



## King County

### **Dow Constantine**

King County Executive

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September 22, 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 the Biosolids Thermal Drying report in response to Ordinance 19364, Section 83, Expenditure Restriction ER2 and Proviso P5, and a proposed Motion that, if enacted, would acknowledge receipt of the report.

As required, the report provides an independent consultant study of biosolids thermal drying. The consultant, Murraysmith, was retained by the Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) to conduct this study. The scope of work, evaluation criteria, and deliverables for the consultant were developed with input from the Council sponsor of the Proviso. The due date for this report was extended with consent from the Council sponsor of the Proviso, due to barriers the consultant faced in obtaining timely information necessary to complete the report.

The report provides an independent consultant review of a specific biosolids thermal drying proposal put forth by King County Biosolids Partnership (Partnership), a private vendor and technology consortium. The Partnership proposed that biosolids produced by all of King County's three regional wastewater treatment plants be processed at the County's South Treatment Plant into Class A biosolids pellets and sold for use as fuel or fertilizer. The consultant evaluated the Partnership's proposal in comparison with the program's current direction, a baseline scenario of current Class B biosolids land application plus development of a Class A composting program. The consultant also reviewed previous King County evaluations of biosolids management alternatives, including a 2020 report, Alternative Options for the Use of Biosolids, prepared by a different consultant in response to a 2019 budget Proviso.

The independent consultant recommended that King County continue implementing the current baseline scenario as planned. The consultant encouraged King County to continue monitoring any Class A biosolids technologies and operations that will utilize the resulting renewable resource and reduce the carbon footprint, while maximizing program reliability and minimizing risk.

The Honorable Claudia Balducci  
September 22, 2022  
Page 2

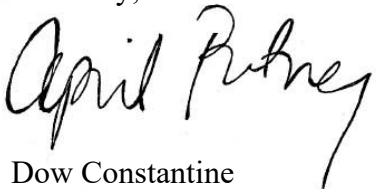
The report reflects the King County Strategic Plan goal of efficient, accountable regional and local government. The work outlined in the report also furthers the Strategic Climate Action Plan goals of reducing countywide greenhouse gas emissions by 50 percent by 2030 and making DNRP's Wastewater Treatment Division carbon neutral by 2025, through the exploration of biosolids management options that continue to sequester carbon.

It is estimated that 160 staff hours were required to produce the report, costing approximately \$16,000 in staff hours and \$188,752 in consultant costs. The estimated printing cost for this report is nominal.

Thank you for your consideration of this report and proposed Motion. This important report will inform future discussions on biosolids management options, which would continue to reduce carbon emissions for DNRP and recover resources from wastewater.

If your staff have any questions, please contact Kamuron Gurol, Division Director of the Wastewater Treatment Division of the 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