



King County

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

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April 27, 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 approved, would appropriate \$1.4 million to the operating budget and \$11.6 million to the Capital budget of the Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) of the Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP). These funds would be used to execute a long-term property lease and phase in an asset management strike team to begin catching up on WTD's asset-management backlog.

Approval of this proposed legislation supports WTD's 2022 sewer rate and capacity charge proposal. In 2020, WTD identified an unfunded inventory of asset management projects that are a priority to the maintenance of the regional sewer system. Portions of the regional sewer system are more than 50 years old and in need of significant investments in order to continue to provide reliable sewer service for King County residents. The 10-year sewer rate plan accompanying WTD's 2022 sewer rate and capacity charge proposal includes costs associated with an asset management strike team comprised of 13 new full-time employees to advance work on priority asset management projects beginning in mid-2021.

The WTD's Jameson and ArcWeld buildings currently house employees who perform construction management activities. WTD planned to rebuild the Jameson and ArcWeld buildings, since they are beyond their useful life. In 2020, an opportunity to execute a long-term lease for a property adjacent to the Jameson building was presented to King County and is currently under negotiation. The preliminary cost estimate for the lease is included in the 10-year sewer rate plan accompanying WTD's 2022 sewer rate and capacity charge proposal.

The proposed legislation supports the King County Strategic Plan goal of efficient, accountable regional and local government.

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Thank you for your consideration of this proposed ordinance. This funding will enable King County to begin critical asset management projects in WTD, protecting employee safety, public health, and the environment, and to provide a safe workplace for the employees working at the Jameson and ArcWeld buildings.

If your staff have any questions, please contact Mark Isaacson, Division Director of the Wastewater Treatment Division of the Department of Natural Resources and Parks, at 206-477-4601.

Sincerely,

 for
Dow Constantine
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Carolyn Busch, 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)

Mark Isaacson, Division Director, Wastewater Treatment Division, DNRP