



**King County**

**Metropolitan King County Council**

**Regional Water Quality Committee**

**RESOLUTION 2012-1**

A RESOLUTION establishing the 2012 work plan for the regional water quality committee of the King County council.

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

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

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

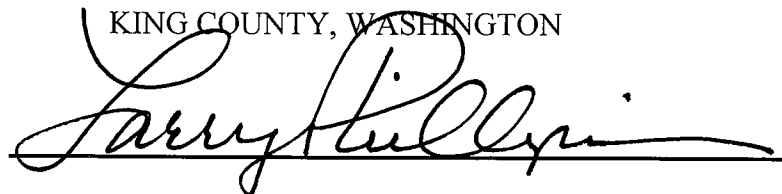
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Regional Water Quality Committee:

A. The work plan for the regional water quality committee for 2012 shall address countywide policies, plans or topics listed in Attachment A to this motion.

B. In addition to the items listed in Attachment A to this motion, the work plan may include countywide policies or plans that respond to emergent concerns related to water quality that are of regional interest and that relate to multiple jurisdictions. The committee may amend the work plan and will expect the Council to assign to the committee other regional water quality issues that the committee believes would benefit from interjurisdictional review and recommendations.

C. In addition to the subject matters listed in Attachment A to this resolution, the committee may amend the issues list and initiate actions to review or develop legislation regarding other regional water quality issues or countywide plans and policies that the committee believes would benefit from interjurisdictional review and recommendations. The committee will have the opportunity to review its work plan at each committee meeting to potentially amend the work plan by majority vote of the committee.

REGIONAL WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE  
KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry Phillips", written over a horizontal line.

Larry Phillips, Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Davidson", written over a horizontal line.

Don Davidson, Vice- Chair

Attachments: A. 2012 Regional Water Quality Work Program



**King County**

## **Metropolitan King County Council**

### **Regional Water Quality Committee**

#### **2012 WORK PLAN SUMMARY**

##### **2012 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 started in 2011 while the conveyance system is being completed in 2012/13. 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.

**2012 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 Executive's 2013 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 2012. 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.

**2012 Task:** The RWQC and Council approved legislation regarding "criteria" for reclaimed water uses (1<sup>st</sup> Qtr, 2010) and strategies for potential uses (2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr, 2011). Legislation adopting the guidelines for policies regarding reclaimed water financial planning, including future water pricing, etc. is expected in 2012. If WTD continues on schedule, the committee should also review the analysis of the potential 'strategies' for future reclaimed water use in 2012.

**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.

**2012 Task:** The committee may act on legislation to amend financial policies regarding reserves and short term debt in the second quarter. FPWG recommendations on the capacity charge are also anticipated in the second quarter.

**Work Plan Item: Combined Sewer Overflow (‘CSO’) Program/Plan Update**

The Executive will be transmitting a full comprehensive plan update for the CSO program at the beginning of the second quarter. The update is required by Ecology as part of the next NPDES permit for West Point Treatment Plant. It will contain:

- recommendations regarding the timing and re-ordering of the projects to be completed;
- recommendations for combining CSO outfalls into single projects (i.e. control of 15 outfalls through 9 projects)
- cost estimates for the projects remaining to be completed
- options for timing of completion and the rate impacts (i.e. still complete in 2030 or a later date)

In addition to the CSO Program update, the Council has called for an audit of the CSO Program. The audit details will be scoped by the King County Auditor in 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr 2012. Anticipated delivery of the audit is potentially July/August 2012.

**2012 Task:** The RWQC will be expected to act on this countywide plan, including policy recommendations. Ideally the plan would be adopted prior to 2013 budget deliberations.

**Work Plan Item: Regional Wastewater Service Plan Update - strategy**

The Council, via a 2012 budget proviso, is requiring submittal of a work plan detailing scope, schedule and budget for the WTD to compete a RWSP Review/Update by June 2014. The proviso calls for the work plan to be submitted prior to or concurrent with the 2013 rate transmittal.

**2012 Task:** The committee has expressed interest in reviewing the work plan and ensuring that the work plan and RWSP review addresses asset management for WTD’s investments/assets, as well as a review of the regulatory environment and projections regarding anticipated regulatory changes that might affect WTD operations and needed capital improvements.

**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.

**2012 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. EPA's draft recommendations for the Lower Duwamish Remediation/Clean Up are expected in 2012.

KC Council also called for a review and report on water quality monitoring activities in King County, including those funded with the sewer rate and other sources of funding. The report is due to the committee concurrent with the 2013 rate transmittal.

**2012 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. 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. The committee should also be briefed on the water quality monitoring report.

## **ON-GOING ISSUES FOR RWQC CONSIDERATION IN 2012:**

### **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.

**2012 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 mid-April. A briefing is planned for the committee May, 2012. Legislation for the annual rate must be passed by the end of June, 2012. Committee members have also expressed interest in WTD's capital debt and debt policies. Staff will endeavor to include this information during the rate briefing(s).

### **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 2012.

**2012 Task:** RWQC members should be briefed on progress regarding contract extensions/renewals.