



## King County

### **Dow Constantine**

King County Executive

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March 16, 2022

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

Dear Councilmember Balducci:

As required by Ordinance 15805, this letter provides a semiannual report to the King County Council on the status of negotiations regarding a new sewage disposal contract between King County and the 34 local sewer agencies served by the Wastewater Treatment Division of the Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP). This report updates the information contained in the September 30, 2021 report.

The term of existing contracts with 25 local agencies will terminate on July 1, 2036, and nine will terminate on July 1, 2056. Between 2014 and 2019, DNRP, in consultation with the Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee (MWPAAC) and a negotiation team consisting of staff from DNRP, four cities, and one sewer district, developed an initial draft of a new contract to address items of interest to the local sewer agencies and King County.

However, MWPAAC recommended that DNRP complete the necessary staff work on three items concurrently with the Clean Water Plan before updating the contracts. These three items are the guiding principles for industrial waste; the capacity charge calculation through 2030; and the capacity charge calculation after its current end date of 2030. In fall 2021, we paused work on the Clean Water Plan to allow more time for DNRP to consider the feedback received to date from elected officials, local sewer agencies, and other stakeholders, and to refine the planning process.

Though the work on the Clean Water Plan has paused, work on the capacity charge calculation continues. Based on a consultant study in 2021 and feedback from a MWPAAC work group, DNRP is recommending an update to the current capacity charge methodology that is consistent with industry standards and provides improved transparency. The consultant briefed MWPAAC in October 2021, and the MWPAAC membership expressed support for continuing with a more detailed discussion of the updated methodology and the policy changes necessary to implement the update. Work has yet to commence on the industrial waste guiding principles, a topic of importance to local agencies in the next contract. These guiding principles will be used to draft contract language related to the County's industrial waste program that

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administers regulations for industrial wastewater dischargers to protect employees, wastewater facilities, and water quality.


Extension of the sewage disposal agreements with the local sewer agencies would further the King County Strategic Plan goal of efficient, accountable regional and local government.

It is estimated that this report required two staff hours to produce, costing \$160. The estimated printing cost for this report is nominal.

Thank you for your consideration of this report. The new sewer contract mentioned in this report would help King County residents by ensuring a continued long-term commitment between the County and local sewer agencies to protect water quality.

If your staff have any questions, please contact Kamuron Gurol, Division Director of the Wastewater Treatment Division, Department of Natural Resources and Parks, at 206-263-5767.

Sincerely,

 for

Dow Constantine  
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Janine Weihe, Acting Chief of Staff

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

Shannon Braddock, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Karan Gill, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Mina Hashemi, Director, Council Relations, Office of the Executive

Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget

Christie True, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)

Kamuron Gurol, Division Director, Wastewater Treatment Division, DNRP