



## SCA Public Issues Committee

### AGENDA

May 13, 2020 – 7:00 PM

**Public Notice:** Pursuant to Governor Inslee’s Stay Home, Stay Healthy Proclamation, and in an effort to curtail the spread of COVID-19, the PIC meeting will be conducted remotely.

**Members of the public may view or listen to the meeting using the following methods:**

**From computer, tablet or smartphone:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85338287740?pwd=Um14TjBiRFo0VUk0UUUt1VHJjWmxzZz09>

**Password: 463972**

**Or dial in from phone: 1-253-215-8782 / Webinar ID: 853 3828 7740 / Password: 463972**

1. **Welcome and Roll Call** – Christie Malchow, Sammamish, Chair 5 minutes
2. **Public Comment** – Christie Malchow, Sammamish, Chair 10 minutes
3. [Approval of Minutes – March 11, 2020 Meeting](#) 5 minutes  
Page 5
4. **Chair’s Report** – Christie Malchow, Sammamish, Chair 5 minutes
5. **Executive Director’s Report** – Deanna Dawson, SCA Executive Director 10 minutes
6. [Proposed King County Rates and Fees](#) 15 minutes  
POTENTIAL FUTURE ACTION  
Page 14  
Brian Parry, SCA Policy Director
7. [COVID-19 Legislative Priorities](#) 10 minutes  
POTENTIAL FUTURE ACTION  
Page 21  
Brian Parry, SCA Policy Director
8. [Proclamation of Commitment to an Inclusive Community that Rejects Stigma and Bias Related to COVID-19](#) 10 minutes  
POTENTIAL FUTURE ACTION  
Page 23  
Alexis Mercedes Rinck, SCA Policy Analyst
9. [King County Regional Homelessness Authority](#) 10 minutes  
DISCUSSION  
Page 26  
Alexis Mercedes Rinck, SCA Policy Analyst

**10. [COVID-19 Impacts and Response](#)**

**DISCUSSION**

Page 30

Deanna Dawson, SCA Executive Director

30 minutes

**11. Informational Items**

- a. [Levies and Ballot Measures in King County](#)

Page 32

- b. [Potential Upcoming Issues](#)

Page 33

**12. Upcoming Events**

- a. SCA Public Issues Committee – Wednesday, June 10, 2020 – 7:00 to 9:00 PM – virtual meeting – (tentative, subject to extension of Governor’s OPMA proclamation)

**13. For the Good of the Order**

**14. Adjourn**

# **Sound Cities Association**

## **Mission**

To provide leadership through advocacy, education, mutual support and networking to cities in King County as they act locally and partner regionally to create livable vital communities.

## **Vision**

Capitalizing on the diversity of our cities to lead policy change to make the Puget Sound region the best in the world.

## **Values**

SCA aspires to create an environment that fosters mutual support, respect, trust, fairness and integrity for the greater good of the association and its membership.

SCA operates in a consistent, inclusive, and transparent manner that respects the diversity of our members and encourages open discussion and risk-taking.

## Commonly Used Acronyms

ADS Advisory Council	Advisory Council on Aging and Disability Services
AFIS Advisory Committee	Automated Fingerprint Identification System Advisory Committee
AWC	Association of Washington Cities
BOH	Board of Health
CYAB	Children and Youth Advisory Board
DVI Task Force	Domestic Violence Initiative Regional Task Force
EDDB	Central Puget Sound Economic Development District Board
EMAC	Emergency Management Advisory Committee
EMS Advisory Task Force	Emergency Medical Services Levy Advisory Task Force
ETP	Eastside Transportation Partnership
GMPB	PSRC Growth Management Policy Board
GMPC	King County Growth Management Planning Council
GSP	Greater Seattle Partners
IJT	Interjurisdictional Team – staff support to the GMPC
JRC	Joint Recommendations Committee for Community Development Block Grants
K4C	King County-Cities Climate Collaboration
KCD	King Conservation District
KCDAC	King Conservation District Advisory Committee
KCFCD	King County Flood Control District
KCFCDAC	King County Flood Control District Advisory Committee
KCPEC	King County Project Evaluation Committee
LEOFF1 Disability Board	Law Enforcement Officers and Fire Fighters Plan 1 Disability Board
LHWMP	Local Hazardous Waste Management Program
LHWMP MCC	Local Hazardous Waste Management Program Management Coordination Committee
MIDD	Mental Illness and Drug Dependency Oversight Committee
MKCC	Metropolitan King County Council
MSWMAC	Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee
PIC	Public Issues Committee
PSAP	Public Safety Answering Points
PSCAA	Puget Sound Clean Air Agency
PSCAAAC	Puget Sound Clean Air Agency Advisory Council
PSERN	Puget Sound Emergency Radio Network
PSRC	Puget Sound Regional Council
RLSJC	Regional Law Safety and Justice Committee
RPC	Regional Policy Committee
RPEC	PSRC Regional Project Evaluation Committee
RTC	Regional Transit Committee
RWQC	Regional Water Quality Committee
SCA	Sound Cities Association
SCAACG	South Central Action Area Caucus Group
SCATBd	South County Area Transportation Board
SeaShore	Seashore Transportation Forum
SWAC	Solid Waste Advisory Committee
TPB	PSRC Transportation Policy Board



## SCA Public Issues Committee

### DRAFT MINUTES

March 11, 2020 – 7:00 PM

TELEPHONIC

#### 1. Welcome and Roll Call

PIC Chair Deputy Mayor Christie Malchow, Sammamish, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. 29 cities had representation ([Attachment A](#)). Guests present included Councilmember James Jeyaraj, Auburn (PIC alternate); Councilmember Jeremy Barksdale, Bellevue (PIC alternate); Councilmember Semra Riddle, Lake Forest Park (PIC alternate); Councilmember Vanessa Kritzer, Redmond (PIC alternate); Councilmember Thomas McLeod, Tukwila (PIC alternate); Councilmember Barbara de Michelle, Issaquah (PIC alternate); Councilmember Toby Nixon, Kirkland (PIC alternate); Mayor Dana Ralph, Kent; Councilmember Kristina Soltys, Covington; Councilmember Susan Honda, Federal Way; Candace Bock, AWC staff; Carl Schroeder, AWC staff; Joyce Nichols, Bellevue staff; Kelsey Beck, Seattle staff; Hannah Smith, Seattle staff; Diana Hart, Woodinville staff; Stephanie Pure, King County Metro staff; Tom Goff, King County Council staff; Lauren Craig, King County Metro staff; Doug Levy, Renton consultant; Mary Joe de Beck, Issaquah staff; Kellye Mazzoli, Bothell staff; Jeff Brauns, Newcastle staff; Susan Oxholm, King County staff.

Chair Malchow suggested moving discussion of Public Health and COVID-19 to earlier on the agenda to ensure there was adequate time for discussion. **Vice Chair Bill Boyce, Kent, moved, seconded by Mayor Linda Newing, Newcastle, to move agenda Item 10, Discussion of Public Health and COVID-19 to Item 7b. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### 2. Public Comment

Chair Malchow asked if any member of the public would like to provide public comment. SCA President Mayor Dana Ralph, Kent, said that SCA is committed to ensuring everyone is informed regarding the COVID-19 health crisis. She expressed her appreciation for the work SCA staff is doing to provide cities with information about the virus outbreak and actions being taken to respond to the health crisis. She encouraged member cities to continue providing information about actions they are taking to SCA staff so that it can be shared among other members and cities can learn from each other.

Chair Malchow asked if there was anyone else who would like to provide public comment. Hearing none, Chair Malchow closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

#### 3. Approval of the February 12, 2020 PIC Minutes

Chair Malchow asked if there were any amendments to the February 12, 2020 PIC minutes. **Vice Chair Bill Boyce, Kent, moved, seconded by Mayor Angela Birney, Redmond, to approve the February 12, 2020 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### **4. Chair's Report**

Chair Malchow stated that the PIC meeting was being held telephonically and online due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. She noted that the SCA bylaws provide for meetings to be held by telephone in the event of an emergency situation.

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry provided an overview of how the meeting would be facilitated using GoToMeeting software. He noted that any discussion in the chat logs would be maintained for public records purposes ([Attachment B](#)).

#### **5. Executive Director's Report**

SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson reported that Policy Analyst Cynthia Foley departed SCA and wished her well in her future endeavors. She said that SCA is allowing staff to telecommute due to the COVID-19 outbreak and would be exploring options for moving more meetings telephonically during the crisis. She thanked members for joining PIC telephonically during the ongoing emergency, and said that meetings would return to being in-person as soon as it was prudent to do so.

#### **6. Potential Change to November 2020 PIC Meeting Date**

SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson reported that at the February 12, 2020 Public Issues Committee meeting, members adopted Resolution 2020-1 setting the PIC's 2020 Meeting Schedule. The usual date for meeting in November falls on Veteran's Day, November 11, 2020. Members were asked to provide feedback on potential alternate dates for the November meeting – potential options include Wednesday, November 4 or Thursday, November 12. Based on member feedback a revised meeting schedule resolution will be brought back to PIC for action at a future meeting.

#### **7. 2020 Legislative Session**

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry introduced Candice Bock, Director of Government Relations and Carl Schroeder, Government Relations Advocate for the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) who provided an update on the 2020 Washington State Legislative Session.

Schroeder reported on several bills related to affordable housing and funding to address homelessness being considered in the supplemental budget. The legislature approved \$160 million to fund additional shelter beds and expand access to affordable housing. [HB 2797](#) extending the deadline for jurisdictions to participate and expands allowable uses of funds authorized in 2019 by [HB 1406](#), under which cities and counties receive a portion of state sales taxes collected in the jurisdiction for affordable housing passed the legislature. [HB 1590](#) providing councilmanic authority for cities and counties to impose a sales tax for affordable housing and related services passed the legislature. [HB 2497](#) adding the development of permanently affordable housing to the allowable uses for community revitalization financing, local infrastructure financing tool, and local revitalization financing. [SB 6617](#) requiring cities and counties planning under GMA to adopt regulations related to accessory dwelling units passed the legislature with fewer mandates for cities than were being considered earlier in the session. Schroeder said that [HB 2342](#), extending the deadline for the next update to local comprehensive

plans in King County to June 30, 2024 (previous deadline was June 30, 2023) also passed the legislature.

Bock reported that the supplemental transportation budget provides \$10.3 billion in transportation funding and does not delay projects that were previously on the “pause” list provided by the Governor for the current biennium. She said [HB 2804](#), expanding Local Revitalization Financing projects by providing new funding and increasing the state’s annual contribution supporting projects was still being considered (*the bill did not pass*).

Councilmember Kate Kruller asked what level of reduction was expected for freight mobility. Bock said it was in the range of approximately \$7 million.

#### **7b. Public Health and COVID-19**

Executive Director Deanna Dawson provided an update on the latest guidance from the Governor’s office and from Public Health Seattle-King County related to COVID-19. SCA is providing daily emails to member cities with the latest information and recommendations as well as actions that cities are taking in response to the public health emergency. Dawson noted that the situation is very fluid and recommendations related to actions that should be taken to reduce the spread of the virus are being updated daily. SCA is facilitating communication among member cities, state, and county leadership. SCA has also partnered with MRSC on a [webpage](#) with COVID-19 resources for local governments. Dawson encouraged members to send any questions they may have to SCA to facilitate getting answers on their behalf. PIC members were asked to provide any updates related to their city’s response to COVID-19 that had not already been shared in SCA’s daily email to members.

#### **8. Regional Transit Funding Measure**

SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson reported that a pre-PIC workshop that was scheduled for the evening was canceled. The King County Transportation District, made up of the members of the King County Council, was scheduled to meet earlier in the day but that meeting was canceled as the County Council reevaluates options in light of the COVID-19 outbreak. Dawson said it appears likely that a transit funding measure will not be moving forward in 2020. (*Note: SCA staff were informed on March 16 that the county council has decided not to proceed with a countywide transit measure in 2020 due to the ongoing focus on response to COVID-19*).

#### **9. King County Regional Homelessness Authority**

SCA Policy Analyst Alexis Mercedes Rinck explained that the Regional Homelessness Authority is formed through an interlocal agreement between Seattle and King County. It is primarily charged with managing contracts and procurement for organizations that provide services to people experiencing homelessness, in addition to collecting data from those recipients of public dollars. The new authority will also oversee the homelessness management information system (HMIS), and Coordinated Entry for All. This Authority will not be conducting direct services. It is not managing shelters, addressing “upstream interventions,” or managing behavioral health services.

Rinck said there are four tiers of authority within the Regional Homelessness Authority:

- The Governing Committee
- The CEO
- The Implementation Board
- The Advisory Committee

Rinck said the Governing Committee is the tier where SCA has direct representation, and that it will be made up of elected officials as well as people with lived experience. The implementation board is also referred to as the expert board and includes 13 members who possess a balance of skills and expertise. She referred members to [page 48 of the PIC packet](#) for more information about the expertise sought for the Implementation Board.

Rinck said the last tier within authority is the Advisory Committees. The interlocal agreement requires that there be at least one advisory committee to perform the functions of the mandatory Federal Continuum of Care Board. (This is the work done currently by All Home, which will be phased out.)

Rinck reported that the first meeting of the Governing Committee was supposed to be on March 12; however, this meeting will be rescheduled to April due to the COVID-19 outbreak. At the first Governing Committee meeting, members will select a Chair for the committee, decide on a process for selecting a search firm to recruit the CEO, and decide on a plan for appointing the Implementation Board. SCA will appoint two members to the Implementation Board and is beginning the process of collecting names of potential nominees that could be put forward. Rinck encouraged members to send along names of potential nominees to the implementation board to Executive Director Deanna Dawson.

On March 2, SCA hosted a briefing and discussion for SCA members on the Regional Homelessness Authority. Members were asked at the meeting to answer the following questions about their cities and homelessness to inform SCA representatives on the Governing Board:

- What is your city's philosophy when it comes to homelessness crisis response?
- What is your city doing to provide homelessness crisis response services currently?
- What are the gaps in crisis response in your city? Where are additional resources needed?
- What suggestions do you have for potential SCA appointees to the Implementation Board?

Rinck reported that that SCA has received answers from about 10 cities and asked cities that have not sent in responses to email them to Executive Director Deanna Dawson.

Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, reported that the All Home Coordinating Board in the process of identifying those with lived experienced to serve on the new Governing Committee.

## **10. Affordable Housing and Countywide Planning Policies**



SCA Policy Analyst Alexis Mercedes Rinck reported that the Affordable Housing Committee began meeting in June of 2019 and has since adopted its 2020 workplan and now it working on one of its chartered responsibilities: recommending changes on the housing chapter of the Countywide Planning Policies (CPP's), to the Growth Management Planning Council. The CPPs are updated every five years and provide consistent expectations for what must be included in cities' comprehensive plans. The committee is expected to recommend changes to the Housing Chapter of the CPP's to provide new guidance on housing given the changes in the county since the last update. Rinck highlighted that information on how the countywide planning policies are approved, updated and how they affect cities' comprehensive plans can be found on [page 61 of the PIC packet](#).

Rinck said that in January the committee discussed options of recommendations to the current housing chapter of the CPP's and that areas of discussion included methods for measuring regional accountability; geographic distribution and siting of affordable housing; policies to address affordability for very low-income households; and, metrics measuring affordable housing goals and need

SCA caucus members of the AHC provided feedback on each of these issue areas, using the SCA caucus guiding principles approved from the Regional Affordable Housing Task Force. The feedback SCA members gave regarding the CPPs can be seen on page 64.

Rinck said the passage of HB 2342 would push the deadline for city updates to comprehensive plans back one year to June 30, 2024, and that this would provide additional time for the committee to consider potential CPP updates.

Councilmember Traci Buxton, Des Moines, asked about the Committee's work plan for 2020 and where the proposed updates to the CPPs are shown on their plan. SCA Policy Director Brian Parry clarified the summary of the work plan doesn't show topic areas for updating the CPP's, but that it is part of the Committee's work to review and recommend land use actions to increase and diversify housing choices and maximize affordability.

## **11. VISION 2050**

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported on the draft update to the region's plan for growth, VISION 2050. VISION is the plan that sets expectations for the four-county region that makes up the Puget Sound Regional Council: King, Pierce, Snohomish, and Kitsap Counties. The role of VISION is to provide a framework for managing that growth in the region with a consistent set of goals to provide for a sustainable region and high quality of life. The policies and growth pattern included in VISION will ultimately directly influence the type of planning that has to be included in local comprehensive plans on a range of topics.

In February, the PSRC Executive Board reviewed the draft plan as recommended by the PSRC Growth Management Policy Board. The current schedule calls for the Executive Board make their final recommendation at their meeting on March 26; however, it is unclear whether that meeting will take place in light of the COVID-19 outbreak and action may be deferred to April. The final recommendation will then go before the PSRC General Assembly at their annual meeting on May 28, 2020.

Parry said a limited set of amendments were proposed to the plan during the February Executive Board meeting that are expected to be voted upon at the next Executive Board meeting along with the full plan. Notably the Executive Board will be asked to decide an issue that received significant debate earlier in the process related to the distribution of population in Snohomish County in the plan.

At the Executive Board meeting in February, some Board members raised concerns about indirect impacts to a potentially more dispersed growth pattern in Snohomish County and whether it would lead to negative environmental and transportation impacts (such as increased passthrough traffic) in the region. Snohomish County and others supporting their proposed growth pattern have questioned the role of PSRC in requiring changes to what was negotiated and approved by Snohomish County and its cities' countywide planning body, Snohomish County Tomorrow. Snohomish County has also noted that they have programs in place to transfer development rights from the rural area to urban parts of the county and that their projections for growth are based on pre-existing development rights and not new lots.

The SCA caucus to the Executive Board did not reach a consensus position at their February meeting. PSRC staff are continuing to work with Snohomish County and other stakeholders on the Executive Board to resolve the issue, but it is very likely to remain in play at the next Executive Board meeting.

Parry said that SCA representatives on the Growth Board supported the draft plan and felt that it reflected guiding principles adopted by SCA in 2019. He asked members to discuss VISION within their cities and share any concerns or to contact SCA if they need any additional information.

## **12. Long-Term Solid Waste Disposal**

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported that Cedar Hills Landfill, the last remaining landfill in King County and primary destination for solid waste in the county, is expected to reach capacity sometime between 2035 and 2041. The 2019 King County Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan directs King County to invest in extending the life of the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill by expanding the area for landfilling while also beginning work to identify the next disposal option before a required five-year plan update.

During the 2019/2020 biennial budget process, the King County Council funded a study to analyze two disposal options: siting and development of a waste to energy incineration plant, and exporting solid waste out of the county by rail. The Waste-to-Energy and Waste Export by Rail Feasibility Study, conducted by Arcadis U.S., Inc., was released on October 4, 2019.

The Arcadis Team recommends waste-to-energy as the preferred disposal option, as compared to waste export by rail. The study found long-term cost savings, improved recycling rates, and potential for net negative greenhouse gas emissions with the inclusion of carbon capture technology. The Arcadis Team recommends that King County pursue additional evaluation, analysis of permitting and siting considerations, and other steps necessary to move forward with waste-to-energy disposal.

Parry reported that the Solid Waste Division is also developing a Zero Waste of Resources Plan. He said the Division would like to use this planning process consider actions that could diminish the quantity of waste being disposed, which in turn would impact the type and scale of future disposal options under consideration.

The 2019 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan requires the Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget to engage regional partners to develop a plan for long-term disposal. A status report on this plan is required to be delivered to the King County Council by December 31, 2021.

Mayor David Baker, Kenmore, said that he appreciated seeing the county seriously considering waste to energy as a disposal option.

Councilmember Ernest Thompson, Normandy Park, said that he agreed the county should be considering waste to energy and that shipping by rail is outdated.

### **13. Levies and Ballot Measures in King County**

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported that the King County Library System is planning to seek voter approval for an operations levy that would bring their rate to 50-cents per \$1,000 of assessed value, up from a current rate of 32-cents, in August. There is also expected to be a capital construction levy in November of 15 to 18u-cents per \$1,000 of assessed value for Harborview Medical Center. Parry asked members to provide updates on any ballot measures under consideration in their cities or impacting their communities, in particular any efforts to backfill transportation funding lost due to I-976.

### **14. Potential Upcoming SCA Issues**

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry highlighted potential upcoming issues on [page 74 of the PIC packet](#). He asked members to provide feedback on issues they would like to be the focus of future PIC discussion, pre-PIC workshops, or training opportunities.

### **15. Upcoming Events**

- a. SCA Public Issues Committee – Wednesday, April 8, 2020 – 7:00 to 9:00 PM

### **16. For the Good of the Order**

Chair Malchow asked if any members had any items for the good of the order. Mayor David Baker, Kenmore, thanked staff and PIC members for making the meeting a success despite having to be held telephonically due to the public health emergency. Other members echoed their support.

### **17. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 PM.

**Public Issues Committee Meeting**  
**March 11, 2020**

<b>City</b>	<b>Representative</b>	<b>Alternate</b>
Algona	Dave Hill	
<b>Auburn</b>	Nancy Backus	James Jeyaraj
<b>Beaux Arts Village</b>	Tom Stowe	Aletha Howes
<b>Bellevue</b>	Janice Zahn	Jeremy Barksdale
<b>Black Diamond</b>	Erin Stout	Tamie Deady
Bothell	James McNeal	Tom Agnew
<b>Burien</b>	Krystal Marx	Nancy Tosta
Carnation	Dustin Green	Kim Lisk
<b>Clyde Hill</b>	Marianne Klaas	Kim Muromoto
<b>Covington</b>	Fran Hollums	Joseph Cimaomo
<b>Des Moines</b>	Traci Buxton	
<b>Duvall</b>	Michelle Hogg	Jennifer Knaplund
Enumclaw	Chance LaFleur	Tony Binion
<b>Federal Way</b>	Martin Moore	Lydia Assefa-Dawson
Hunts Point	Joseph Sabey	N/A
<b>Issaquah</b>	Tola Marts	Barbara de Michele
<b>Kenmore</b>	David Baker	Corina Pfeil
<b>Kent</b>	Bill Boyce	Toni Troutner
<b>Kirkland</b>	Kelli Curtis	Toby Nixon
<b>Lake Forest Park</b>	Tom French	Semra Riddle
<b>Maple Valley</b>	Sean Kelly	Les Burberry
<b>Medina</b>	Jennifer Garone	Jessica Rossman
<b>Mercer Island</b>	Benson Wong	David Rosembaum
Milton	Jim Gillespie	Shanna Styron Sherrell
<b>Newcastle</b>	Linda Newing	Tony Ventrella
<b>Normandy Park</b>	Sue-Ann Hohimer	Ernest Thompson
<b>North Bend</b>	Ross Loudenback	Heather Koellen
<b>Pacific</b>	Leanne Guier	David Sporaasli
<b>Redmond</b>	Angela Birney	Vanessa Kritzer
<b>Renton</b>	Ed Prince	Armondo Pavone
<b>Sammamish</b>	Christie Malchow	Kent Treen
<b>SeaTac</b>	Erin Sitterley	Pam Fernald
Shoreline	Chris Roberts	Will Hall
Skykomish	Henry Sladek	
<b>Snoqualmie</b>	Katherine Ross	Matt Larson
<b>Tukwila</b>	Kate Kruller	Thomas McLeod
<b>Woodinville</b>	Elaine Cook	Gary Harris
Yarrow Point	Dicker Cahill	
SCA	Deanna Dawson Brian Parry	Alexis Mercedes Rinck Leah Willoughby

Cities present at the meeting are **bolded**. Voting representatives present are highlighted.

**SCA Public Issues Committee – March 11, 2020**  
**Attachment B – GoToMeeting Chat Log**

**Sound Cities Association (to Everyone):** 6:57 PM: Hi Everyone - we will be starting the meeting shortly.

**Klaas, Marianne C (to Everyone):** 6:59 PM: Marianne Klaas Clyde Hill present!

**Jen Garone (to Everyone):** 7:17 PM: aye

**Jen Garone (to Everyone):** 7:21 PM: Aye

**Dana Ralph (to Organizer(s) Only):** 7:21 PM: I am going to hop off. Thank you for making this happen!

**Jeremy Barksdale (to Organizer(s) Only):** 7:21 PM: Should we record the meeting?

**Traci Buxton (to Everyone):** 7:24 PM: Thank you! You guys are amazing!

**Traci Buxton (to Everyone):** 7:28 PM: City of Des Moines has council meetings on Thursdays.

**Nancy Tosta (to Everyone):** 7:38 PM: Just heard that an aide in Senator Cantwell's office has tested positive for COVID-19. Most of us who have been in DC this week had contact with her office. Trying to find out more info.

**Sound Cities Association (to Everyone):** 7:39 PM: Please let us know if you have any questions for Candice or Carl by "raising your hand" here in the chat.

**Angela Birney (to Everyone):** 7:52 PM: Redmond is adding documents to mrsc- thank you for getting that going!

**Ross C Loudenback (Private):** 7:56 PM: Is there any coordinated efforts with local Senior Centers, Nursing Homes or Rehabilitation Centers to address the virus issues?

**Erin Stout (to Everyone):** 7:56 PM: In light of the progression of the outbreak in China and Italy, is there any information from Public Health about training the public about what to expect going forward in the next few months?

**Erin Stout (to Everyone):** 8:13 PM: Thank you for passing the question to Public Health.

**Ed Prince (to Everyone):** 8:15 PM: Just saw that on the news

**Ed Prince (to Everyone):** 8:15 PM: Re: Cantrell staffer

**Angela Birney (Private):** 8:51 PM: Thank you for organizing the meeting in this way. It worked well- especially muting everyone :)

**Klaas, Marianne C (to Everyone):** 8:51 PM: You did very well with this format-- be well!

**Kelli Curtis (to Everyone):** 8:51 PM: Thank you all, I think tonight's meeting went very smoothly.

**Jen Garone (to Everyone):** 8:51 PM: Thank you.

**Traci Buxton (to Everyone):** 8:51 PM: Good Job! This was a great meeting!!

**Jeremy Barksdale (to Everyone):** 8:52 PM: Thanks, Deanna! My pleasure :)

**Sean P. Kelly (to Everyone):** 8:52 PM: Awesome Job team!!

**Jeremy Barksdale (to Everyone):** 8:52 PM: Great job!

**Erin Stout (to Everyone):** 8:52 PM: Thanks for a great meeting! I have my PC, my laptop and my phone open!

**Item 06:**

**Proposed King County Rates and Fees**

***POTENTIAL FUTURE ACTION***

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**SCA Staff Contact**

Brian Parry, Policy Director, [brian@soundcities.org](mailto:brian@soundcities.org), (206) 499-4159

**Discussion**

At the May PIC meeting, members will be asked to provide feedback on utility rate and fee proposals currently under consideration by King County and whether SCA should adopt the following policy position:

**The Sound Cities Association (SCA) urges King County and other entities to forego any increases in rates and fees in light of the COVID-19 public health emergency and the resulting economic impacts.**

King County is currently in the process of developing sewer rate and solid waste fees that could increase costs passed on to cities, local utility providers, and rate payers effective January 1, 2021.

The sewer rate is expected to be transmitted in early May, and the King County Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) is proposing a 4.5% increase for 2021.

The Solid Waste Division (SWD) has presented a range of options from no increase in the tonnage fee in 2021 to an increase of 8%. SWD is also considering initiating new fees for recycling and disposal of items such as mattresses, appliances, and yard waste.

Feedback to date from cities has been to urge the County to forego rate increases due to the COVID-19 emergency and the economic crisis. PIC members will be asked to consider adopting a formal position to that effect.

**Background**

King County is currently in the process of developing sewer rate and solid waste fees that could increase costs passed on to cities, local utility providers, and rate payers effective January 1, 2021. Initial feedback from SCA members has generally recognized the important infrastructure supported by these regional utility rates, but that even relatively modest increases in costs to cities and residents are very concerning in light of the economic impacts of the COVID-19 health emergency.

Many SCA cities are facing substantial revenue downturns that will force very difficult service cuts in 2021 and likely beyond. Meanwhile, cities have a critical role to play in keeping communities safe during the COVID-19 emergency and to the future recovery of the state's economy. Foregoing increased rates and fees would offer some relief as local government seeks to protect vital services and limit increased costs to residents when they can least afford it.

City, county, and state leaders will be looking at all options to reduce costs in the face of the dramatic impacts of COVID-19 and reduced economic activity. King County is currently estimating a 7-9% drop in its overall budget, and much steeper declines in services supported primarily by sales tax such as Metro transit and those funded by the Mental Illness and Drug Dependency (MIDD) program. The State of Washington is also currently projecting a shortfall of nearly \$7 billion in the next two biennia. These shortfalls will put further strain on services and funding that cities rely on from regional and state sources.

#### *Proposed 2021-2022 Sewer Rate*

The King County Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) contracts with 17 cities and 17 sewer districts to provide wholesale water treatment services to serve residential and commercial customers. Local sewer utilities have long-term contracts with King County to provide this service at a rate set by the county council. Under these contracts, the county council must set rates by July 1 and which will take effect the following January 1.

In June of 2019, the county council adopted a 2020-2025 rate plan that set the 2020 monthly sewer rate at \$45.33 per "residential customer equivalent." This monthly rate applies to residential units as well as per every 750 square feet of multifamily, commercial, and industrial use.

For 2021, WTD is proposing a rate increase of 4.5%, which would raise the monthly rate to \$47.37. WTD is also proposing to engage in a stakeholder process over the course of the next year to set the 2022 rate.

The proposed rate is consistent with the 2020 Rate Plan adopted in June of 2019, and lower than the 9.5% increase proposed by WTD at other points in the process. However, concerns have been raised about any proposed increase to the rate in the context of the COVID-19 crisis.

The Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee (MWPAAC) provided their formal feedback in a comment letter dated April 29 ([Attachment A](#)). In their letter, MWPAAC asked the county council to approve a zero percent increase in 2021 and initiating a separate process to set the 2022 rate. MWPAAC noted that in the current economic environment, a 4.5% increase will likely create significant hardships for the communities they represent, and asked that WTD consider the same cost cutting measures that all local agencies will be forced to consider due to shrinking revenues. Members of the Regional Water Quality Committee similarly urged WTD to give strong consideration to avoiding rate increases to the greatest extent possible.

In response to requests not to increase rates, WTD has stated that a 4.5% increase is necessary to maintain “status quo” levels of service and continue projects already in the pipeline. In addition, WTD notes that delaying increasing rates now could lead to larger increases being necessary in future years. Already, WTD is projecting needing significant increases in rates in future years, which the Division attributes to addressing nearly \$700 million in unfunded priority asset management projects. Significantly, the long-term rate outlook does not account for anticipated increased costs stemming from a consent decree related to Combined Sewage Overflow facilities, projects that may be included in the Clean Water Plan slated for adoption in late 2022, or potential new regulatory requirements under consideration by the Department of Ecology related to nutrient removal and system investments to comply with those regulations.

While in the short-term there are concerns about the impacts of COVID-19 on residential and business customers, local government, and utility providers, members of both MWPAAC and RWQC have expressed concerns about the long-term outlook for the utility and its scope of work.

The adopted 2020-2030 sewer rate plan and proposed 2021 revisions are included in the tables below. Additional information can be found in WTD briefing materials found [here](#).

**Adopted 2020 Rate Plan**

2020 Rate Plan											
Adopted ORD 18915	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Rate Increase %	0.0%	4.5%	0.0%	4.5%	0.0%	4.8%	0.0%	5.6%	4.5%	2.8%	5.1%
Rate	\$45.33	\$47.37	\$47.37	\$49.50	\$49.50	\$51.90	\$51.90	\$54.80	\$57.28	\$58.86	\$61.84
Rate Increase \$	\$0.00	\$2.04	\$0.00	\$2.13	\$0.00	\$2.40	\$0.00	\$2.91	\$2.48	\$1.58	\$2.98

**Proposed 2021 Rate Plan\***

Proposed 2021 Rate & Rate Plan	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Rate Increase %	0.0%	4.50%	0.00%	10.25%	0.00%	10.25%	0.00%	14.00%	0.00%	14.00%	0.00%
Rate	\$45.33	\$47.37	\$47.37	\$52.23	\$52.23	\$57.58	\$57.58	\$65.64	\$65.64	\$74.83	\$74.83
Rate Increase \$	\$0.00	\$2.04	\$0.00	\$4.86	\$0.00	\$5.35	\$0.00	\$8.06	\$0.00	\$9.19	\$0.00

\* The proposed rate increase of 0% in 2022 is a placeholder that recognizes the uncertainty regarding the impacts of COVID-19 and the need for more information on the impacts as part of any discussion on the 2022 rate. The rate projections in 2023 and beyond include \$700 million in unfunded priority asset management projects with the caveat that WTD will work with MWPAAC over the next year to provide more detail on these projects and get feedback on how to best address this project inventory. WTD will also work with Council staff to include asset management as part of the work plan for the Regional Water Quality Committee.

### *Proposed 2021-2022 Solid Waste Fee*

King County’s solid waste system is supported by a variety of disposal fees that are approved by the county council. These fees vary primarily based on the type of material being disposed, with the primary source of revenue being the per ton tipping fee or tonnage fee. The fees set by King County for receiving solid waste at its transfer stations and landfilling that waste are passed on to haulers, who are generally contracted with by cities to provide handling and disposal service.

For 2021-2022, the Solid Waste Division (SWD) is considering increases to its tonnage fee as well as increased or new fees for recycling and disposal of certain types of waste. To date, SWD



has presented a range of options from no increase in the tonnage fee in 2021 to an increase of 8%; and for 2022, from 8% if fees are increased in 2021 to as high as 28% if they are not. The current tonnage fee is \$140.82 per ton. An 8% increase in the tonnage fee is anticipated to cost an additional \$0.64 per month at the curbside for residential customers.

Potential fees under consideration for the disposal of other materials in addition to the increased tonnage fee include a new \$5.00 fee on most garbage and recycling transactions, a new \$30.00 fee for mattress disposal to more accurately reflect SWD costs, and an increase to the yard waste tonnage fee from \$75.00 per ton to \$100.00.

As a part of its rate development, the Division is analyzing anticipated loss of tonnage revenue due to the COVID-19 crisis and is also potential reductions in expenditures, including savings from delaying opening of the South County Transfer Station or delaying property acquisition for the North East Transfer Station.

To go into effect as of January 2021, the county council must act to set solid waste fees by September 30. The formal proposal is expected to be transmitted to the county council in July.

### **Next Steps**

To go into effect as of January 2021, the county council must act to set sewer rates by June 30 and solid waste fees must be approved by September 30. County council staff indicate the sewer rate is expected to have a public hearing on May 26, and action to approve the rate may also take place at that meeting. Based on feedback from PIC, SCA staff could draft a position statement related to rates and fees for consideration at the next PIC meeting. In addition, because the sewer rate may be approved prior to the next PIC meeting, feedback on that rate proposal in particular is encouraged so that it can be shared with members of the county council. Members are also encouraged to reach out directly to members of the county council to provide feedback directly.

For more information, contact SCA Policy Director Brian Parry at [brian@soundcities.org](mailto:brian@soundcities.org) or 206-499-4159.



## Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee

King Street Center, 201 S Jackson St, MS: KSC-NR-0508, Seattle, WA 98104  
206-477-4435

### MEMBERS:

*Alderwood Water and Wastewater District*  
*City of Algona*  
*City of Auburn*  
*City of Bellevue*  
*City of Black Diamond*  
*City of Bothell*  
*City of Brier*  
*City of Carnation*  
*Cedar River Water and Sewer District*  
*Coal Creek Utility District*  
*Cross Valley Water District*  
*Highlands Sewer District*  
*City of Issaquah*  
*City of Kent*  
*City of Kirkland*  
*City of Lake Forest Park*  
*Lakehaven Water and Sewer District*  
*City of Mercer Island*  
*Midway Sewer District*  
*Muckleshoot Indian Tribe*  
*Northeast Sammamish Sewer and Water District*  
*Northshore Utility District*  
*Olympic View Water and Sewer District*  
*City of Pacific*  
*City of Redmond*  
*City of Renton*  
*Ronald Wastewater District*  
*Sammamish Plateau Water and Sewer District*  
*City of Seattle*  
*Skyway Water and Sewer District*  
*Soos Creek Water and Sewer District*  
*Southwest Suburban Sewer District*  
*City of Tukwila*  
*Valley View Sewer District*  
*Vashon Sewer District*  
*Woodinville Water District*

April 29, 2020

The Honorable Claudia Balducci  
Chair, King County Council  
516 3rd Ave, Room 1200  
Seattle, WA 98104

SUBJECT: Wastewater Treatment Division 2021 Rate Recommendation

Dear Councilmember Balducci:

The Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee (MWPAAAC) has reviewed the Wastewater Treatment Division's (WTD) revised 2021 sewer rate proposal, which we received on April 15, 2020. While we appreciate WTD's flexibility in proposing a lower rate of 4.5 percent compared with the originally proposed 9.5 percent, there still has not been meaningful engagement with MWPAAAC agencies on the drivers for the County's substantial rate increase projections. Furthermore, the projected 2022 rate increase of 4.5 percent essentially creates the same two-year rate path as the previously proposed increases of 9.5 percent in 2021 and zero percent in 2022. The new economic outlook has convinced MWPAAAC that even a single 4.5 percent increase will likely create significant hardships for the communities we represent. Each of our agencies is being asked to consider cost-cutting measures to a significant degree due to the economic downturn resulting from COVID-19 and we would expect WTD to do the same. For this reason, MWPAAAC cannot support the revised rate proposal.

While MWPAAAC initially expressed some support for up to a 4.5 percent rate increase in 2021, we did so before the scale of the COVID-19 economic downturn was understood. Since we wrote our original letter to the County Executive in mid-March, over 160,000 King County residents have filed for unemployment. Many of them are struggling to pay their bills. Thousands of businesses have shuttered or drastically reduced operations, prompted by the necessary response to the pandemic. Nobody knows when normalcy will return or how normal it will be. The outlook of the regional economy is as uncertain as ever.

In the meantime, the local agencies that make up MWPAAAC are striving to provide services while under State directives that, while necessary, hamper revenue collection. These measures, coupled with the steep drop in commercial water consumption, are transforming the financial outlook of MWPAAAC agencies – right now. While our agencies are shouldering delayed payments and increased delinquencies, the payment to King County remains steadfast, further forcing agencies to prioritize.

We're asking that WTD use every tool at its disposal to limit the 2021 rate increase. MWPAAC is open to a small increase to keep up with inflation, but **we prefer something significantly less than a 4.5 percent increase in 2021. Our preferred scenario is a zero percent increase in 2021 and a separate process for the 2022 rate.** WTD should consider the use of reserves, any new federal grants or loans made available to utilities, and delays of operational investments and wage increases. MWPAAC is also open to a temporary relaxation of the 40 percent cash funding target for the capital program if it can keep rates manageable in the short term as we navigate this difficult time together.

We realize that we are requesting an outcome that will not be easy to produce. While MWPAAC continues to discuss the prioritization of newly identified asset management projects with WTD, we wish for all major ongoing WTD capital projects to continue on-schedule. These projects contribute greatly to regional water quality and economic activity. For the sewer rate that supports these projects, we ask that WTD rely on the most up-to-date cost assumptions – for labor, materials, and professional services - that are reflective of our distressed economy. Now is the time to err on the side of using reserves rather than adding to them.

Looking beyond 2022, MWPAAC has serious concerns that WTD's rate projections will make our services unaffordable to a larger share of the community. In recent years, MWPAAC and WTD have spent considerable time trying to address affordability – both short-term and long-term. The Capacity Charge Affordability Study and the Debt Review Committee are just two examples of this important work. While we understand that the backlog of high priority asset management projects is real and one that must be addressed, we are very concerned that the steep rate increases projected for the future will cancel out the progress on the affordability front. In addition, these aggressive rate increases leave local agencies with little room to adjust their own rates to meet their increased costs of operations.

MWPAAC members are still reeling from these long-term rate projections. During the 2019 rate process that resulted in a biennium rate increase of only 2.5 percent, MWPAAC asked in its response for a higher rate increase out of concern for a future with much larger rate increases. This underscores the need for more regular data, input, and discussion between WTD and MWPAAC about every aspect of the capital portfolio. We place a high premium on early information. Even if estimates are only at the pre-planning level, they give us an idea of what to expect. WTD has stated that the double-digit long-term rate path does not include costs of major projects such as nutrient removal and updated CSO costs. We expect WTD to provide early cost estimates and rate impacts associated with these projects, and other improvements identified in the Clean Water Plan process.

On the morning of Wednesday, April 22, WTD staff notified members of the MWPAAC Executive Board that the rate proposal being transmitted to the King County Council was changing. This revised transmittal proposes a 4.5 percent increase in the sewer rate in 2021 (as a one-year increase), followed by a zero percent increase in 2022.

While the Executive Board appreciates the willingness of WTD to begin to address the challenging economic outlook and respond to the concerns of MWPAAC members, we have not had any opportunity to discuss this proposal with all MWPAAC agencies, nor have we seen any supporting documentation. For this reason, we are not able to provide an adequate response to the proposal. Based on the responses we received from MWPAAC member agencies in response to the April 15

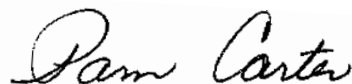
proposal, our members would prefer a zero percent rate increase in 2021, followed by a separate rate process in 2022 that results in a manageable increase.

As always, we appreciate the opportunity to provide honest feedback. This rate process has illuminated opportunities for a strengthened partnership between MWPAAC and WTD. Looking to the future, MWPAAC hopes to describe the partnership with the following terms and phrases:

- **Fully transparent:**
  - o Early communication about projected spending and rate impacts, resulting in fewer unpleasant surprises during the rate proposal process;
  - o Proactive sharing of materials of interest even if they aren't specifically requested – budget documents, project lists with rough cost estimates, early rate projections, etc.;
  - o Onboarding materials are distributed to foster a shared understanding of the complex history of the WTD system, the rate and budget process, and the operating and capital programs supported by the sewer rate and capacity charge.
- **Committed to affordability:**
  - o Service affordability is examined from every angle – cost savings, rate assumptions, capital strategy, project timing, debt strategy, discount programs, etc.;
  - o Affordability measures are established, along with targets; progress is reported regularly to MWPAAC.
- **Respectful of local agency processes:**
  - o Rate proposals and other important policies are shared well in advance of dates of action, allowing MWPAAC representatives to discuss them in their respective public meetings;
  - o Estimates of the expected range of changes to the sewer rate and capacity charge are shared more regularly, allowing for more effective local agency budget development.

MWPAAC members recognize the extraordinary nature of this communication to the Executive's office and the County Council. MWPAAC does not take lightly the tone and content communicated to the County's governing bodies nor its commitment to work in partnership with WTD to provide transparent, cost-effective wastewater treatment to the Puget Sound region. The creation of Metro and thereby MWPAAC has resulted in a long and successful working relationship with King County and we look forward to a continued, relevant role, in policy setting with WTD.

Sincerely,



Pamela Carter  
MWPAAC Chair

cc: MWPAAC Members  
The Honorable Dow Constantine, County Executive, King County  
Christie True, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)  
Mark Isaacson, Division Director, Wastewater Treatment Division, DNRP

**Item 07:**

**COVID-19 Legislative Priorities**

***POTENTIAL FUTURE ACTION***

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**SCA Staff Contact**

Brian Parry, SCA Policy Director, [brian@soundcities.org](mailto:brian@soundcities.org), 206-499-4159

**Discussion**

In preparation for the potential of a special session, the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) adopted legislative priorities related to COVID-19 response and relief ([Attachment A](#)). To provide a consistent message to legislators, SCA is considering adopting the same legislative priorities.

**Background**

Due to the COVID-19 public health emergency and economic impacts, the Governor and members of the Washington State Legislature have suggested a special legislative session may be called as early as June 2020. A recent [report](#) in the Seattle Times highlighted early estimates that show Washington State could lose \$7 billion in projected revenue between now and 2023, which may lead to a round of budget cuts in the summer followed by more substantial budget adjustments when the next regular session begins in January 2021.

In preparation for the potential of a special session, the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) adopted legislative priorities related to COVID-19 response and relief. These priorities ask the state to support cities through a variety of means, including: providing fiscal support; investing in local infrastructure to support economic activity; providing relief from state-mandated regulatory timelines; and, supporting city-owned utilities.

At the May 13 PIC meeting, members will consider whether to recommend adoption of the legislative priorities as adopted by AWC and found in [Attachment A](#).

If a special session is called, it is anticipated that action would be taken swiftly. Because of this, it is especially important for cities to communicate with their legislators in advance about the important role cities play in responding to emergencies and to economic recovery.

**Next Steps**

If recommended by PIC, the legislative priorities would be brought back to the next PIC meeting for PIC to vote on whether to recommend adoption of the priorities to the SCA Board. In the meantime, cities are urged to discuss the legislative priorities with their councils and staff, and to be in communication with their legislators.

Questions may be directed to SCA Policy Director Brian Parry [brian@soundcities.org](mailto:brian@soundcities.org) or 206-499-4159.

## **COVID-19 public health emergency – Response & relief city Legislative Priorities**

Washington cities and towns have a unique role to play in responding to any emergency and they have been particularly involved in keeping their communities safe during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Cities and towns have been impacted significantly due to costs for emergency response and loss of revenue from the dramatic impact the emergency has had on our State's economy. Regardless of these impacts, cities and towns are committed to partnering with the State to keep our communities safe during this unprecedented challenge.

As the Legislature considers necessary actions to address the impacts of COVID-19 on our state, asks that priority be given to support for cities and towns in the following areas:

- **Financial support**
  - Maintain critical state shared revenues that provide funding for essential public services.
  - Provide fiscal relief to cities hard hit with costs for emergency response and loss of tax revenue.
- **Fiscal flexibility**
  - Provide flexibility within existing restricted revenues to allow cities to use funds where they are most needed right now.
- **Regulatory relief**
  - Continue the emergency action taken by the Governor to provide flexibility on deadlines for permitting and land use timelines. Cities hard hit by this emergency may still be experiencing staffing shortages and back-logs that will impact their ability to comply with typical statutory deadlines.
- **City-owned utility support**
  - Allow city-owned utilities that have waived late fees and shut-offs and extension of their ability to collect outstanding debt so that they can work with rate payers to extend payment plans without impacting the financial viability of the utility or raising rates on other customers.
  - Provide funding to help offset losses related to forgiving late fees and delinquent accounts for those customers hard-hit by the emergency.
- **Economic stimulus**
  - Investing in public infrastructure projects is one of the best ways to support economic stimulus as infrastructure investments have a positive economic multiplier with the creation of family-wage jobs and support increased economic activity.

### **Cities also support efforts to help the most vulnerable residents and our small businesses**

- Cities support programs to provide emergency rental assistance and emergency housing.
- Cities support programs to provide emergency assistance to small businesses.

**Item 08:**

Proclamation of Commitment to an Inclusive Community that Rejects Stigma and Bias Related to COVID-19

**POTENTIAL FUTURE ACTION**

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**SCA Staff Contact**

Alexis Mercedes Rinck, SCA Policy Analyst, [alexis@soundcities.org](mailto:alexis@soundcities.org) , (206) 495-5238

**Discussion**

SCA members and residents of our member cities have voiced concerns about how xenophobia (discrimination based on national origin) and racially biased actions and harassment are impacting their neighborhoods, families, and businesses. This has had a devastating impact on [Chinese and other Asian \(and Pacific Islander\) communities and unsheltered neighbors](#). There have also been reported concerns about ensuring physical safety while wearing masks [amongst communities of color \(primarily Black communities\)](#).

PIC members will be asked at the next PIC meeting to consider recommending adoption of the attached Proclamation of Commitment to an Inclusive Community that Rejects Stigma and Bias Related to COVID-19 ([Attachment A](#)) to the SCA Board.

**Background**

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, there has been a regional and national increase in bias, harassment, and hate crimes against [Asian American](#), [Black and African American](#), and other marginalized communities. Misinformation about coronavirus propagates fear that hurts people and [impairs the ability of our first responders](#) and other city services to provide necessary response to COVID-19. There have also been concerns about stigma around Black, Indigenous, and people of color using preventative masks (as recommended by [Public Health Seattle-King County](#) and the [CDC](#)).

SCA cities including [Bellevue](#), [Burien](#), [Redmond](#), [Renton](#), and [SeaTac](#) have adopted resolutions or proclamations denouncing stigma and bias related to COVID-19 and declaring a commitment to an inclusive community, and other cities such as the City of Tukwila are looking to take up similar action. The PIC is asked to consider following suit by approving the attached anti-bias proclamation.

### **Next Steps**

PIC members will have an opportunity to discuss the attached Proclamation at the May meeting and bring back to their Councils to discuss before considering whether to recommend approval to the SCA Board at the next PIC meeting.

For more information, contact SCA Policy Analyst Alexis Mercedes Rinck at [alexis@soundcities.org](mailto:alexis@soundcities.org) or (206) 495-5238.

### **Additional Resources**

- [Anti-stigma Resources](#), King County
- [Anti-Stigma Social Media toolkit](#), King County
- [COVID-19 Resources](#), Washington State Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs
- [Reducing Stigma During Disease Outbreaks](#), Washington State Department of Health
- [Equity Impact Awareness Toll for COVID-19 Quarantine and Recovery Sites](#), King County
- [Data Dashboard](#) - Impacts of COVID-19 by race and ethnicity in King County
- [Social stigma associated with COVID-19](#), UNICEF



## *Proclamation*

Whereas, the Sound Cities Association has declared a commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion as a as organizational priority; and

Whereas, since the outbreak of COVID-19, immigrant and refugee community leaders and civil rights organizations have reported a regional and national increase in bias, harassment, and hate crimes, particularly against Asian American and Pacific Islander, Black and African American, Hispanic and Latino, and other marginalized communities; and

Whereas, misinformation about coronavirus propagates fear that hurts people and impairs the ability of our first responders and other city services to provide necessary response to COVID-19; and

Whereas, each of us can and should promote inclusiveness, celebrate diversity, support all fellow community members, prevent the spread of misinformation, and reject hate and bias in all forms; and

Whereas, the Sound Cities Association and its member cities reject racially based bias, harassment, and hate crimes due to COVID-19, will not tolerate discrimination of any kind, and denounces all COVID-19-related misnaming, blaming and harassment based on race, ethnicity, place of origin, physical ability, socio-economic status, gender identity, sexual orientation, age or religion; and

Whereas, we ask community members who observe or are experiencing incidents of discrimination, harassment, or hate crimes to report the incident, to the Washington State Human Rights Commission (Toll-free (1-800-233-3247) or the King County Office of Civil Rights at (206) 684-4500), or to call 911 in emergency circumstances;

Now, therefore, we, the Sound Cities Association, do hereby proclaim

Our commitment to an inclusive community that rejects stigma and bias related to COVID-19

And we urge all our members and residents of our member cities to treat each other with respect and work together to overcome all expressions of hate and bigotry.

Dated this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

Dana Ralph, Sound Cities Association President

Deanna Dawson, Sound Cities Association Executive Director

**Item 09:****King County Regional Homelessness Authority*****DISCUSSION***

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**SCA Staff Contact**

Alexis Mercedes Rinck, SCA Policy Analyst, [alexis@soundcities.org](mailto:alexis@soundcities.org) , (206) 495-5238; or, Deanna Dawson, SCA Executive Director, [deanna@soundcities.org](mailto:deanna@soundcities.org).

**King County Regional Homelessness Authority Governing Committee Members**

Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn; Mayor Angela Birney, Redmond; Council President Ed Prince, Renton

**Discussion**

The first meeting of the King County Regional Homelessness Authority Governing Committee is set for May 21, 2020. Items on the agenda for this first meeting of the Governing Committee are anticipated to include an update and proposal for the CEO recruitment process, a staff update on the timeline to achieve full operation of the Authority, review of a plan to appoint the Implementation Board, and selecting co-chairs for the Committee.

SCA will appoint two members to the Implementation Board and is continuing to collect names of potential nominees.

The May 13, 2020 PIC meeting will provide SCA members the opportunity to ask questions about the process, and to give feedback on the following topics, to aid SCA's representatives on the Governing Board:

- What is your city's philosophy when it comes to homelessness crisis response?
- What is your city doing to provide homelessness crisis response services currently?
- What are the gaps in crisis response in your city? Where are additional resources needed?
- What suggestions do you have for potential SCA appointees to the Implementation Board?

**Background**

The Regional Homelessness Authority, established by [Interlocal Agreement \(ILA\)](#) between King County and the City of Seattle in December 2019, is focused on homelessness crisis response and is charged with managing procurement for organizations that provide services to people experiencing homelessness or about to experience homelessness, including shelters, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, rapid rehousing.

It WILL:

- Manage grant allocations to the non-profits and other organizations that are service providers for people experiencing homelessness.
- Collect data from those recipients of public dollars
- Evaluate performance of those recipients of public dollars
- Oversee the Homelessness Management Information System
- Oversee Coordinated Entry for All, which is the county's front door service for people experiencing homelessness in the County, it is a mechanism in which they prioritize clients

It WILL NOT:

- Conduct direct services. It is not managing shelters or conducting its own programs.
- Address affordable housing. It will not concern construction of affordable housing, nor the create affordable housing policy.
- Address "upstream interventions" or behavioral health

The Authority will be managed by a CEO and select staff from Seattle and King County's homelessness divisions will be moved into the new entity. Until the CEO is hired, the co-located staff from the County and the City of Seattle will maintain their reporting structure (i.e. that person continues to report to the supervisor they currently have now).

The Governing Committee serves as the primary oversight body and is responsible for evaluating and approving all plans for the authority. SCA is represented on the Governing Committee by Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn; Mayor Angela Birney, Redmond; and Councilmember Ed Prince, Renton. Other members of the Committee include King County Councilmembers Joe McDermott and Reagan Dunn; Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan; Seattle City Councilmembers Lorena González and Andrew Lewis; and by three members representing lived experience.

The Homelessness Authority's structure also includes an Implementation Board that is responsible for developing and recommending organizational goals, policies and plans to the Governing Committee. The Implementation Board is comprised of individuals with expertise in a variety of subject matters associated with homelessness response. SCA has authority to appoint two individuals to the Implementation Board and is seeking recommendations from member cities.

For additional information on the KCRHA and its authority structure, please refer to the [March 11, 2020 PIC memo](#).

### **KCRHA Development**

The first meeting of the Governing Committee will take place May 21. At this first meeting, the Governing Committee will select a chair/co-chairs, affirm a process and timing for the CEO recruitment, and affirm a plan for appointing implementation board members. They will also

receive a briefing on the timeline to achieve full operation of the Authority. In the meantime, a team including three representatives from SCA, three from King County, three from Seattle, three members with lived experience, and one member with human services expertise has been formed to recommend a CEO recruitment firm for the new Authority. SCA's representatives include Executive Director Deanna Dawson, Bellevue Intergovernmental Relations Director Joyce Nichols, and Auburn HR Director Candis Martinson.

### **Feedback sought from PIC**

To prepare SCA representatives to the Governing Committee, SCA staff are asking SCA cities to send answers to the following questions discussed at the March PIC meeting:

- What is your city's philosophy when it comes to homelessness crisis response?
- What is your city doing to provide homelessness crisis response services currently?
- What are the gaps in crisis response in your city? Where are additional resources needed?
- What suggestions do you have for potential SCA appointees to the Implementation Board?

Responses to these questions will help guide SCA representatives in discussion and decision-making in their role on the Governing Committee.

### *Implementation Board Nominees*

SCA has authority to appoint two members to the Regional Homelessness Authority's Implementation Board, the body of subject matter experts and individuals with lived experience tasked making recommendations related to policies and budget. SCA member cities are encouraged to forward the names of individuals to nominate to serve on the Implementation Board.

Qualified individuals to serve on the Implementation Board include those possessing expertise in the following areas:

- Criminal justice
- Fiscal oversight
- Physical or behavioral health
- Academic research or data performance evaluation
- Affordable housing finance or development
- Business operations or strategy
- Equity implementation
- Homelessness Service Provision
- Federal Continuum of Care Service Provision
- Labor Unions/Workforce
- Youth Service
- Child Welfare

Implementation Board members are expected to be individuals who have connections to and experience with a broad range of stakeholders and communities. The majority of the Board is also required to be persons who are able to represent marginalized populations that are disproportionately represented among people experiencing homelessness.

Per the ILA forming the Authority, the Implementation Board “shall neither include elected officials nor employees of Seattle, the County or the Authority, nor employees, officials, agents or representatives of current Contract Holders or any entity that is likely to directly benefit from the actions of the Authority.”

### **Next Steps**

The Governing Committee will have their first meeting May 21.

SCA staff request that cities send responses to questions about homelessness crisis response and names of individuals who meet the above qualifications for the Implementation Board to SCA Executive Director, Deanna Dawson.

For more information contact Alexis Mercedes Rinck, SCA Policy Analyst, [alexis@soundcities.org](mailto:alexis@soundcities.org), (206) 495-5238; or, Deanna Dawson, SCA Executive Director, [deanna@soundcities.org](mailto:deanna@soundcities.org), (206) 495-3265.

**Item 10:**  
COVID-19 Impacts and Response  
***DISCUSSION***

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**SCA Staff Contact**

SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson, [deanna@soundcities.org](mailto:deanna@soundcities.org), (206) 495-3265

**Discussion**

Due to the quickly evolving nature of the COVID-19 emergency and response, SCA is providing frequent updates on the COVID-19 emergency by email. Recent high priority issues for cities include eligible uses for CARES Act funds; rules issued by the Governor's Office concerning reopening economic activity; and, the Governor's proclamation regarding the Open Public Meetings Act. Resources related to each of these priority areas are highlighted below. At the May 13 PIC meeting, SCA staff will provide an update for members.

**CARES Act Funding**

On April 27, Governor Inslee [announced](#) that nearly \$300 million from the state's allocation of federal funding under the CARES Act will be awarded to cities and counties that did not receive their own direct distributions under Act. The Office of Financial Management is expected to release guidance in the next week on eligible expenses that may be reimbursed by these funds, which are expected to be consistent with [guidance](#) issued by the US Treasury Department. The Department of Commerce is also anticipated to release a contract for cities. In addition, the Attorney General has issued two memos with guidance related to use of COVID-19 relief funds without violating Washington's prohibition on gift of public funds.

**Additional Resources:**

- US Treasury Department coronavirus relief fund [frequently asked questions](#).
- [March 17, 2020 Attorney General memo](#) clarifying that public funds may be spent "for the primary purpose of protecting and promoting public health which may have an incidental benefit on private citizens and entities."
- [April 6, 2020 Attorney General memo](#) providing further guidance that that under the present circumstances, local governments may provide cash assistance to low-income individuals struggling due to COVID-19 consistent with gift of public funds restrictions. The memo also notes that, with sufficient safeguards in place, grants or loans to small businesses struggling with the State-ordered closure of their businesses "are likely permissible if a local government can establish a clear nexus between such programs and either protecting the local economy or promoting compliance with public health guidelines."

### **Economic Reopening**

On May 4, Governor Inslee [Proclamation 20-25.3](#) extending the stay home order to May 31, and outlining a [four-phased plan](#) to reopening sectors of the economy. The Governor's Office is providing industry-specific guidance and safety criteria for businesses in each phase of the plan. Business activities are not authorized to open until guidance is approved and they are able to meet all safety criteria. More information and industry-specific guidance is available on the [Governor's Safe Start Website](#). Guidance has been released for construction, vehicle sales, outdoor recreation, and drive-in spiritual services. Guidance is expected to be released soon for expanded curb-side pick-up retail, car washes, landscaping, and pet walking.

### **Open Public Meetings Act**

Governor Inslee's Proclamation 20-28 and Proclamation 20-28.2 temporarily waives requirements to conduct in-person meetings under the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) to May 31, 2020. Meetings may be conducted remotely so long as an option for public attendance is provided and agencies are limited to taking action on matters that are "necessary and routine" or that respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

The Attorney General's Office has issued guidance on how to conduct public meetings under the Governor's order. [General guidance was released on March 6](#), which has since been followed by [supplemental guidance issued on March 26](#).

### **Next Steps**

For more information, contact SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson at [deanna@soundcities.org](mailto:deanna@soundcities.org), or (206) 495-3265.



May 13, 2020  
SCA PIC Meeting

**Informational Item 11.a:**  
**Levies and Ballot Measures in King County**  
**UPDATE**

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**SCA Staff Contact**

Brian Parry, Policy Director, [brian@soundcities.org](mailto:brian@soundcities.org), (206) 499-4159

**Discussion**

This is a monthly item on the PIC agenda to share information on recent and upcoming local levies and ballot measures in King County jurisdictions. Items identified as “potential future ballot measures” are under consideration or reflect potential renewal of an existing levy but have not been approved to be placed on the ballot and may not ultimately move forward.

Due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, the King County Council has determined not to move forward with a countywide transit levy in 2020. Similarly, the King County Library System rescinded action to place an operations levy on the August 2020 ballot and is now considering a potential measure in 2021. Other potential levies for 2020 that may also be impacted by the COVID-19 emergency include renewal of Seattle’s Transportation Benefit District (transit funding), and a potential levy lift for unincorporated King County roads. A proposed \$1.7 billion capital bond measure for Harborview Medical Center is still anticipated to still be placed on the ballot in November.

Please send information on any upcoming measures affecting your city to SCA Policy Director Brian Parry at [brian@soundcities.org](mailto:brian@soundcities.org) or 206-499-4159.

**Potential Future Ballot Measures – SCA Cities**

Year	Month	Jurisdiction	Measure
2020	November	Kirkland	Fire and Emergency Services Levy

**Potential Future Ballot Measures – Other Jurisdictions and Special Purpose Districts**

Year	Month	Jurisdiction	Measure
2020	November	Harborview Medical Center	\$1.7 billion capital construction bond measure at a rate of 15 to 18-cents per \$1,000 of assessed value*
2020		Seattle	Transportation Benefit District Renewal
2020		King County	Road Levy Lid Lift (unincorporated King County)
2021		King County Library System	Operations levy of 50-cents per \$1,000 of assessed value, up from the current rate of 32-cents per \$1,000.
2021		King County	Best Starts for Kids Renewal

\*Requires 60% yes vote for approval with a minimum of turnout of no less than 40% of voters voting in the district at the last general election

**Next Steps**

Please share this information with your city and provide information on upcoming elections in your city to SCA Policy Director Brian Parry at [brian@soundcities.org](mailto:brian@soundcities.org) or 206-499-4159.



**Informational Item 11.b:**  
**Potential Upcoming SCA Issues**  
**UPDATE**

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**SCA Staff Contact**

Brian Parry, Policy Director, [brian@soundcities.org](mailto:brian@soundcities.org), (206) 499-4159

**Update**

This is an ongoing, monthly PIC item noting issues that SCA members have asked to be brought to the PIC.

**Potential Issues**

The current COVID-19 crisis will have a substantial impact on what items are discussed at future PIC meetings, as well as SCA's ability to host educational and networking events. SCA staff and Board are in the process of reevaluating our work plan for the year, and would appreciate feedback from all our member cities.

Items identified as priorities before the crisis included:

- Transportation and mobility, including Metro transit service and funding
- Homelessness and governance of the region's response system
- Local infrastructure needs and tools for funding local needs
- Addressing the need for sustainable sources of funding for cities, and addressing budgetary challenges
- Strengthening civic discourse
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion, including planning for the 2020 Governing for Racial Equity Conference
- Apprenticeships and workforce development
- Addressing public safety concerns
- Behavioral Health
- Best Starts for Kids Levy renewal
- Education and training for newly elected officials
- The 2020 census, and work of the King County Regional Census Committee
- Solid waste and the future of recycling and disposal, including review of the new Waste to Energy study
- Affordable housing
- Managing growth and addressing its impacts, including implementation of VISION 2050
- Clean water plan and capital investments
- Environmental sustainability
- Economic development and expanding opportunity for prosperity

If you or your city has feedback, please contact SCA Policy Director Brian Parry, [brian@soundcities.org](mailto:brian@soundcities.org) or 206-499-4159.