contribute less or nothing to costs of CSOs.	• Significant shift from historical regional system development; system developed in urban cores usually provided foundation for later system development • Seattle households have diverse range of income levels, could negatively impact affordability for low-income customers within combined service area • Shifts (some/all) responsibility for cleaning a regional asset (Puget Sound) from all regional rate payers to one LSA	• City of Seattle

Surcharge Policy Option: High-Strength Adjustment

Description:

- Companies that discharge high-strength organic waste currently pay a surcharge treatment fee whose wastewater concentration exceeds typical domestic strength (generally food processers, breweries, etc.) Does not currently apply to restaurants, commercial delis, etc. throughout service area
- Per King County code, only recovers the operating cost of treating high-strength wastewater, not capital costs—capital costs could be included

Potential benefits:	Potential drawbacks:	Who pays more (than status quo)?
• Recovers the full cost of industrial waste dischargers	• Imposes higher costs on small number of specific businesses, equity issue	• Local businesses such as food processors, breweries

Policy Option: Capacity Charge Adjustment

Description:

- Capacity charge currently recovers 95% of growth costs
- Could be adjusted to include anywhere from 0% to 100% of growth costs

Potential benefits:

- Higher capacity charge recovers more revenue from new development, rather than existing ratepayers

Potential drawbacks:

- Higher capacity charge imposes costs on owners of new development
- Potentially impacts construction of new housing

Who pays more (than status quo)?

- Higher capacity charge imposes more costs on the owners of new development

Policy Option: Low-Income Rate Class*

Description:

- Same basic rate structure as status quo, but creation of additional 'low-income' rate class with discounted rate
- Component agencies pay discounted rate to WTD based on number of low-income RCEs enrolled in their programs

Potential benefits:	Potential drawbacks:	Who pays more (than status quo)?
• Helps alleviate affordability concerns for those who struggle the most to pay their sewer bills • Standardizes assistance across the region and guarantees discount gets applied to WTD treatment rate	• All contracts would need to be amended, with identical definitions of low-income • Many low-income customers do not have direct billing relationship with their local utility—administrative mechanism would be required to ensure assistance went to low-income households	• All non-low-income customers (and low-income customers not enrolled in the assistance program) would pay more to subsidize the costs of the low-income rate.

**Subject to legal review*

Industry Context

- Most regional sewer systems in the US have geographically uniform rates
  - i.e., households of the same size or consumption level pay the same rate regardless of local service area
- Larger utilities generally have more robust capabilities in support of complex rate structures, while smaller utilities prefer simple, uniform administration
  - MESC (Minneapolis), Massachusetts WRA, use a version of system sewer flow
  - DC Water, LA County San District, use an all-volumetric rate + surcharges
  - East Bay MUD uses a combined fixed + variable charge, along with a CSO surcharge
- Regionally, western sewer utilities commonly utilize alternative rate structures such as surcharges to complement the uniform rate
- Most of WTD's LSAs use a fixed charge as the primary rate structure for SFR, although several agencies include a volumetric component as well; a majority also add a utility tax to the final customer's bills.

Policy Issues, Challenges, and Opportunities

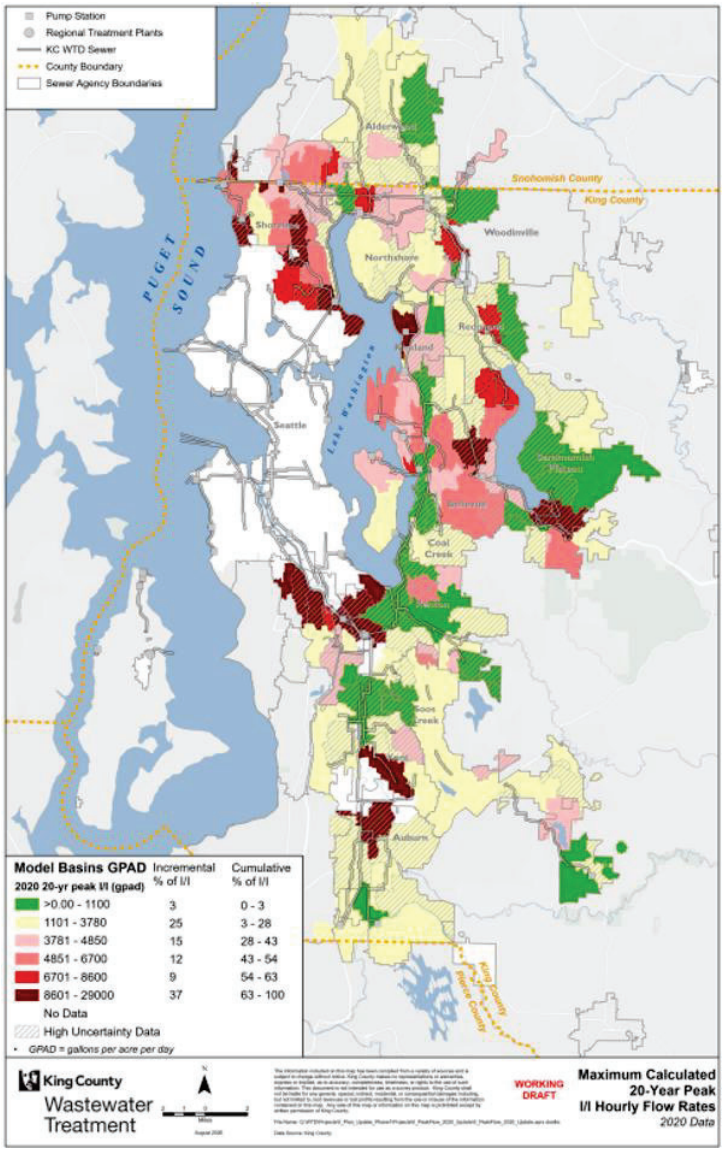
- All rate structure alternatives will attempt to balance tradeoffs, especially when some users have a greater impact on the system than others. No one option is likely to meet the desires of all 34 agencies or other local partners
- Tradeoffs are not just financial, but also include simplicity, transparency, and administrative feasibility
- Changing the rate structure could financially incentivize behavior (I/I surcharge, flow-based rates) but needs to be balanced with affordability and rate sustainability
- Some changes may increase charges to low-income households that struggle to pay their bills
- High charges on smaller groups (high-strength surcharge, capacity charge increase) could have negative impacts on individual businesses and new development

Q & A

King County | Wastewater Treatment

Infiltration and Inflow (I/I) in the Regional Separated System

- On average during wet weather, as much as three-quarters of peak flow is I/I
- About one-quarter of the annual separated wastewater system flow is I/I
- A majority of I/I originates from side sewer pipes on private property
- I/I contributes heavily to Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO) risk during wet weather



Cost Shift of RCE Conversion Factor Adjustment (revenue neutral, $1,000s)

	2025 Total RCEs	Percentage of Total (%)	Total RCEs w/600 cf	% of total adj. RCEs	Revenues @ $58.28 per month	Revenues @ calc. $52.47 per month	Difference	% Change
Local Sewer Agencies - Cities								
Algona	1,706	0.2%	1,878	0.2%	$ 1,193	$ 1,182	$ (11)	-0.9%
Auburn	32,323	4.1%	37,038	4.2%	22,605	23,311	706	3.1%
Bellevue	68,045	8.6%	76,730	8.7%	47,588	48,293	706	1.5%
Black Diamond	2,398	0.3%	2,437	0.3%	1,677	1,534	(143)	-8.5%
Bothell	8,306	1.0%	9,082	1.0%	5,809	5,716	(92)	-1.6%
Brier	1,806	0.2%	1,862	0.2%	1,263	1,172	(91)	-7.2%
Carnation	1,151	0.1%	1,186	0.1%	805	746	(59)	-7.3%
Issaquah	13,436	1.7%	15,024	1.7%	9,396	9,456	60	0.6%
Kent	36,892	4.7%	42,710	4.8%	25,801	26,881	1,080	4.2%
Kirkland	16,354	2.1%	17,792	2.0%	11,438	11,198	(239)	-2.1%
Lake Forest Park	4,111	0.5%	4,236	0.5%	2,875	2,666	(209)	-7.3%
Mercer Island	8,692	1.1%	9,069	1.0%	6,078	5,708	(371)	-6.1%
Pacific	2,529	0.3%	2,771	0.3%	1,769	1,744	(25)	-1.4%
Redmond	35,199	4.4%	40,059	4.5%	24,617	25,213	596	2.4%
Renton	32,491	4.1%	36,481	4.1%	22,723	22,961	238	1.0%
Seattle	306,181	38.6%	343,525	39.0%	214,131	216,213	2,082	1.0%
Shoreline	20,644	2.6%	21,921	2.5%	14,438	13,797	(641)	-4.4%
Tukwila	7,837	1.0%	9,527	1.1%	5,481	5,996	515	9.4%
Subtotal	**600,100**	**75.7%**	**673,326**	**76.5%**	**$ 419,686**	**$ 423,788**	**$ 4,102**	**1.0%**
Local Sewer Agencies - Districts and Tribes								
Alderwood Water & Wastewater District	54,687	6.9%	58,965	6.7%	$ 38,246	$ 37,112	$ (1,134)	-3.0%
Cedar River Water & Sewer District	5,525	0.7%	5,864	0.7%	3,864	3,690	(174)	-4.5%
Coal Creek Utility District	4,962	0.6%	5,348	0.6%	3,470	3,366	(104)	-3.0%
Cross Valley Water District	435	0.1%	543	0.1%	304	342	38	12.4%
Highlands Sewer District	107	0.0%	107	0.0%	75	67	(7)	-10.0%
Lakehaven Utility District	1,153	0.1%	1,156	0.1%	807	728	(79)	-9.8%
Muckleshoot Indian Tribe	493	0.1%	527	0.1%	345	332	(13)	-3.8%
NE Sammamish Sewer & Water District	4,840	0.6%	4,869	0.6%	3,385	3,065	(321)	-9.5%
Northshore Utility District	31,544	4.0%	34,182	3.9%	22,060	21,514	(547)	-2.5%
Olympic View Water & Sewer District	215	0.0%	215	0.0%	150	135	(15)	-10.0%
Sammammish Plateau Water & Sewer District	16,689	2.1%	17,843	2.0%	11,672	11,230	(441)	-3.8%
Skyway Water & Sewer District	5,296	0.7%	5,612	0.6%	3,704	3,532	(172)	-4.6%
Soos Creek Water & Sewer District	39,659	5.0%	41,205	4.7%	27,736	25,934	(1,801)	-6.5%
Valley View Sewer District	16,587	2.1%	18,944	2.2%	11,600	11,923	323	2.8%
Vashon Sewer District	907	0.1%	1,025	0.1%	634	645	11	1.7%
Woodinville Water District	6,023	0.8%	6,761	0.8%	4,212	4,256	43	1.0%
Subtotal	**189,121**	**23.9%**	**203,164**	**23.1%**	**$ 132,264**	**$ 127,871**	**$ (4,393)**	**-3.3%**
Non-Municipal Participants and Other Customers	3,329	0.4%	4,161	0.5%	2,328	2,619	291	12.5%
Grand Total	**792,550**	**100.0%**	**880,651**	**100.0%**	**$ 554,278**	**$ 554,278**	**$ -**	**0.0%**

Sewer Rate Structure for Single Family Residences by Local Sewer Agency

	Rate Structure		
Local Sewer Agency (LSA)	**Charge Type**	**Recovery Method for WTD Rate**	**Utility Tax**
Alderwood W&WW District	Fixed Charge (3 Blocks)	Embedded in fixed charge	N/A
Algona	Fixed Charge	Embedded in fixed charge	6.00%
Auburn	Fixed Charge	Separate	11.50%
Bellevue	Base Charge (WTD Rate) + Volume Rate	Separate	5.00%
Black Diamond	Fixed Charge	Separate	6.00%
Bothell	Base Charge + Volume Rate (above 2CCF/month)	Embedded	6.00%
Brier	Fixed Charge	Separate	0.00%
Carnation	Fixed Charge	Separate	6.00%
Cedar River Water & Sewer District	Fixed Charge	Separate	N/A
Coal Creek Utility District	Fixed Charge	Separate	0.00%
Cross Valley Water District	Base Charge + Volume Rate (above 7.5CCF/month)	Separate	N/A
Issaquah	Base Charge + Volume Rate	Separate	4.50%
Kent	Fixed Charge	Separate	9.50%
Kirkland	Base Charge + Volume Rate (above 3CCF/month)	Separate	10.50%
Lake Forest Park	Fixed Charge	Separate	10.00%
Lakehaven W&S District	Base Charge + Volume Rate	Embedded in volume rate	7.75%
Mercer Island	Base Charge + Volume Rate (above 3CCF/month)	Separate	5.30%
NE Sammamish Water & Sewer District	Fixed Charge	Separate	0.00%
Northshore Utility District	Base Charge + Volume Rate (above 7.5CCF/month)	Embedded in base rate	0.00%
Olympic View W&S District	Fixed Charge	Embedded (partially)	6.00%
Pacific	Fixed Charge	Separate	6.00%
Redmond	Fixed Charge	Separate	1.00%
Renton	Fixed Charge	Separate	6.00%
Shoreline Sewer District	Fixed Charge	Separate	6.00%
Sammamish Plateau W&S District	Fixed Charge	Separate	0.00%
Seattle Public Utilities	Volume Rate (1ccf Minimum)	Embedded in volume rate	12.00%
Skyway Water & Sewer District	Fixed Charge	Separate	0.00%
Soos Creek W&S District	Fixed Charge	Separate	0.00%
Tukwila	Fixed Charge	Separate	0.00%
Valley View Sewer District	Fixed Charge	Embedded in fixed charge	0.00%
Vashon Sewer District	Fixed Charge	Embedded in fixed charge	0.00%
Woodinville Water District	Fixed Charge	Separate	0.00%

King County

Metropolitan King County Council
Staff Report

Committee:	Regional Water Quality Committee		
Agenda Item:	9	**Analyst(s):**	Jenny Giambattista
Proposed No.:	2026-0320	**Meeting Date:**	November 4, 2026

OVERVIEW

TOPIC: An ordinance authorizing the Wastewater Treatment Division to allow for the production and sale of Class A biosolids by King County. The proposed legislation would also eliminate the requirement for county-funded landscaping projects to use biosolids compost to align with state law.

Proposed Ordinance 2026-0320 is a mandatory dual referral. Today's discussion will be a briefing only by the Wastewater Treatment Division. Council staff analysis is ongoing and will be presented at the December 2, 2026 RWQC meeting.

INVITED

- Erika Kinno, Policy and Research Supervisor, Resource Recovery Unit, Wastewater Treatment Division.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Proposed Ordinance 2026-0320
2. Transmittal Letter
3. Fiscal Note
4. WTD PowerPoint Class A Biosolids (Proposed Ordinance 2026-0320)

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

KING COUNTY

Signature Report

Ordinance

Proposed No. 2026-0320.1 **Sponsors** Balducci

AN ORDINANCE relating to the production, sale, and use of biosolids and biosolids products; and amending Ordinance 13680, Section 9, and K.C.C. 28.86.090 and Ordinance 13680, Section 18, as amended, and K.C.C. 28.86.180.

STATEMENT OF FACTS:

1. King County's wastewater treatment facilities have produced and beneficially used class B biosolids as a soil amendment for more than forty years. Class B biosolids have permit limitations on customer use and are typically used for activities such as commercial agriculture and forestry.

2. The King County Code currently limits King County to the production of class B biosolids.

3. King County's biosolids program would greatly benefit from diversifying its product lines and customer base to continue to beneficially use its biosolids.

4. King County's class B markets have limited capacity for expansion and regulatory restrictions on use.

5. King County's class B biosolids are branded as Loop®. Public perception and awareness of King County's biosolids has increased significantly since the brand was launched in 2012. Research has shown there is significant market potential for class A Loop products.

6. The adopted 2021-22 King County biennial budget authorized funding for a biosolids class A compost pilot facility to be constructed at south treatment plant, which has been operational since late 2025. Class A products are retail garden products with no regulatory restrictions on customer use.

7. Direct sale of class A products would allow the county to maximize market potential. Moneys from the sale of class A products would provide an alternative revenue source to help offset operational costs in an environment of increasing sewer rates and affordability challenges.

8. King County is currently undertaking a comprehensive update to the Regional Wastewater Services Plan (RWSP), which will include an update to the biosolids policies in the King County Code. The compost pilot would benefit from interim policy guidance allowing the sale of Class A biosolids, which will provide the wastewater treatment division and the council with important information about the viability of Class A biosolids as a product, and inform the RWSP biosolids policy development. The information will be made available to the council as the council considers new or amended biosolids policies as part of the RWSP update.

9. The compost procurement Ordinance 19552, approved in 2022, specifies county policy for the procurement of compost for use in county projects as required by Washington state law, chapter 43.19A RCW. Ordinance 19552 allows use of compost made from organic material as defined in state law, which includes other sources besides biosolids such as yard and food waste compost, making the current requirement in K.C.C. 28.86.090 specifying use of biosolids compost out of date.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

SECTION 1. Ordinance 13680, Section 9, and K.C.C. 28.86.090 are hereby amended to read as follows:

A. Explanatory material. The biosolids policies are intended to guide the county to ((~~continue to~~)) produce and market class A or class B biosolids in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations. The county will also continue to evaluate alternative technologies so as to produce the highest quality marketable biosolids. ((~~This~~)) The evaluation would include technologies that produce class A biosolids.

B. Policies.

BP-1: King County shall strive to achieve beneficial use of wastewater solids in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations. A beneficial use can be any use that proves to be environmentally safe, economically sound, and utilizes the advantageous qualities of the material.

BP-2: ((~~Biosolids-derived products should be used as a soil amendment in landscaping projects funded by King County.~~

~~BP-3~~)) King County shall consider new and innovative technologies for wastewater solids processing, energy recovery, and beneficial uses brought forward by public or private interests. King County shall seek to advance the beneficial use of wastewater solids, effluent, and methane gas through research and demonstration projects.

((~~BP-4~~)) BP-3: King County shall seek to maximize program reliability and minimize risk by one or more of the following:

1. maintaining reserve capacity to manage approximately one hundred fifty percent of projected volume of biosolids;

2. considering diverse technologies, end products, and beneficial uses; or

3. pursuing contractual protections including interlocal agreements, where appropriate.

((~~BP-5~~)) BP-4: King County shall produce and use biosolids in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations, which may include class A or class B biosolids.

((~~BP-6~~)) BP-5: King County shall strive to produce the highest quality biosolids economically and practically achievable and shall continue efforts to reduce trace metals in biosolids consistent with 40 C.F.R. Part 503 pollutant concentration levels (exceptional quality) for individual metals. The county shall continue to provide class B biosolids and also to explore technologies that may enable the county to generate class A biosolids cost-effectively or because they have better marketability. Future decisions about technology, transportation and distribution shall be based on marketability of biosolids products.

((~~BP-7~~)) BP-6: When biosolids derived products are distributed outside the wastewater service area, the county shall require that local sponsors using the products secure any permits required by the local government body.

((~~BP-8~~)) BP-7: King County shall work cooperatively with statewide organizations on biosolids issues.

((~~BP-9~~)) BP-8: King County shall seek to minimize the noise and odor impact associated with processing, transporting and applying of biosolids, consistent with constraints of economic and environmental considerations and giving due regard to neighboring communities.

((~~BP-10~~)) BP-9: Where cost-effective, King County shall beneficially use methane produced at the treatment plants for energy and other purposes.

BP-10: King County's biosolids are branded as Loop®. King County may produce class A Loop® biosolids product or products, may distribute them via direct retail or wholesale sales and may receive revenue from the sales. The wastewater treatment division director shall set charges for Loop® services and establish prices for class A Loop® products. Any such charges or prices shall be established or adjusted in writing by the director. In setting charges and prices for Loop® services and class A Loop® products, the director shall consider the following, among other factors: the cost of providing services and products, the demand for services and products, comparable prices for similar services and products, and the administrative costs of collecting the charges.

BP-11: Moneys from the sale of Loop® shall be deposited into the Water Quality Operating Account. Revenue that exceeds biosolids program operating expenses and

capital improvements may be spent on other wastewater operating expenses or capital improvements.

BP-12: Consistent with the King County charter and state law restrictions, class A Loop® products and associated Loop® services may be provided free of charge to eligible residents and community gardens within the King County service area to promote the use and sale of class A Loop® products.

SECTION 2. Ordinance 13680, Section 18, as amended, and K.C.C. 28.86.180 are hereby amended to read as follows:

A. The RWSP operational master plan that was adopted by council in December 1999, shall be updated on a regular basis following substantive adopted policy revisions to the RWSP, and shall meet the requirements of K.C.C. chapter 4A.100.

B. The operational master plan shall contain projects related to major program elements and shall further define as necessary the major projects, projected capacity, milestones, projected completion dates, and estimated costs.

1. Treatment capacity.

a. Population and employment growth is projected to require the wastewater system capacity to expand from two hundred forty-eight mgd to three hundred four mgd by 2030. The estimated cost and list of treatment facilities and improvements to achieve this expanded capacity by 2030, shall be included in future RWSP operational master plans, summarized in RWSP annual reports and comprehensive reviews as outlined in K.C.C. 28.86.165.

b. The Brightwater treatment plant at the Route 9 site shall be built with a capacity of thirty-six mgd by 2010 or as soon thereafter as possible to handle wastewater

flows from a new north service area as defined in the plan. This plant would provide secondary treatment and would discharge treated effluent to Puget Sound. To facilitate the production of reclaimed water, the possibility of upgrading to tertiary treatment with a freshwater outfall should be investigated before subsequent expansions.

c. Expanding the treatment capacity at the south treatment plant from one hundred fifteen mgd to one hundred thirty-five mgd by 2029. This expansion would handle increased wastewater flows from the southern and eastern portions of the service area. Some or all of the plant capacity could also be upgraded to tertiary treatment, to meet water quality standards or facilitate water reuse, as part of future expansions or in additions to the secondary level of treatment using available land reserves at the plant site.

d. The ((~~w~~))West ((~~p~~))Point treatment plant will be maintained at its capacity of one hundred thirty-three mgd, primarily to serve the city of Seattle and handle flows from the combined sewers in the area.

2. Conveyance facilities.

a. Conveyance facilities are to be configured, sized, and scheduled to support the treatment plants by conveying wastewater to and treated effluent from the plants. The estimated cost, schedule and list of conveyance facility improvements, shall be included in future RWSP operational master plans, summarized in RWSP annual reports and comprehensive reviews as outlined in K.C.C. 28.86.165.

b. King County will construct additional conveyance improvements ~~(((e.g.~~)), such as increasing conveyance and pump station capacity and extending conveyance((~~)~~)), to accommodate increased flows in other parts of the service area to serve population

growth in the smaller wastewater service basins and to prevent improper discharges from the sanitary system.

3. I/I control.

a. The I/I control program shall be implemented incrementally and be limited to projects that prove to be most cost effective. The estimated cost, schedule and list of I/I improvement projects, shall be included in future RWSP operational master plans, summarized in RWSP annual reports and comprehensive reviews as outlined in K.C.C. 28.86.165.

b. The goal of the I/I control program is to reduce the expense of conveyance system improvements over time. Every ten years, beginning in 2010, the wastewater treatment division will conduct system monitoring to update hydraulic models and measure the effectiveness of I/I control and reduction in the system.

4. CSOs.

a. The county shall implement CSO control projects consistent with the schedule outlined in the county's long-term CSO control plan as approved in Attachment A to Ordinance 14713 and the Environmental Protection Agency/Washington state Department of Ecology Consent Decree.

b. Consistent with the Environmental Protection Agency/Washington state Department of Ecology Consent Decree, the county may request refinements to the CSO program, including changes to the sequencing of projects, in response to changing conditions, new information and new regulations.

5. Biosolids.

a. King County will continue to produce ((~~C~~))class B biosolids using anaerobic digestion at the south and ((~~w~~))West ((~~p~~))Point treatment plants and to implement the same process at the Brightwater treatment plant until a new technology can be used reliably. If a new technology can be used reliably, King County may produce class A biosolids. The plan also proposes that the county continue to evaluate alternative technologies to reduce the water content of biosolids while preserving their marketability. The primary objective of this evaluation will be to identify alternatives to digesters at the ((~~w~~))West ((~~p~~))Point treatment plant, a condition of the West Point Settlement Agreement.

b. As part of ongoing planning for its treatment plants, King County will periodically evaluate conventional, alternative and new solids processing technologies using criteria such as product quality (class A or B), marketability, odor and other potential community impacts, impact on sewer rates, reliability of the treatment process, amount of land needed for the treatment facility and the number of truck trips needed to transport the biosolids produced. Based on the results of this evaluation and public comment, the executive ((~~should recommend~~)) may implement any one of three biosolids handling scenarios at any ((~~of~~)) or all of the treatment plants:

(1) continue using anaerobic digestion;

(2) supplement anaerobic digestion with another treatment technology; or

(3) replace anaerobic digestion with another treatment technology.

c. The estimated cost, schedule, and list of biosolids improvement projects, shall be included in future RWSP operational master plans, summarized in RWSP annual reports and comprehensive reviews as outlined in K.C.C. 28.86.165.

d. The county ((~~should continue using~~)) has the authority to recycle biosolids through direct sales or through a public-private partnership approach to recycling biosolids such as using biosolids on working forests in King County to enhance wildlife habitat and generate long-term income from selective timber harvests.

6. Water reuse.

a. The south and ((~~w~~))West ((~~p~~))Point treatment plants should continue to produce reclaimed water for non-potable uses and explore the production of reclaimed water at new facilities. King County will explore the production of reclaimed water at new facilities and work with water suppliers to plan and implement an accelerated water reuse program that could augment existing water supplies.

b. If a public education and involvement program on water reuse is to be developed and implemented, it shall be coordinated with water conservation education programs. The estimated cost, schedule and list of water reuse projects, shall be included in future RWSP operational master plans, summarized in RWSP annual reports and comprehensive reviews as outlined in K.C.C. 28.86.165.

7. Community treatment systems.

a. Any operations under these policies shall require an operational master plan as described in K.C.C. 4.04.200.C.1. Failure to submit such a plan shall cause the affected capital improvement project to be out of compliance with these polices.

b. In addition to the requirements of K.C.C. 4.04.200.C.1, an operational master plan submitted under these policies shall include:

(1) description of career retention programs that are to be structured in a manner consistent with the King County/((~~metro~~))Municipality of Metropolitan Seattle merger, labor law, and King County's labor contracts;

(2) an engineering evaluation that confirms that the selected projects are most cost effective and technically efficacious and consistent with King County growth management policies for the surrounding area; and

(3) explanation of how King County participation in community treatment systems is consistent with other water pollution abatement activities of the department of

natural resources and parks, which currently operates centralized wastewater treatment facilities as contrasted with community treatment systems.

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

_____

Sarah Perry, Chair

ATTEST:

_____

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this _____ day of _____, _____.

_____

Girmay Zahilay, County Executive

Attachments: None

King County | Office of the Executive

Executive Girmay Zahilay
Chinook Building, CNK-EX-0800
401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 800
Seattle, WA 98104-2391

October 8, 2026

The Honorable Sarah Perry
Chair, King County Council
Room 1200
C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Perry:

This letter transmits a proposed Ordinance that, if enacted, would amend King County Code (KCC) 28.86.090 Biosolids policies to allow for the production and sale of Class A biosolids by King County. This proposed legislation would also eliminate the requirement for county-funded landscaping projects to use biosolids compost to align with state law.

This proposed legislation would amend the biosolids policies in KCC to authorize the production of Class A and/or Class B biosolids in accordance with federal and state regulations. In the 2021-2022 King County Budget, the Council authorized a pilot project at King County's South Treatment Plant to produce a new Class A Loop® compost, and the pilot began producing compost at the end of 2025.

Passage of this proposed Ordinance would:

- Allow the pilot project not only to produce, but also sell the Class A Loop® compost product in a retail market, an important aspect of the pilot's goal of evaluating the marketability of a potential King County-owned Class A Loop® compost product
- Allow the King County Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) to test the market for an alternative revenue source to help offset operational costs in an environment of increasing sewer rates and affordability challenges
- Provide WTD and the Council with important information about the viability of Class A biosolids as a product, to inform development and decisions on new or amended biosolids policies in the update to the Regional Wastewater Services Plan (RWSP)
- Enable WTD to diversify its portfolio to manage the beneficial use of biosolids and thereby decrease risks to regional wastewater system operations
- Help protect and support healthy and productive local agriculture by providing an option for local gardeners to use a Class A biosolids compost, a nutrient-rich soil amendment, to help build healthy soils and increase plant yield

The proposed Ordinance also strikes the requirement in KCC 28.86.090 to require biosolids compost use in County projects. The Council approved Ordinance 19552 (2022) to be consistent with state law in allowing the use of compost made from organic material including other sources besides biosolids, such as food and yard waste. Passage of Ordinance 19552 superseded the existing biosolids policy requiring the use of biosolids compost in county-funded landscaping projects; so this ordinance brings the Biosolids Policies in line with Council action in 2022.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation. If your staff have questions, please contact Kamuron Gurol, Division Director of the Wastewater Treatment Division of the Department of Natural Resources and Parks, at kgurol@kingcounty.gov or 206-549-1190.

Sincerely,



for

Girmay Zahilay
King County Executive

Enclosure

ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff, King County Council
Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council
Karan Gill, Deputy Executive, Office of the Executive
Jasmin Weaver, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive
Hyeok Kim, Chief Operating Officer, Office of the Executive
Sierra Howlett Browne, Director of Government Relations, Office of the Executive
Garrett Holbrook, Council Relations Manager, Office of the Executive
Mo McBroom, Interim Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)
Kamuron Gurol, Division Director, Wastewater Treatment Division, DNRP

2026-2027 FISCAL NOTE

Ordinance: 2026-XXXX
Title: Amendment to King County Biosolids Policies to enable production and sell of Class A biosolids
Affected Agency and/or Agencies: Wastewater Treatment Division, Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Note Prepared By: Erika Kinno, Resource Recovery Policy & Research Supervisor, WTD
Date Prepared: July 6, 2026
Note Reviewed By: Andrés Bas Moore, Rates & Financial Planning Supervisor WTD — Elena Davert, Exec Budget Office
Date Reviewed: July 9, 2026 — 6-Oct-26

Description of request:

This request proposes changes to the biosolids policies in the King County Code (28.86.090) to give King County the authority to produce Class A and/or Class B biosolids in accordance with federal and state regulations. This change enables King County to produce and directly sell Class A biosolids at market price. This policy would be in effect until the RWSP Biosolids policies are updated. This policy creates potential for increased revenues should King County sell Class A biosolids. Additionally, this ordinance eliminates the requirement that biosolids-derived products should be used as a soil amendment in landscaping projects funded by King County, which updates the biosolids policies in accordance with Ordinance 19552 (2022). As of the date of ordinance transmittal, no expenditures or revenues are expected in this biennium from this proposed policy change, as King County currently produces only Class B biosolids, there were no fiscal impacts from the previous requirement regarding landscaping projects, and due to the speculative nature of any revenue from Class A biosolids.

Revenue to:

Agency	Fund Code	Revenue Source	2026-2027	2028-2029	2030-2031
Wastewater Treatment	n/a	n/a	0	0	0
TOTAL			**0**	**0**	**0**

Expenditures from:

Agency	Fund Code	Department	2026-2027	2028-2029	2030-2031
Wastewater Treatment	n/a	DNRP	0	0	0
TOTAL			**0**	**0**	**0**

Expenditures by Categories

	2026-2027	2028-2029	2030-2031
n/a	0	0	0
TOTAL	**0**	**0**	**0**

Does this legislation require a budget supplemental? No

Notes and Assumptions: This policy change enables Class A Biosolids produced by the WTC SP BIOSOLIDS COMPOST PILOT (project #1139044) to be sold. Budget for project 1139044 was adopted in the 2021-22 King County Budget Book; see pg. 420. No costs are associated with this policy change and no revenue is included due to the speculative nature of future revenue.



Class A Biosolids Ordinance

(Proposed Ordinance 2026-0320)

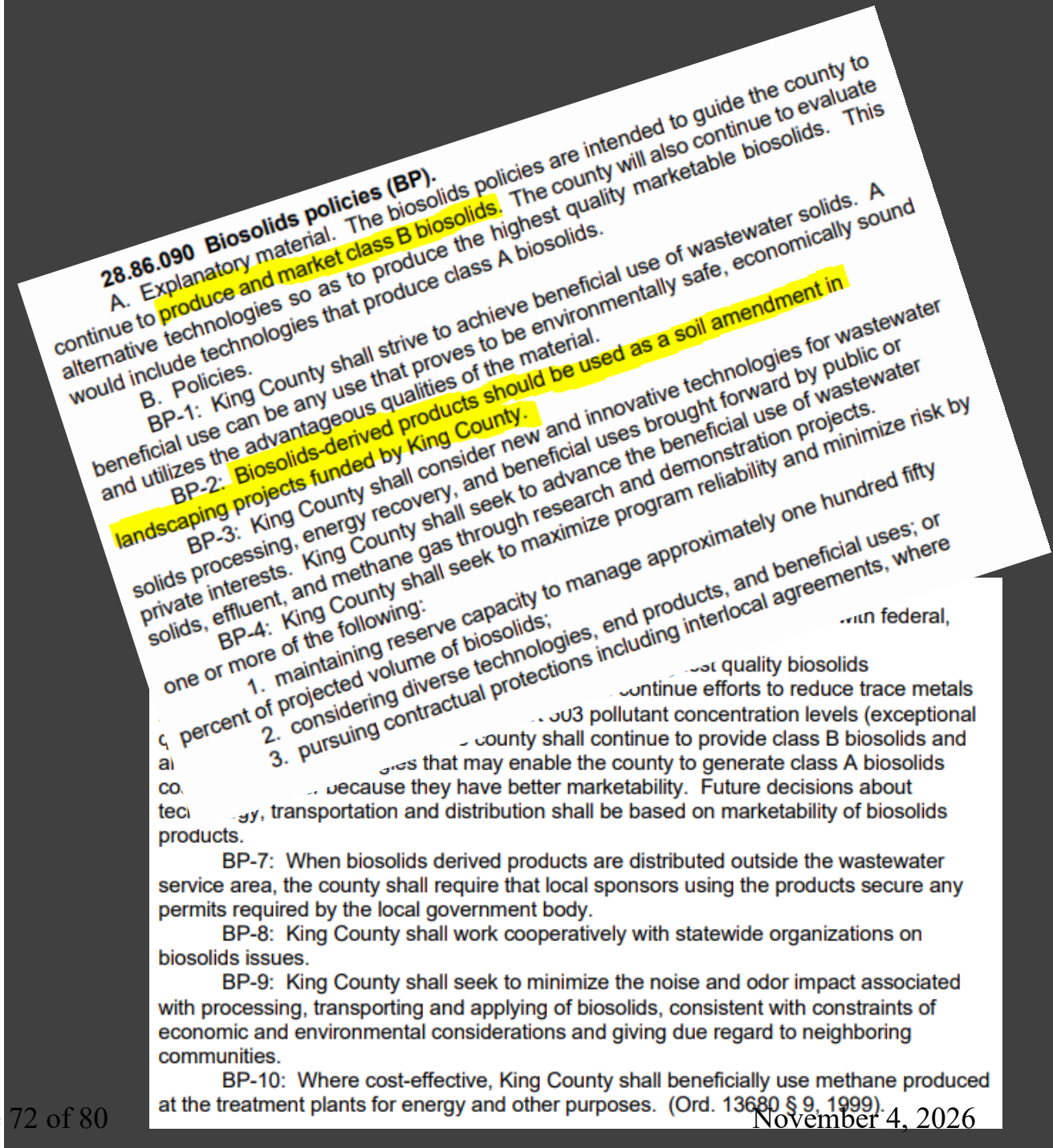
Erika Kinno
Policy & Research Supervisor
Resource Recovery, King County WTD

King County | Resource Recovery

loop COMPOST

What would Class A ordinance do?

- Interim authorization of production and marketing of **both** Class A and Class B biosolids
  - Code currently limits marketing to Class B
- Code cleanup: strikes the requirement for biosolids compost use in County projects



28.86.090 Biosolids policies (BP).

A. Explanatory material. The biosolids policies are intended to guide the county to continue to produce and market class B biosolids. The county will also continue to evaluate alternative technologies so as to produce the highest quality marketable biosolids. This would include technologies that produce class A biosolids.

B. Policies.

BP-1: King County shall strive to achieve beneficial use of wastewater solids. A beneficial use can be any use that proves to be environmentally safe, economically sound and utilizes the advantageous qualities of the material.

BP-2: Biosolids-derived products should be used as a soil amendment in landscaping projects funded by King County.

BP-3: King County shall consider new and innovative technologies for wastewater solids processing, energy recovery, and beneficial uses brought forward by public or private interests. King County shall seek to advance the beneficial use of wastewater solids, effluent, and methane gas through research and demonstration projects.

BP-4: King County shall seek to maximize program reliability and minimize risk by one or more of the following:

1. maintaining reserve capacity to manage approximately one hundred fifty percent of projected volume of biosolids;
2. considering diverse technologies, end products, and beneficial uses; or
3. pursuing contractual protections including interlocal agreements, where

...ith federal, ...st quality biosolids ...ontinue efforts to reduce trace metals ...503 pollutant concentration levels (exceptional ...county shall continue to provide class B biosolids and ...gies that may enable the county to generate class A biosolids ...because they have better marketability. Future decisions about ...gy, transportation and distribution shall be based on marketability of biosolids products.

BP-7: When biosolids derived products are distributed outside the wastewater service area, the county shall require that local sponsors using the products secure any permits required by the local government body.

BP-8: King County shall work cooperatively with statewide organizations on biosolids issues.

BP-9: King County shall seek to minimize the noise and odor impact associated with processing, transporting and applying of biosolids, consistent with constraints of economic and environmental considerations and giving due regard to neighboring communities.

BP-10: Where cost-effective, King County shall beneficially use methane produced at the treatment plants for energy and other purposes. (Ord. 13680 § 9, 1999).

Why is this change needed?

- Loop® Class A compost pilot has been operational since late 2025
  - Current code is silent on what can be done with Class A product; need clarity that WTD can market it as a product.
  - Inform RWSP Update
- Code cleanup to align with 2022 Council updates specifying compost use of any feedstock



Compost pilot

- From 1973 to 2020, King County partnered with private composter GroCo to produce popular compost product
- Class A compost made with Loop is the only publicly accessible King County biosolids product
- 2021-22 budget authorized funding for compost pilot facility construction at South Plant; operational since late 2025
- Currently producing ~1500 cubic yards annually
- Without clear authorization to market it, compost currently donated
- Intent of compost pilot was to assess market potential; technology is not new, but this product is
- Composting recommended as low-cost, low-carbon emission strategy



Code cleanup

- 2022 State legislation required cities and counties to procure compost
- King County Council passed ordinance requiring compost to be used in county funded projects of any type
- Ordinance was feedstock-neutral
- Biosolids compost requirement should be deleted to align



Questions?



RWQC Work Program for 2026
November 4, 2026

The suggested agenda topics are based on the latest information available and are subject to change based on the availability of presenters and committee priorities. This work program will stay marked as "draft" to reflect that the committee will adjust the schedule throughout the year to accommodate any necessary changes.

RWSP Policy Analysis and RWQC

WTD is currently working on a multi-year plan to update the Regional Wastewater Services Plan. On January 16, 2025, the King County Council adopted the RWSP Update scope document to guide the update process. The scope document identifies policy questions to be analyzed as part of the RWSP Update. RWQC will have the opportunity to review the policy analysis both before and after the Draft RWSP is released.

Pre-Draft RWSP Update. Beginning in March 2026, the Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) plans to present the initial analysis of selected policy questions from the RWSP Update scope document. WTD refers to this stage of the analysis for these policy questions as Step 1. Related policy questions will be grouped together. The intent of the initial Step 1 briefings is for members to receive information on each policy question and identify any gaps in the information or options presented by WTD. WTD's initial analysis of the policy questions will provide a framework for the committee for future discussions on these policy questions. WTD expects the options presented at these initial briefings and any additional RWQC-identified options to be included in the Draft RWSP Update. WTD will accept feedback and suggestions on each group of policy questions during the month the analysis is presented to RWQC.

Beginning in Q4 2026 and continuing through Q3 2027, WTD intends to present cost information to RWQC on a rolling basis for the options related to each policy question. WTD refers to this cost information as Step 2. With this cost information, RWQC will have the opportunity to revisit any options it requested for analysis for inclusion in the DRAFT RWSP Update. All requested analysis and cost information for the policy questions is anticipated to be completed by Q3 2027.

After the DRAFT RWSP Update released. The Draft RWSP Update is scheduled for completion at the end of 2027. and RWQC will have another opportunity at this time to make comments to the Executive on the Draft RWSP Update. The Executive will then develop the final Proposed Plan and transmit it to Council by the end of 2028 for Council adoption in 2029, at which time RWQC will have the opportunity to review and amend the plan.

MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE

January 7, 2026

- ✓ Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update: Update on RWSP Policy Analysis as Required by Proviso. This briefing will present the proposed schedule and grouping of policy questions.
- ✓ 2026 RWQC Work Program.

February 4, 2026

- ✓ An Overview of Water Quality in Puget Sound. Presentation by the Water and Land Resources Division, DNRP.
- ✓ Wastewater Treatment Division's Preliminary 2027 Sewer Rate and Capacity Charge, Including Rate Options.

March 4, 2026

- ✓ Proviso Response and Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update Policy Questions Initial Analysis Group 1: Separated System Conveyance (future conveyance capacity of the system, including Inflow and Infiltration and population growth.)
- ✓ WTD's 2027 Sewer Rate and Capacity Charge Recommendations and Options.
- ✓ WTD Initial Presentation Prior to Ordinance Transmittal on Proposed Capacity Charge Code Changes.

March 26, 2026 9-11 am. Optional Site Visit to South Plant to tour capital projects and compost pilot. This is not a RWQC meeting.

April 1, 2026

- ✓ Proviso Response and Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update Policy Questions Initial Analysis Group 2: Source Control and Legacy Pollution.
- ✓ WTD's 2027 Sewer Rate and Capacity Charge Recommendations and Options
- ✓ If transmitted and time available, Proposed Capacity Charge Code Changes.

May 6, 2026

- ✓ Executive's Proposed 2027 Sewer Rate and Capacity Charge.
- ✓ Proviso Response on RWSP Policy Questions.
- ✓ Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update Policy Questions Initial Analysis Group 3: Asset Renewal and Replacement.
- ✓ Proposed Ordinance 2026-0066. Capacity Charge Code Changes.

DRAFT

June 3, 2026
- ✓ Proposed Ordinance 2026-0066 on Capacity Charge Code Changes.
- ✓ Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update: Policy Questions Initial Analysis Group 4: Climate Impact and Natural Disaster Resiliency.
- ✓ Executive's Proposed 2027 Sewer Rate and Capacity Charge.

June 25, 2026 Optional Visit to South Plant Treatment

July 1, 2026
- ✓ Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update Policy Questions Initial Analysis Group 5: Finance/Affordability.
- ✓ Capital Project Cost Update per proviso (Written).

August 5, 2026 (This is considered a special meeting due to Council Recess)

- ✓ Department of Ecology: Washington's Water Future Initiative. (20 minutes)
- ✓ Integrating Financial and System Sustainability. Briefing by Edward Cebron. (35 minutes)
- ✓ Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update Policy Questions Initial Analysis Group 6: Combined System Management. (35 minutes).

September 2, 2026
- ✓ Vision for Clean Water 2100 (15 minutes)
- ✓ Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update Policy Questions Initial Analysis Group 7: Level of Treatment (80 minutes).

October 7, 2026
- ✓ Puget Sound Institute Briefing on Low Oxygen Impacts in Puget Sound (30 minutes).
- ✓ Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update Policy Questions Initial Analysis Group 8: Resource Recovery (60 minutes).
- ✓ Capital Project Cost Update per proviso (Written).

November 4, 2026
- ☐ Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update: 2027 Schedule (10 minutes)
- ☐ Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update Policy Questions Initial Analysis Group 9: Rate structure questions (70 minutes)
- ☐ Discussion only: Proposed Ordinance 2026-0320 on Class A Biosolids (20 minutes)

DRAFT

December 2, 2026

- Discussion/Possible Action: Proposed Ordinance 2026-0320 Class A Biosolids Proposed Ordinance (action anticipated) (30 minutes)
- Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update Policy Questions Initial Analysis Summary of Comments Groups 1-9 (25 minutes)
- Regional Wastewater Service Plan Update ESJ Approach (30 minutes)
- Capital Project Cost Update per proviso (Written).

Note for RWSP Update—Policy Analysis. Costing information for Policy Questions Groups #1-9 will provided in in 2027.

Monthly Written Report on Status Update for Motion 16900:
Committee requests monthly status report include status update on key tasks in Motion 16900, (WTD's sewer rate and capital work plan to improve engagement, transparency, and accountability) including:

- 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.
- 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.
- Independent consultant to review WTD's capital program.
- Evaluate regulatory requirements.
- Significant changes in capital project costs.
- Options for multi-year rate predictability.