

**King County****Dow Constantine**

King County Executive
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www.kingcounty.gov

April 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:

This letter transmits a proposed Ordinance that, if enacted, would set the 2023 monthly wholesale sewer rate and capacity charge. The proposed rate change would increase the monthly sewer rate by 5.75 percent from \$49.27 to \$52.11 and increase the capacity charge by three percent from \$70.39 to \$72.50. A technical memorandum enclosed with this letter provides detailed information on the revenues, expenditures, debt service, operations, and capital programs that inform the rate development process.

The 2023 sewer rate proposal and the 10-year sewer rate plan respond to significant rate-drivers, such as critical asset management planning; initial implementation of the recently-issued Washington State Department of Ecology's Puget Sound Nutrient General Permit; approaching milestones of the Combined Sewer Overflow consent decree; and investments to improve power quality at West Point Treatment Plant. These drivers are described in the enclosed technical memorandum. The Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) continues to utilize low-interest loans through the Washington State Revolving Fund, Washington Public Works Trust Fund, and the federal Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act to reduce the costs of operating and maintaining the regional wastewater treatment system.

In February, March, and April 2022, rate briefings were provided to the Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee. At the request of the Regional Water Quality Committee, DNRP's Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) provided information on the rate process at the Regional Water Quality Committee's March meeting as well as information on the proposed rate at its April meeting.

The proposed legislation furthers the King County Strategic Plan goal of efficient, accountable regional and local government through continued sound financial management. The proposed legislation also supports the Strategic Climate Action Plan by enabling King County to continue its efforts toward sustainability, climate change preparedness, and resiliency programs. These efforts include investing over \$200 million to reduce greenhouse gases, increase the use of biogas, and increase energy efficiency at WTD facilities.

The Honorable Claudia Balducci

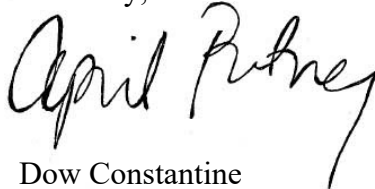
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Thank you for your consideration of this proposed Ordinance. This important legislation will help King County residents by continuing to protect water quality in the region through the maintenance and repair of the County's wastewater assets.

If your staff have any questions, please contact Kamuron Gurol, 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

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