



## King County

### **Dow Constantine**

King County Executive

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September 21, 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 March 31, 2022 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 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 process. Those items are 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, DNRP made the decision to pause the Clean Water Plan. This pause will allow more time for DNRP to consider the feedback received to date from elected officials, the local sewer agencies, and other interested parties, and to refine the planning process. Based on stakeholder feedback, DNRP is developing a revised planning process for the Clean Water Plan. Beginning in the third quarter of 2022, DNRP will meet with small groups of interested parties to hear feedback and recommendations for further revisions.

Work has continued on the capacity charge calculation. 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. MWPAAC received a consultant briefing in October 2021. MWPAAC membership expressed support for continuing with a more detailed discussion of the updated methodology and the policy changes necessary to implement the update. The industrial waste

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guiding principles will be used to draft contract language for the County's industrial waste program. The program includes regulations and permit requirements for industrial wastewater dischargers to protect public health, employees, wastewater facilities, and water quality.

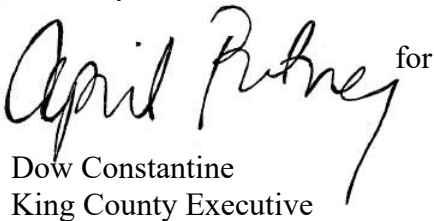
Extension of the sewage disposal agreements with the local sewer agencies would further the King County Strategic Plan goal of efficient, accountable regional and local government.

It is estimated that this report required two staff hours to produce, costing approximately \$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: Stephanie Cirkovich, 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, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive  
Christie True, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)  
Kamuron Gurol, Division Director, Wastewater Treatment Division, DNRP