



King County

Dow Constantine

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November 30, 2021

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

Dear Councilmember Balducci:

This letter transmits a proposed Ordinance that, if enacted, would revise a financial policy of the Regional Wastewater Services Plan to defer the next scheduled update of the capacity charge until after the County Council has approved the Clean Water Plan or 2024, whichever occurs earlier. Approval of this proposed legislation to defer the next update will allow the most current capital costs resulting from the Clean Water Plan to be included in the next update of the capacity charge.

The capacity charge applies to new connections to the regional sewer system, ensuring that the property owner pays their proportionate share of capital costs for sewer service. King County Code 28.86.160 requires an update of customer numbers and projected capital costs used to calculate the capacity charge every three years. The proposed deferral would allow for coordination of timing for the update and planning work currently underway.

The Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) engaged the Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee (MWPAAC), which consists of representatives of the 34 agencies that contract with the County for wastewater treatment, in a recent consultant study of the capacity charge methodology. MWPAAC chartered a Capacity Charge Work Group that met three times in 2021 to discuss the consultant study and recommendations to improve the transparency of the model used to calculate the charge. DNRP briefed MWPAAC on the need for the proposed deferral.

The proposed policy amendment furthers the King County Strategic Plan goal of efficient, accountable regional and local government.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed Ordinance. This important legislation will help King County residents by ensuring the next capacity charge update includes the most recent cost information for wastewater capital projects that are necessary to support continued projected population growth and protect the region's water quality.


The Honorable Claudia Balducci

November 17, 2021

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If your staff have any questions, please contact Kamuron Gurol, Division Director of the Wastewater Treatment Division, Department of Natural Resources and Parks, at 206-477-5767.

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, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Karan Gill, 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