



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

April 10, 2007

Motion 12498

Proposed No. 2007-0213.2

Sponsors Phillips, Hague, Dunn, Gossett,
Constantine, Ferguson and
Patterson

1 A MOTION providing for a study of the potential for
2 directing wastewater generated by the marine cruise ships
3 which visit local port facilities into the county's wastewater
4 management and disposal system.

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 WHEREAS, on February 16, 2007, the Port of Seattle Commission approved
8 development of Pier 91 in North Elliott Bay as a cruise ship terminal , and

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 WHEREAS, the marine cruise ship industry makes over one hundred fifty vessel
10 visits annually at Port of Seattle facilities, and services more than a half million
11 passengers annually, and

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 WHEREAS, a three-thousand-passenger cruise ship can generate two hundred ten
13 thousand gallons of sewage, one million gallons of "greywater" and thirty-seven thousand
14 gallons of bilge water each week, according to the Pew Ocean Commission's report,
15 America's Living Oceans, and

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 WHEREAS, pursuant to a 2004 memorandum of understanding between the
17 cruise ship industry, the Port of Seattle and the state Department of Ecology, the parties

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18 agreed to prohibit the discharge of cruise ship-generated untreated wastewater in
19 Washington waters, further agreeing that wastewater discharge would be allowed only by
20 vessels equipped with "advanced wastewater treatment systems," and

21 WHEREAS, that 2004 memorandum of understanding utilizes self reporting of
22 noncompliance to the Department of Ecology, and

23 WHEREAS, while the marine cruise ship industry is subject to international
24 conventions, United States Coast Guard regulations and Washington state requirements,
25 the federal Clean Water Act provides an exemption for these vessels from the act's point
26 source discharge permitting system, and

27 WHEREAS, current regulations permit a vessel equipped with approved
28 "advanced waste treatment" facilities, to discharge treated wastewater solids a minimum
29 of twelve miles from land, at a speed of at least six knots, and

30 WHEREAS, the Port of Seattle Commission passed a motion on February 16,
31 2007, directing Port Commission staff "to prepare a budget and work program to evaluate
32 the feasibility, environmental impact, cost/benefit and possible funding sources of
33 building additional infrastructure to support the cruise ship industry in Seattle, including
34 proposals to facilitate off-loading of biosolids and hazardous waste," and

35 WHEREAS, Puget Sound is the jewel of regional natural and environmental
36 resources, providing a home for an extensive range of marine life, including Puget Sound
37 Orcas and Chinook salmon, both identified as threatened or endangered species through
38 the federal Endangered Species Act, as well as supporting important recreational,
39 aquaculture, fishing and boating activities, all dependent upon the unimpaired condition
40 of the sound's waters, and

41 WHEREAS, ratepayers of the region have invested in a full-service, region-wide
42 wastewater discharge management system, involving the capture and processing of
43 wastewater generated from human activity throughout the region, and

44 WHEREAS, this system may have the capacity to receive and process waste
45 generated by the growing marine cruise ship industry calling at Port of Seattle facilities,
46 and

47 WHEREAS, the diversion of these cruise ship wastes through the regional
48 wastewater management system can avoid the disposal of processed solids from these
49 vessels at sea, and

50 WHEREAS, the Pew Report, America's Living Oceans, calls for regulation of
51 wastewater discharges from cruise ships through the establishment of uniform minimum
52 standards for discharges in state waters;

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

54 A. That the King County executive, through the wastewater treatment division of
55 the department of natural resources and parks, work cooperatively with the Port of Seattle
56 and other affected agencies to undertake a study of the potential for processing marine
57 cruise industry-generated wastewater through the county's wastewater treatment system;

58 B. That the study should include at least the following elements:

59 1. Impacts to the environment that can be avoided through the diversion, of waste
60 from cruise ships through the county's wastewater management system;

61 2. The capacity of the county's wastewater treatment system to receive and
62 process the volumes of waste generated by the marine cruise ships which visit local port
63 facilities, now and in the future;

- 64 3. A summary of piping, coupling and other mechanisms needed to channel
65 waste from visiting cruise ships to the county's wastewater management system;
- 66 4. Any displaced future opportunity for wastewater processing capacity
67 utilization by resident users of the wastewater management system;
- 68 5. Costs for the waste diversion, and any appropriate financial arrangements to
69 address costs;
- 70 6. Economic or other impacts to the cruise ship industry; and
- 71 7. A recommendation regarding any appropriate council action; and
- 72 C. That the executive report the results of the study to the council's growth
73 management and natural resources committee by July 31, 2007; and that thirteen copies
74 of the study and recommendations be filed with the clerk of the council for distribution to

Motion 12498

75 all councilmembers and to and lead staff of the growth management and natural resources
76 committee by July 31, 2007.
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Motion 12498 was introduced on 3/26/2007 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 4/9/2007, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Mr. Gossett, Ms. Patterson, Ms. Lambert, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Phillips, Ms. Hague and Mr. Constantine
No: 0
Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Larry Gossett, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Attachments None