



King County

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

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February 1, 2024

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

Dear Councilmember Upthegrove:

This letter transmits the Joint Ship Canal Water Quality Project semiannual report as required by Ordinance 18313. The enclosed report outlines progress to date on the project undertaken by the Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP), in partnership with Seattle Public Utilities (SPU), the lead agency.

This report provides a status update on a project that will benefit water quality in our region by addressing Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) issues in partnership with SPU.

Mining of the large diameter storage tunnel was completed in mid-June 2023. The last of the tunnel segments were placed in July 2023, and the contractor began removing the tunnel boring machine (TBM) and all supporting electrical, mechanical, and rail support systems that were necessary during construction of the tunnel. Removal work is ongoing, and the contractor is expected to turn the tunnel over to SPU during Q1 2024.

In Spring 2023, Seattle advertised for bidders for the Tunnel Effluent Pump Station (TEPS)/Ballard Conveyance construction contract; only one bid was submitted, for a price well above the engineers' estimate. Based on all available information, analysis, and national expert opinions, the SPU project team determined the best course of action was to reject the bid and rebid the work. A modified version of the contract and scope was advertised in early January 2024, with bid opening in March 2024.

While a new budget cannot be accurately forecasted until new project bids are received in Q1 2024, SPU's analyses suggest that the budget may need to increase by 14 percent to 25 percent over the current approved budget of \$570.1M. This equates to an overall project

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budget between \$650M and \$710M. The revised construction completion date has been moved to summer 2027, which is beyond the completion date stated in the Consent Decree. SPU and King County have informed Washington State Department of Ecology and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency of the delay. SPU and King County have also engaged with regulators in confidential negotiations about potential Consent Decree modifications.

In developing the report, DNRP engaged SPU employees to review the report and financial data. SPU continues to provide briefings and outreach efforts to nearby property owners, community members, and regulatory audiences.

Thank you for your consideration of this report. The Joint Ship Canal Water Quality Project detailed in the report will help King County residents by protecting water quality in the region.

If your staff have 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 Hay, Clerk of the Council
Karan Gill, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive
Penny Lipsou, 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