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MOTION NO. 1281 B

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A MOTION urging the Congress to amend the 1972 Water Quality Act by modifying the requirement for secondary treatment of wastes discharging into the Pacific Ocean and contiguous territorial seas.

WHEREAS, the protection and enhancement of environmental quality is a vital concern of the King County Council, and

WHEREAS, the preservation of water quality is a major environmental goal which must be considered in relation to air quality, land use and energy conservation, and

WHEREAS, it is the purpose and goal of the Municipality of Metropolitan Seattle to secure and maintain high standards of water quality for all receiving waters within its jurisdiction, and

WHEREAS, Public Law 92-500 of the 92nd Congress requires that all publicly-owned treatment works achieve "secondary treatment" by July 1, 1977, prior to the achievement of "best practicable treatment" by July 1, 1983, and

WHEREAS, secondary treatment of municipal discharges for removal of biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) is a process proven to be unnecessary to the preservation of water quality in Puget Sound, and

WHEREAS, construction and operation of secondary treatment facilities would impinge on valuable open space and consume scarce energy resources, and

WHEREAS, major water quality improvements other than secondary treatment, such as toxicity and floatables removal and sewer separation, are considered to be essential to receiving water quality, and

WHEREAS, construction and operation of secondary treatment facilities at Metro's four Puget Sound plants, including West Point, would double operating costs and require a \$55 million

1 capital expenditure which might otherwise be used for higher
2 priority water pollution control projects by other local agencies
3 in the Seattle area, and

4 WHEREAS, the rates charged our customers would reflect the
5 expenditure to meet the secondary treatment requirements, and

6 WHEREAS, this agency has higher priority water pollution
7 control projects on which funds need to be spent; and

8 WHEREAS, limited allocations of federal funds will prevent
9 the Municipality from completing top priority water quality
10 projects while achieving both "secondary treatment" by July 1,
11 1977, and "best practicable treatment" by July 1, 1983, and

12 WHEREAS, a municipal system (Metro) must, at all times, be
13 in compliance with the requirements of the Federal Act or
14 modifications thereof, or no local sewage project will be eligible
15 for Federal funds, and

16 WHEREAS, there is, in fact, insufficient time for the
17 Municipality to meet the July 1, 1977, deadline for "secondary
18 treatment," and

19 WHEREAS, to maintain and ensure high standards of water
20 quality for the metropolitan area at the earliest time and in the
21 most cost-effective manner, it is necessary that the Municipality
22 proceed immediately with a program to provide "best practicable
23 treatment" by July 1, 1983,

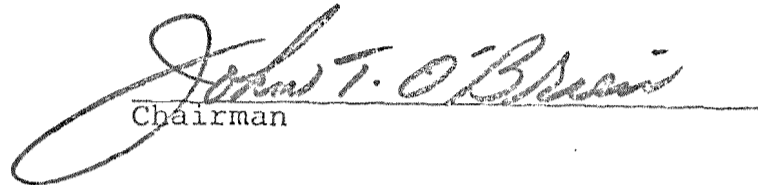
24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

25 The King County Council urges the Congress to amend the
26 1972 Water Quality Act to permit the Administrator of the EPA to
27 modify the requirement of secondary treatment for any publicly-
28 owned treatment works discharging through deep water outfalls into
29 the Pacific Ocean and the contiguous territorial seas upon


1 application and proof satisfactory to the Administrator that
2 alternative treatment processes would produce an equal or better
3 environmental effect on the receiving waters for a lesser
4 expenditure of public resources.

5 PASSED this 21st day of September, 1973.

6
7 KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

8
9 
10 Chairman

11 ATTEST:

12 
13 ACTING Clerk of the Council

14
15 RCB:hn
16 9/17/73