



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

June 13, 2017

Ordinance 18538

Proposed No. 2017-0164.2

Sponsors Lambert

1 AN ORDINANCE providing for posting and notification of  
2 system metrics, including process disruptions, associated  
3 with the regional wastewater treatment system.

4 STATEMENT OF FACTS:

5 1. The regional water quality committee and the King County council are  
6 charged with the responsibility for oversight and policy review for the  
7 regional wastewater treatment system.

8 2. The West Point Treatment Plant, which is the flagship of the region's  
9 wastewater system, experienced a major system failure in the early  
10 morning of February 9, 2017, with the result that the plant was inundated  
11 by major internal flooding and that the emergency bypass discharge was  
12 activated, resulting in the release of high volumes of untreated, combined  
13 flows of wastewater and stormwater directly into Puget Sound.

14 3. A number of factors, including electrical power disruptions, original  
15 technology, emergency response procedures, high wastewater/stormwater  
16 flow volumes and other elements have been discussed as potentially  
17 contributing to the system failure.

18 4. The regional water quality committee and the council require a  
19 continuing and strengthened understanding of system operations indicators

20 in order to assess operational patterns, evaluate system performance  
21 dynamics and stresses, become alert to approaching challenges and  
22 overview the system as a whole.

23 5. The committee and the council have need for a means to relate system  
24 process volumes to facility capacity constraints.

25 6. The county's solid waste division provides an example of a county  
26 utility monitored by the council that produces monthly system metrics as a  
27 system oversight tool accessible to the council.

28 7. Among the wastewater metrics needed are: total and peak flow  
29 volumes managed at key points in the system; sediment, water quality and  
30 effluent monitoring data; power disruption events and flow backup events;  
31 biosolids produced and distributed; energy utilized; wastewater rate and  
32 capacity charge revenue information; combined sewer overflows  
33 discharge information; any upsets or disruptions to system processes;  
34 permit violations or reports to state environmental or public health  
35 authorities; and similar metrics.

36 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

37 SECTION 1. A. The executive shall prepare and post electronically, monthly  
38 metrics summary reports within thirty days following the end of a given month,  
39 addressing at least the following information:

40 1. Total flow volumes and peak flow volumes managed at key points in the  
41 system, including treatment plants, and at strategic conveyance system locations;

42 2. Tons of process solids managed at each of the treatment plants;

- 43           3. Volumes of biosolids produced and distributed from each of the treatment  
44 plants;
- 45           4. Sediment, water quality and effluent monitoring data;
- 46           5. Power disruption events and flow backup events;
- 47           6. Electrical energy utilized systemwide and at each of the treatment plants;
- 48           7. Methane produced at each of the treatment plants;
- 49           8. Upsets or disruptions to system processes;
- 50           9. Wastewater rate and capacity charge revenue and expenditure information;
- 51           10. Untreated and treated combined sewer overflow discharges, and storage  
52 information; and
- 53           11. Permit violations or event reports to state environmental or public health  
54 authorities.
- 55           12. Significant cost escalation for major capital projects that are beyond the  
56 project baseline planning level.

57           B. The executive shall work with council staff to develop the summary report  
58 format and content such that it is most useful for the monitoring and oversight purpose,  
59 and can serve as a common system status communications tool for the regional water  
60 quality committee, the council and the executive.

61           C. A prototype of the metrics summary report shall be transmitted to the council  
62 and the regional water quality committee by September 1, 2017. The regular monthly  
63 posting of the metrics summary report shall begin by November 2017.

64           D. In addition to including any upset or disruption to system processes in the  
65 monthly system metrics posting, the executive shall, by letter or email, notify the chair

66 and members of the council and of the regional water quality committee, of any  
67 disruption or system upset event that results in a significant change in wastewater  
68 processing procedures lasting greater than an eighteen-hour period. The notification shall  
69 be made within forty-eight hours of the start of the event.

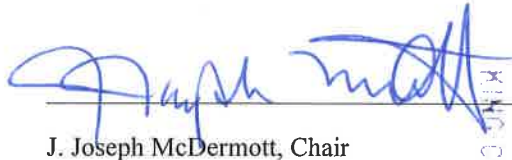
70 E. Any letters or reports to the council or councilmembers required by this  
71 section , not including the ongoing monthly summary reports to be posted electronically,  
72 shall be filed in the form of a paper original and an electronic copy with the clerk of the

73 council, who shall retain the original and provide an electronic copy to all  
74 councilmembers.  
75

Ordinance 18538 was introduced on 4/3/2017 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 6/12/2017, by the following vote:


Yes: 9 - Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Dunn,  
Mr. McDermott, Mr. Dembowski, Mr. Upthegrove, Ms. Kohl-Welles  
and Ms. Balducci  
No: 0  
Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



J. Joseph McDermott, Chair


ATTEST:



Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

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APPROVED this 22 day of JUNE, 2017.



Dow Constantine, County Executive

Attachments: None