



**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**March 15, 2011**

**Motion 13443**

**Proposed No. 2011-0100.1**

**Sponsors Gossett**

1           A MOTION establishing the 2011 work plan for the  
2           regional water quality committee of the King County  
3           council.

4           WHEREAS, the regional water quality committee of the King County council is  
5           established by the King County charter to develop, recommend and review regional  
6           policies and plans for consideration by the metropolitan county council, and

7           WHEREAS, the regional water quality committee develops, reviews and  
8           recommends countywide policies and plans related to the water pollution control  
9           functions formerly provided by the municipality of metropolitan Seattle, and

10          WHEREAS, plans and policies that are assigned to the committee include, but are  
11          not limited to, water quality comprehensive and long-range capital improvement plans,  
12          service area and extension policies, rate policies and the facility siting policy and major  
13          facilities siting process;

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

15          A. The work plan for the regional water quality committee for 2011 shall address  
16          countywide policies, plans or topics listed in Attachment A to this motion.

17          B. In addition to the items listed in Attachment A to this motion, the work plan  
18          may include countywide policies or plans that respond to emergent concerns related to  
19          water quality that are of regional interest and that relate to multiple jurisdictions. The

20 committee and council may amend the work plan and assign to the committee other  
21 regional water quality issues that the committee believes would benefit from  
22 interjurisdictional review and recommendations.

23

Motion 13443 was introduced on 2/22/2011 and passed by the Metropolitan King  
County Council on 3/14/2011, by the following vote:

Yes: 8 - Mr. Phillips, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Hague,  
Ms. Lambert, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Dunn and Mr. McDermott  
No: 0  
Excused: 1 - Ms. Patterson

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
Larry Gossett, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

**Attachments:** A. Metropolitan King County Council Regional Water Quality Committee 2011 Work  
Plan Summary



**King County**

## **Metropolitan King County Council**

### **Regional Water Quality Committee**

#### **2011 WORK PLAN SUMMARY**

##### **2011 RWQC WORK PROGRAM PRIORITIES:**

**Work Plan Item: Brightwater Project Progress**

Construction of the treatment plant, conveyance and outfall of Brightwater is nearing completion. Treatment plant testing and operations will start in 2011 while the conveyance system is completed. The Oversight Monitoring Consultant (OMC) provides reports on scope, schedule and budget to RWQC and Government Operations and Accountability Committee in consultation with the Capital Projects Oversight team from the Auditor's Office.

**2011 Task:** RWQC members have expressed interest in regular briefings from the OMC and Wastewater Treatment Division staff. The committee should be briefed on the "trend report" regarding construction costs in conjunction with the Executives 2012 rate proposal.

**Work Plan Item: Reclaimed Water Comprehensive Plan**

The Wastewater Treatment Division is engaged in a comprehensive planning process for reclaimed water that was approved by the RWQC and Council in 2009. The planning process is intended to provide an opportunity for a regional discussion about if, how and when and by what funding mechanism King County should expand its reclaimed water system beyond the existing system. The planning process has designated steps and decision points that require action on legislation by the Council/RWQC in 2011. If a "comprehensive plan" is recommended – the intent will be to develop a plan that provides overall programmatic guidance for King County's reclaimed water program for the next 30 years.

**2011 Task:** The RWQC and Council approved legislation regarding "criteria" for reclaimed water uses and strategies in the first quarter of 2010 (Step 1). Legislation on the "strategies" has been transmitted in the first quarter of 2011 (Step 3). Assuming the planning process moves forward, legislation regarding guiding principles for a financing plan is expected in the third quarter (Step 6). There should be a briefing on Steps 4 & 5 in the third or fourth quarter.

**Work Plan Item: Regional Wastewater Services Plan (RWSP) Financial Policies**

RWQC has commissioned a Financial Policies Work Group (FPWG) comprised of staff to review a limited set of financial policies – including FP-15 regarding the capacity charge. The capacity charge review addresses how 'growth pays for growth' as well as issues such as how the capacity charge is implemented for affordable housing and sustainable buildings with on-site wastewater treatment facilities.

**2011 Task:** The committee is expected to act on legislation to amend financial policies regarding reserves and short term debt in the first quarter. FPWG recommendations on the capacity charge are expected in the second quarter.

**Work Plan Item: Major Capital and Asset Management Projects**

The committee has expressed interest in major capital and asset management projects both within and outside the scope of the Regional Wastewater Services Plan – including Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) projects, Conveyance System Improvement projects, Inflow & Infiltration (I/I) projects and Odor Control projects.

**2011 Task:** The committee is expected to receive one or more briefings on the 6-year CIP with particular RWSP and asset management projects featured. New projects or projects that have changed significantly in scope, schedule or budget should be highlighted. CSO Beach projects should be reported on along with other work to update the CSO Program. Progress on odor control projects should be reported on. The committee might also be interested in the improvements to the asset management program.

**Work Plan Item: Water Quality Issues**

The RWQC has been briefed in recent years on water quality issues that have ranged from the specifics of CSO sediment management to industrial waste control and new programs to limit pharmaceuticals from entering the waste stream and implementation of the new NPDES permits for stormwater management.

The draft remedial investigation report for the Lower Duwamish Waterway Superfund site was completed and issued for public review at the end of 2007. A Feasibility Study was released by EPA in October 2010.

**2011 Task:** Committee members have expressed particular interest in monitoring the Duwamish Superfund activities and EPA process. A briefing should be scheduled and the RWQC should be prepped if there are additional comment opportunities on the Feasibility Study or other EPA documents. Committee members also expressed interest in the

water quality of the entire Green-Duwamish River. The committee should potentially be updated on Water Resource Inventory Areas (WRIAs) activities in King County, particularly WRIA 9. Committee members also expressed interest in being briefed regarding stormwater management projects in King County cities and unincorporated King County.

### **ON-GOING ISSUES FOR RWQC CONSIDERATION IN 2011:**

**Work Plan Item: Annual Rate and Capacity Charge**

Policy FP-12 calls for King County to charge its customers sewer rates and capacity charges sufficient to cover the costs of constructing and operating its wastewater system. Revenues are to be sufficient to maintain capital assets in sound working condition, providing for maintenance and rehabilitation of facilities so that total system costs are minimized while continuing to provide reliable, high quality service and maintaining high water quality standards. In addition, the amount of the capacity charge shall be a uniform charge, to be approved annually and shall not exceed the cost of capital facilities necessary to serve new customers.

The RWQC is not referred rate and capacity charge legislation, but sets financial policies in the RWSP.

**2011 Task:** Review the Executive's proposal for annual rate and capacity charge. Comment/advise the Council as compelled. Rate and capacity charge legislation is typically transmitted to Council in April. A briefing is planned for the committee May, 2011. Legislation for the annual rate must be passed by the end of June, 2011.

**Work Plan Item: Monitoring of Component Agency Contract Extensions**

Contract extensions have not been completed for most agencies. Potential resolution of policy issues and legal matters might allow for negotiations to move forward again in 2011.

**2011 Task:** RWQC members should be briefed on progress regarding contract extensions/renewals.