



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

Motion 15832

Proposed No. 2021-0058.1

Sponsors Dunn

1 A MOTION requiring a report on the January 13, 2021,
2 discharge of untreated wastewater into Puget Sound from
3 the West Point Treatment Plant and several pump stations.

4 WHEREAS, on the morning of January 13, 2021, the King County West Point
5 Treatment Plant discharged eleven million gallons of untreated wastewater into Puget
6 Sound, and

7 WHEREAS, the discharge was directed through the emergency bypass system of
8 the plant, during a heavy rainstorm that featured high winds and voltage fluctuations in
9 the plant's power feed, and

10 WHEREAS, the discharge, while it did not result in plant flooding or injury to
11 employees, nevertheless presented significant impacts to the marine environment and
12 required the closure of public beaches at area parks, and

13 WHEREAS, in addition to the West Point Treatment Plant discharge, there were
14 several other discharge events at pump stations located at various points along system
15 conveyance lines, including the East Pine, Medina and Richmond Beach pump stations,
16 resulting in additional overflows amounting to the spillage of 2.4 million gallons of
17 untreated wastewater into local water bodies, and

18 WHEREAS, as much as 2.2 million gallons of wastewater overflowed into Lake
19 Washington from the East Pine Pump Station resulting from a power outage. The flow

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20 volume on the night of the storm also overwhelmed the pumping capacity at the Medina
21 Pump Station, resulting in a spill of 100,000 gallons of wastewater into Lake
22 Washington, and at the Richmond Beach pump station, which spilled 165,000 gallons of
23 wastewater into Puget Sound, and

24 WHEREAS, other jurisdictions with waterfront bordering central Puget Sound
25 also closed beaches and took actions to limit public access, and

26 WHEREAS, absent corrective action, there is no reason to expect that coming
27 operational periods will witness any mitigation of the contributing factors to the
28 discharges, such as heavy rainstorms, accompanied by high winds, and fluctuations in
29 power feeds, and

30 WHEREAS, untreated wastewater contains human and pet sewage, pretreated
31 industrial toxics and contaminants of emerging concern and stormwater runoff, and

32 WHEREAS, there is increasing evidence that Puget Sound marine life is facing
33 challenges to their viability that may be due, in part, to these elements of untreated
34 wastewater discharges, and

35 WHEREAS, King County has invested billions of dollars in building systems to
36 avoid discharging untreated effluents into Puget Sound and Lake Washington, and

37 WHEREAS, such discharges are inconsistent with permit requirements under
38 which county treatment plants are operated;

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

40 A. The executive be directed to prepare a report that documents:

41 1. The causes of the discharge of untreated wastewater from the West Point
42 Treatment Plant, and overflows at the Richmond Beach, Medina and East Pine pump

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43 stations on the morning of January 13, 2021;

44 2. The consequences of the discharges to the Puget Sound and Lake Washington
45 ecosystems;

46 3. The potential impact to water-adjacent landowners and visitors to water-
47 adjacent facilities;

48 4. The potential impacts to those utilizing the fishery and shellfish resources;

49 5. A summary of emergency bypass discharges at the West Point Treatment
50 Plant and pump station overflows since February 2017, including causes, volumes and
51 responses; and

52 6. The recent and projected future pattern and frequency of storms of a
53 magnitude that can be expected to generate wastewater volumes that exceed the stated
54 processing capacity of the West Point Treatment Plant and system pump stations.

55 B. The report shall also recommend a strategy to limit or eliminate recurrence of
56 the January 13 discharges and overflows of untreated wastewater, and shall provide cost
57 estimates associated with such a strategy and make suggestions on how a partnership
58 with the King County Flood Control District might help improve these facilities.

59 C. The executive should electronically file the report, together with a motion that
60 acknowledges receipt of the report no later than August 1, 2021, with the clerk of the
61 council, who shall retain the original and provide an electronic copy to all

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62 councilmembers, the council chief of staff and the lead staff for the regional water quality
63 committee, or its successor.
64

Motion 15832 was introduced on 1/26/2021 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 3/9/2021, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Ms. Balducci, Mr. Dembowski, Mr. Dunn, Ms. Kohl-Welles, Ms. Lambert, Mr. McDermott, Mr. Upthegrove, Mr. von Reichbauer and Mr. Zahilay

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

DocuSigned by:
Claudia Balducci
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Claudia Balducci, Chair

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:
Melani Pedroza
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Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

Attachments: None

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	Suite 100
	Seattle, WA 98104
	Angel.Allende@kingcounty.gov
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Claudia Balducci
 claudia.balducci@kingcounty.gov
 King County General (ITD)
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Signature

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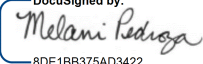
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Melani Pedroza
 melani.pedroza@kingcounty.gov
 Clerk of the Council
 King County Council
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Witness Events	Signature	Timestamp
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Envelope Summary Events	Status	Timestamps

Envelope Summary Events	Status	Timestamps
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