SCA Public Issues Committee

June 8, 2022 – 7:00 PM

The June 8, 2022 Public Issues Committee (PIC) meeting will be held virtually.

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/84974181148?pwd=Mll3dzVUdmpvcCtpSUNXTE5iRHZYZz09
Or dial in by phone: 1-253-215-8782 / 849 7418 1148 / Passcode: 043464

AGENDA

1.	**Welcome and Roll Call** – Bill Boyce, Kent, Chair	5 minutes
2.	**Public Comment** – Bill Boyce, Kent, Chair	10 minutes
3.	Approval of Minutes – April 13, 2022 Meeting Page 6	5 minutes
4.	**Chair's Report** – Bill Boyce, Kent, Chair	5 minutes
5.	**Executive Director's Report** – Deanna Dawson, SCA Executive Director	10 minutes
6.	Regional Transit Committee Appointment ACTION Page 12 Brian Parry, SCA Policy Director	5 minutes
7.	Clean Water Plan Guiding Principles POTENTIAL FUTURE ACTION Page 14 Kazia Mermel, SCA Policy Analyst	20 minutes
8.	Conservation Futures Ballot Measure DISCUSSION Page 36 Brian Parry, SCA Policy Director	20 minutes
9.	King County Utility Rates DISCUSSION Page 42 Kazia Mermel, SCA Policy Analyst	10 minutes

10. Levies and Ballot Measures in King County 5 minutes
UPDATE
Page 46
Brian Parry, SCA Policy Director

11. Upcoming Events

12. SCA Board Meeting – Wednesday, June 15, 2022 – 10:00 AM to Noon

b. SCA Public Issues Committee Meeting – Wednesday, July 13, 2022 – 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

12. For the Good of the Order

13. 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
AHC	Affordable Housing Committee
AFIS Advisory Committee	Automated Fingerprint Identification System Advisory Committee
AWC	Association of Washington Cities
BOH	Board of Health
CSO	Combined Sewer Overflows
CYAB	Children and Youth Advisory Board
DCHS	King County Department of Community and Human Services
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
KCRHA	King County Regional Homelessness Authority
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
MRSC	Municipal Research Services Center
MSWMAC	Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee
MWPAAC	Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement 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
SKHHP	South King Housing and Homelessness Partners
SWAC	Solid Waste Advisory Committee
TPB	PSRC Transportation Policy Board
WTD	King County Wastewater Treatment Division

SCA Public Issues Committee
DRAFT MINUTES
April 13, 2022
TELEPHONIC

1. Welcome and Roll Call

PIC Chair Bill Boyce, Kent, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. 30 cities were represented (Attachment A). Lydia Assefa-Dawson, Federal Way joined the meeting at 7:31 PM during item 8.

Guests present included Deputy Mayor James Jeyaraj, Auburn (PIC Alternate); Councilmember Rick Shaffer, Duvall (PIC Alternate); Deputy Council President Zach Hall, Issaquah (PIC Alternate); Councilmember Amy Falcone, Kirkland (PIC Alternate); Councilmember Lorri Bodi, Lake Forest Park (PIC Alternate); Councilmember Valerie O'Halloran, Renton (PIC Alternate); Councilmember Kent Treen, Sammamish (PIC Alternate); Councilmember Gene Achziger, Des Moines; Councilmember Wendy Weiker, Mercer Island; Lacey Jane Wolfe, Bellevue staff; Amy Tsai, Redmond staff; Doug Levy, Renton consultant; Jenny Huston, King County staff; Olivia Robinson, King County staff; Tom Goff, King County Staff; Dorian Waller, King County King County staff; Joy Carpine-Cazzanti, King County staff; Maythia Airhart, King County staff.

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry provided an overview of how the meeting would be facilitated using Zoom Webinar. He noted that any discussion in the chat logs would be maintained for public records purposes and included in the PIC minutes (Attachment B).

2. Public Comment

Chair Boyce asked if there was anyone in attendance who would like to provide public comment. Seeing none, Chair Boyce closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

3. Approval of the March 9, 2022 PIC Minutes

Chair Boyce asked if there were any amendments to the March 9, 2022 PIC minutes. **Councilmember Joseph Cimaomo, Covington, moved, seconded by Councilmember Ross Loudenback, North Bend, to approve the March 9, 2022 PIC minutes. The motion passed unanimously.**

4. Chair's Report

In the interest of time, Chair Boyce moved to the next item on the agenda.

5. Executive Director's Report

SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson reported on the Regional Leadership Conference hosted by the Seattle-Metro Chamber and encouraged members to consider attending future ones. Dawson reported on recent changes to rules relating to in person meetings.

6. May 2022 Public Issues Committee Meeting Cancelation

SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson noted that PIC members previously discussed possibly canceling the May PIC meeting.

Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, moved, seconded by Deputy Mayor Traci Buxton, Des Moines, to cancel the May 2022 SCA Public Issues Committee meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

7. PSRC Executive Board Appointment

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported on a vacant position on the PSRC Executive Board.

SCA PIC Nominating Committee Chair Ross Loudenback reported that the PIC Nominating Committee recommended as follows:

> Councilmember James McNeal, Bothell, from alternate to member seat; Mayor Mary Lou Pauly, Issaquah, from second alternate to alternate seat; and Mayor Rob McFarland, North Bend to second alternate.

Councilmember Kate Kruller, Tukwila, moved, seconded by Councilmember Tola Marts, Issaquah, to recommend to the SCA board appointment of members to the PSRC Executive Board as follows: Councilmember James McNeal, Bothell, from alternate to member seat; Mayor Mary Lou Pauly, Issaquah, from second alternate to alternate seat; and Mayor Rob McFarland, North Bend to second alternate. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Local Actions on Climate Change

SCA Policy Analyst Kazia Mermel shared resources for cities to address climate change and briefed members on proposals to implement policies contained in HB 1099, which would have added new comprehensive planning requirements related to climate change. Multiple resources are available in the April 13 PIC Packet.

Councilmember Chris Roberts, Shoreline, spoke about the work Shoreline is doing to implement their climate action plan and to improve resiliency.

Councilmember Tola Marts, Issaquah, spoke about the work the Issaquah is doing to address climate impacts from fleet emissions and other sources.

Deputy Mayor Traci Buxton, Des Moines, spoke about the work the city is doing to reduce emissions and to enhance the environmental benefits of public spaces.

Council Vice President Vanessa Kritzer, Redmond, spoke about the city's efforts to adopt and implement their climate action plan.
Councilmember Kelli Curtis, Kirkland, spoke about the work the city is doing to incorporate decarbonization and sustainability into their comprehensive planning.

Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, suggested cities share their climate action plans to assist each other, and suggested working toward future coordination.

Mayor Armondo Pavone, Renton, spoke about the city's roadmap to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, sustainability, and to prepare for climate change, and how it will impact their upcoming comprehensive plan update.

Councilmember Lydia Assefa-Dawson, Federal Way, spoke about the work the city was doing to involve youth in preserving recreational space.

9. Affordable Housing Countywide Planning Policies

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported that the King County Affordable Housing Committee (AHC) is undertaking a review of the housing chapter of the Countywide Planning Policies. The purpose of this review is to consider actions that could be included in the CPP's to refine affordable housing targets with guidance from the Department of Commerce, improve monitoring of policy implementation and progress toward goals, and establish a mechanism for holding jurisdictions accountable to meeting those goals. At its meetings in April and May, the AHC will consider potential accountability framework actions that could be implemented either 1) at the time of comprehensive plan development, or 2) in future years as part of a monitoring and accountability process. Each of these proposals comes with trade-offs in terms of effectiveness, staff resources, local land use authority.

Councilmember Tola Marts, Issaquah, said that early guidance would be welcome, but asked for more information about the costs and benefits of the other approaches.

Councilmember Paul Charbonneau, Newcastle, said that every city should review their plans and look to make proactive changes needed to promote affordable housing.

Deputy Mayor Traci Buxton, Des Moines, noted the differences in housing markets in the region and the need for resources to implement housing strategies effectively.]

Councilmember Amy Lam, Sammamish, said there should be some consideration given to the resources needed for multiple comprehensive plan reviews through the Puget Sound Regional Council, the WA Department of Commerce, and potentially an added review.

Council Vice President Vanessa Kritzer, Redmond, noted the benefits of the support the city received from the Department of Commerce to develop their affordable housing strategy. She said the city would appreciate learning more about what supportive resources might be available, and to participate in developing the benchmarks to measure progress.

Councilmember Kelli Curtis, Kirkland, spoke about the city's housing strategy and their recent adoption of affordable housing targets. She noted the need to recognize the different challenges and needs for different solutions as well as the contributions of collaborations such as A Regional Coalition for Housing (ARCH) and South King Housing and Homelessness Partners (SKHHP).

10. Solid Waste and Sewer Rates
SCA Policy Analyst Kazia Mermel reported King County is in the process of developing 2023 sewer rates and solid waste rates and fees that would take effect January 1, 2023. For the 2023 sewer rate, WTD is recommending a 5.75% increase, increasing the monthly sewer rate to $52.11. Rate drivers include COVID-19 revenue impacts, high inflation, labor market constraints, reliability investments, regulatory responses, capacity increasing investments, the Clean Water Plan, and climate change.

For the 2023-2024 solid waste rates, the King County Solid Waste Division (SWD) is recommending a rate path that will raise the current per-ton disposal rate by 8.94% for 2023, translating to an additional $0.89 on the average monthly bill for curbside customers. This increase is slightly lower than was anticipated last year for 2023 (9.40%) due to an underspend in 2021-22 of about $6 million. In addition to the solid waste fee, SWD is recommending that the yard waste recycling fee increase from the current cost of $100 per ton to $115 per ton. These recommended rates are subject to change prior to transmittal to the Executive. SCA staff will provide updates as they are available.

Recently, the King County Solid Waste Division (SWD) evaluated options to restructure the solid waste rate to align the division's revenue model with its strategic goal of eliminating all reusable material from the solid waste stream by 2030. The new rate structure with a fixed charge was adopted by County Council in March of 2022 and has been incorporated into the 2023-2024 solid waste rates proposal.

11. Regional Transportation Plan
SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported on the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The RTP serves as the region's long-range transportation plan under both federal and state law and was developed to implement VISION 2050, the region's long-range plan for growth management. The plan is updated every four years for adoption by the Puget Sound Regional Council General Assembly, which includes representatives of each jurisdiction in the four-county PSRC region (King, Kitsap, Pierce, Snohomish).

12. Levies and Ballot Measures in King County

13. Upcoming Events
Chair Boyce highlighted upcoming SCA events, including: Legislative debrief on May 6 at 3:30 PM

14. For the Good of the Order

15. Adjourn
The meeting was adjourned 8:19 PM.

Public Issues Committee Meeting
March 9, 2022

City	Representative	Alternate
Algona	Dave Hill	Troy Linnell
Auburn	Nancy Backus	James Jeyaraj
Beaux Arts Village	Aletha Howes	
Bellevue	Janice Zahn	Jeremy Barksdale
Black Diamond	Tamie Deady	
Bothell	James McNeal	Rami Al-Kabra
Burien	Sofia Aragon	Cydney Moore
Carnation	Kim Lisk	Dustin Green
Clyde Hill	Marianne Klaas	Kim Muromoto
Covington	Joseph Cimaomo	Kristina Soltys
Des Moines	Traci Buxton	
Duvall	Michelle Hogg	Rick Shaffer
Enumclaw	Chance LaFleur	Corrie Koopman Frazier
Federal Way	Susan Honda	Lydia Assefa-Dawson
Hunts Point	Joseph Sabey	
Issaquah	Tola Marts	Zach Hall
Kenmore	David Baker	Corina Pfeil
Kent	Bill Boyce	
Kirkland	Kelli Curtis	Amy Falcone
Lake Forest Park	Tom French	Lorri Bodi
Maple Valley	Sean Kelly	Les Burberry
Medina	Jennifer Garone	Jessica Rossman
Mercer Island	David Rosenbaum	Ted Weinberg
Milton	Shanna Styron Sherrell	Tim Cedar
Newcastle	Linda Newing	Paul Charbonneau
Normandy Park	Sue-Ann Hohimer	Eric Zimmerman
North Bend	Ross Loudenback	Heather Koellen
Pacific	Leanne Guier	
Redmond	Vanessa Kritzer	Angela Birney
Renton	Armondo Pavone	Valerie O'Halloran
Sammamish	Amy Lam	Kent Treen
SeaTac	Jake Simpson	Iris Guzmán
Shoreline	Chris Roberts	John Ramsdell
Skykomish	Henry Sladek	
Snoqualmie	James Mayhew	Cara Christensen
Tukwila	Kate Kruller	Kathy Hougardy
Woodinville	Mike Millman	Rachel Best-Campbell
Yarrow Point	Katy Harris	

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

SCA Public Issues Committee – April 13, 2022
Attachment B – Zoom Chat Log

19:05:02 From Jennifer Garone, Medina to Hosts and panelists:
Medina is here. Dialing in from my phone doesn't appear to work so will dial back in
19:39:53 From Mike Millman, Woodinville to Hosts and panelists:
yes a shareable document please

June 8, 2022
SCA PIC Meeting

Item 6:
Regional Transit Committee Appointment
ACTION ITEM

SCA Staff Contact
Brian Parry, SCA Policy Director, brian@soundcities.org , 206-499-4159

SCA PIC Nominating Committee Members
Councilmember Ross Loudenback, North Bend, Chair; Councilmember Chance LaFleur, Enumclaw; Councilmember Kelli Curtis, Kirkland; Councilmember Traci Buxton, Des Moines

Action

To recommend the SCA Board of Directors appoint Mayor Katherine Ross, Snoqualmie, to a vacant SCA member position on the Regional Transit Committee as recommended by the PIC Nominating Committee.

If approved by PIC, the recommendation will be sent to the SCA Board of Directors for final approval at their meeting on June 15.

Discussion
The Regional Transit Committee (RTC) is one of three regional committees formed when voters approved the merger of the Municipality of Metropolitan Seattle (Metro) and King County in the 1990s. RTC reviews and makes recommendations to the King County Council on policies for public transportation services operated by King County Metro. The committee's responsibilities include adopting, repealing, or amending regional transit countywide policies and plans included in the committee's adopted work program. SCA appoints eight members and four alternates to the RTC.

Following deliberation, the PIC Nominating Committee recommends appointing Mayor Katherine Ross, Snoqualmie, to fill the vacant member position on the RTC. Appointing Ross would provide representation on the committee from the SCA Snoqualmie Valley caucus. The remaining seven members and four alternates represent the SCA North and South caucuses.

Regional Transit Committee, SCA Appointments with New Member Recommended by the PIC Nominating Committee on June 1, 2022

Seat	Name	City	Caucus
Member	Ryan McIrvin	Renton	S
Member	Jon Pascal	Kirkland	N
Member	Jennifer Robertson	Bellevue	N

Member	Bob Baggett	Auburn	S
Member	Toni Troutner	Kent	S
Member	Joseph Cimaomo, Jr.	Covington	S
Member	Christie Malchow	Sammamish	N
New Member	***Katherine Ross***	***Snoqualmie***	***SNO***
Alternate	Barb de Michelle	Issaquah	N
Alternate	Vanessa Kritzer	Redmond	N
Alternate	Betsy Robertson	Shoreline	N
Alternate	Kathy Hougardy	Tukwila	S

Next Steps

If approved by PIC, the recommendation will be sent to the SCA Board of Directors for final approval at their meeting on June 15. Questions can be sent to SCA Policy Director Brian Parry at (206) 499-4159 or brian@soundcities.org.

June 8, 2022
SCA PIC Meeting

Item 07:
Clean Water Plan Guiding Principles
POTENTIAL FUTURE ACTION

SCA Staff Contact
Kazia Mermel, SCA Policy Analyst, kazia@soundcities.org , 206-495-3020

SCA RWQC Committee Members
Mayor Penny Sweet, Kirkland (Caucus Chair, RWQC Vice Chair); Councilmember Conrad Lee, Bellevue (Caucus Vice Chair); Councilmember Victoria Hunt, Issaquah; Councilmember Laura Mork, Shoreline; Councilmember Tim Harris, Carnation (alternate); Mayor Jessica Rossman, Medina (alternate)

Discussion

King County's Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) is developing a Clean Water Plan (CWP) that will guide billions of dollars of water quality investment decisions through 2060. The decisions made in the CWP will have significant implications for water quality, climate resilience, and sewer rates across King County.

In November 2021, WTD put the planning process on pause indefinitely to allow time for regulatory uncertainty to resolve and to better incorporate feedback from stakeholders, including members of the Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC).

SCA representatives on the Regional Water Quality Committee and their staff have collaborated with representatives and staff from Seattle and the sewer districts to draft Guiding Principles to guide their engagement with the development of the CWP (Attachment A). These Guiding Principles outline expectations for affordability, equity, scope, and process, among other important priorities shared across the cities and sewer districts.

SCA representatives on the RWQC are seeking input from PIC members on these Guiding Principles to ensure they are representative of SCA cities. Based on discussion at the June 8 PIC meeting, PIC members may consider taking action to bring the guiding principles back to a future meeting, potentially in July, to recommend approval by the SCA Board of Directors.

Background
The King County Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) manages and maintains wastewater treatment infrastructure and services for 17 cities, 17 local sewer districts, and over 1.5 million residents. Since 2019, WTD has been developing a Clean Water Plan (CWP) that will guide the county's investments in wastewater treatment through 2060, addressing issues like aging

infrastructure, a growing population, climate change impacts, pollution, and changing regulatory requirements. The CWP will amend and update the Regional Wastewater Services Plan (RWSP) that was approved by the King County Council in 1999 and established plans and programs for the 2000-2030 planning horizon.

In November 2021, WTD put the planning process on pause indefinitely to allow for regulatory uncertainty to resolve and to better incorporate feedback from stakeholders, including members of the Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC). Although the exact timeline for restarting the planning process is not yet known, WTD has described the pause as having three steps:

- Step 1: Stop, listen, compile, and consider feedback.
- Step 2: Identify course corrections or adjustments to the Plan and planning process and seek comment from a variety of interested parties on those corrections.
- Step 3: Restart the planning process as adjusted.

In May 2021, WTD indicated that they are nearing the conclusion of Step 1.

Additional information on the development of the CWP can be found in the February 9, 2022 PIC Packet.

Examples of feedback on the CWP that have been provided include a letter from the King County Auditor's Office (Attachment B), as well as questions submitted by individual RWQC members to WTD.

Guiding Principles for the Clean Water Plan

To help guide engagement with the CWP planning process, SCA staff have been meeting with sewer district staff, Seattle Public Utilities staff, and SCA city staff who support members on RWQC and other regional committees to draft Guiding Principles for the CWP (Attachment A). These Guiding Principles outline expectations for affordability, equity, scope, and process, among other important priorities shared across the cities and sewer districts.

Next Steps

At the July PIC meeting, members will review and consider taking action to recommend the SCA Board adopt the Clean Water Plan Guiding Principles as recommended by the SCA Caucus to RWQC. Questions and comments can be directed to SCA Policy Analyst Kazia Mermel at kazia@soundcities.org or 206-495-3020.

Draft SCA Clean Water Plan Guiding Principles

We appreciate the consideration that the Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) is giving to the Clean Water Plan development process, and in particular the decision to put the Plan on pause. We want to take the opportunity afforded by the pause to share some comments and requests as WTD develops its next steps.

Vision: Create a Clean Water Plan that acts as a prioritization hierarchy for deciding which wastewater-specific actions should be taken and when over the coming four decades to ensure that the wastewater treatment system provides sufficient treatment service, meets regulatory requirements, advances equity, aligns with stakeholder priorities, and protects public health and the environment while addressing affordability.

Scope:

1. **Include only wastewater-specific actions.** Because the Clean Water Plan is funded by revenue generated by sewer rates, the scope of the Plan should only include wastewater specific actions. Sewer ratepayers should not bear the costs of projects outside of that scope (e.g., stormwater management, removal of creosote pilings).
    a. **Plan to address the priorities identified through stakeholder outreach (Fig. 1) through wastewater-specific actions.**
2. **Clarify the relationship between the Clean Water Plan, other King County plans, and existing WTD programs.** Explain whether the existing direction of these programs will be revised, and if so, within what time frame. State any impacts the CWP will have on capital costs of other programs as well as any impacts capital costs of other programs will have on the total cost of the CWP.

Baseline Objectives:

Service Levels

3. **Define the minimum service levels that must be provided to:**
    a. **meet an acceptable level of service in each program area during each decade.** Articulate criteria for defining acceptable and affordable service levels for different programs (asset management, conveyance, treatment, climate change preparedness, resource recovery, etc.). Include the levels of service that WTD currently provides for each program area, as well as projections of how service levels will change in response to anticipated population changes throughout the region.
    b. **meet regulatory requirements.** Articulate a plan to meet regulatory requirements that is in keeping with these Guiding Principles and then validate this approach with stakeholders including MWPAAC and RWQC.
4. **Define intermediate and aspirational levels above the minimum service levels.** Articulate the service levels at a range of options that allow policy makers to meaningfully weigh tradeoffs.

Rates and Costs

5. **Center considerations of affordability in setting sewer rates, including the impact of other non-wastewater regional service costs imposed on ratepayers.** The County should have a

robust conversation with system users about what sewer rate is reasonably affordable considering the totality of ratepayer cost burdens, including the rates charged both by King County's system and by contract and local systems.

6. **Maintain an emphasis on total sewer rates.** When evaluating affordability, consider the impacts a decision will have on the total sewer rate, where the total sewer rate is defined as the rate to cover both King County and local system rates. Ultimately, it is the total sewer rate that impacts ratepayers. Often, contract agencies must forgo or delay their own system improvements as a result of proposed improvements to the County's system in order to lessen the financial burden of increases to the total sewer rate on ratepayers.
7. **Make it a CWP policy to control rate increases by smoothing.** The County took this approach in 2021.
8. **Describe the rate drivers and categories of costs.** Clearly show what proportion of King County rate increases are a result of operational rate drivers, capital rate drivers, regulatory rate drivers, etc. Provide detailed costs of each.

Equity

9. **Provide equitable service levels to all communities.**
10. **Ensure no communities receive a disproportionate financial burden or unmitigated construction or operational impacts.** Create programs that provide support to low-income ratepayers.
11. **Ensure applicable policies and goals from the County's Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan are reflected in the CWP processes, strategies, and outcomes.** Create mechanisms to track progress toward achieving equity goals.

Prioritization

12. **Provide clear policy choices and their respective impacts, and then create a hierarchy of priorities based on system needs and strong technical analysis.**
13. **Continue to share the results of stakeholder engagement, including engagement with both system customers and other stakeholders.** WTD has spent a large amount of time on stakeholder outreach and has identified the following CWP priorities (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Clean Water Plan priorities, as identified by stakeholder outreach conducted by the Wastewater Treatment Division.

Process:

14. **Build in a review of the Clean Water Plan at least once each decade.** Given the multidecade nature of the plan, opportunities to evaluate and adjust should be built into the process.
15. **Define the contents of the Clean Water Plan document and any other associated documents that will be developed to support it.** Describe how policies from the current Regional Wastewater System Plan will be replaced by policies laid out in the Clean Water Plan. Consider renaming the plan so that it clearly addresses only wastewater.
16. **Provide RWQC representatives with detailed financial and regulatory information before asking them to make decisions.**
17. **Clearly define the review and approval process and the expectations for local agencies.**
18. **Maintain a substantive collaboration between WTD and contract participants in the creation of the CWP.** Shift the process from "Your Plan" (County's) to "Our Plan" (WTD and contract participants). Collaboration could potentially take one or more of the following forms:
    a. **Consider a phased approach.** Define the policies undergirding the plan—and seek approval of the policies by the Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC) and the King County Council before developing Strategies for the Decision Areas.
    b. **Consider a process whereby the County seeks ratification/adoption of the CWP by 66% of the County's wastewater contract agencies.** This process is required for adoption of the King County Solid Waste Comprehensive Plan, pursuant to interlocal agreement.[1] This adoption process worked for obtaining consensus on that Plan.
19. **Align the contract structure with the goals of the CWP.** Identify characteristics of the current contract that may impede or contradict the goals of the CWP, and make adjustments to bring contracts in line with the Clean Water Plan.

In addition to these principles stated, we support the recommendations and questions shared in the King County Auditor's Office September 30, 2021 letter.

We appreciate the pause and WTD's willingness to listen and adjust in response to comments and concerns as we collaborate on this important plan. Thank you!

[1] King County Solid Waste Comprehensive Plan
11.6.b The Comprehensive Plan is approved by cities representing three-quarters of the population of the incorporated population of jurisdictions that are parties to the Forum Interlocal Agreement. In calculating the three-quarters, the calculations shall consider only those incorporated jurisdictions taking formal action to approve or disapprove the Comprehensive Plan within 120 days of receipt of the Plan. The 120-day time period shall begin to run from receipt by an incorporated jurisdiction of the Forum's recommendation on the Comprehensive Plan, or, if the Forum is unable to make a recommendation, upon receipt of the Comprehensive Plan from the Forum without recommendation.
11.7 Should the Comprehensive Plan be approved by the King County Council, but not receive approval of three-quarters of the cities acting on the Comprehensive Plan, and should King County and the cities be unable to resolve their disagreement, then the Comprehensive Plan shall be referred to the State Department of Ecology and the State Department of Ecology will resolve any disputes regarding the Comprehensive Plan adoption and adequacy by approving or disapproving the Comprehensive Plan or any part thereof.

KING COUNTY AUDITOR'S OFFICE

SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

Presentation of Clean Water Plan Strategies: Need for Increased Transparency around Costs, Risks, and Guiding Principles

The King County Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) is at a critical juncture in development of the Clean Water Plan (CWP) as it prepares to develop its preferred strategy for billions of dollars in future wastewater investments. We reviewed WTD's presentation of Actions and strategies to policy-makers and identified a lack of transparency about the risk that some strategies being considered may not meet current and future regulatory requirements, a lack of clear project cost information, and an absence of clarity in guiding principles that could leave optimal strategies off the table.

In this letter, we describe our observations and suggest questions policy-makers may ask WTD to resolve before a preferred strategy is presented for adoption. These questions are provided in blue callout boxes at the end of each section and in Appendix 1.

Policy-maker opportunity to provide input on Clean Water Plan development

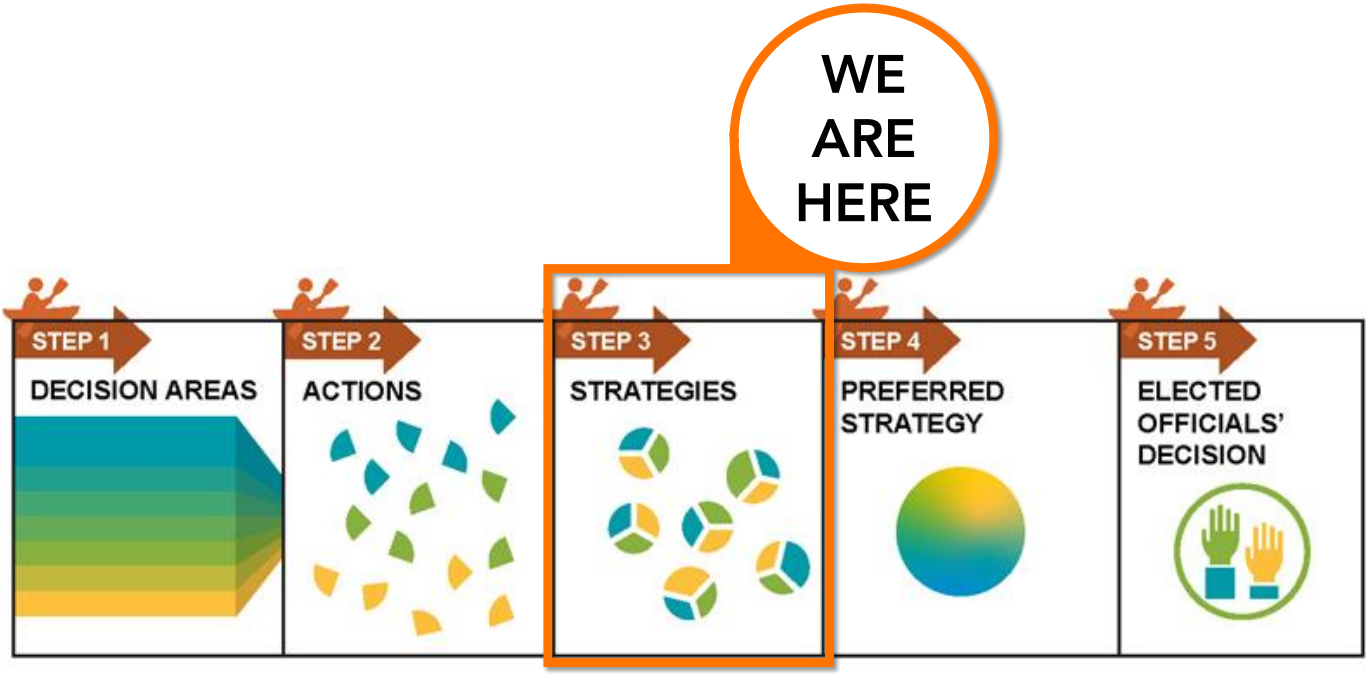
King County policy-makers currently have an opportunity to weigh options and ask questions about the strategies proposed by WTD for how the County prioritizes and spends billions of dollars on wastewater facilities and water quality investments over the next 40 years. These wastewater investments will directly impact monthly base rates and capacity charges as well as water quality throughout the region.

Development of the CWP is a five-step process, illustrated in exhibit A, below. In step 2, WTD identified Actions[1] that King County could implement, ranging from wastewater treatment plant upgrades to enhanced source control programs. WTD is currently in step 3—Strategy Development and Analysis—where WTD has grouped selections of Actions into five strategies that represent different approaches to wastewater investment. WTD now has initial strategies and has presented them to policy-makers for discussion and feedback. After the conclusion of the current step, the County Executive will select a preferred strategy and refer a proposal to the Regional Water Quality Committee for both its review and the recommendation to transmit it to the King County Council for adoption.

[1] WTD summarized these Actions in its *Actions: Characterizing Water Quality Investment Options* (2021) report.

King County

EXHIBIT A: Development process for Clean Water Plan.



Source: King County Auditor's Office modified graphic from Wastewater Treatment Division Clean Water Plan.

Some WTD strategies may not be viable under current and potential future regulations

WTD is asking policy-makers to affirm whether the range of strategies presented should proceed to evaluation without clear information from WTD on how external conditions could affect the feasibility of the proposed strategies and component Actions. By exploring different strategies, policy-makers can discuss and weigh priorities, such as ensuring rate affordability and maximizing water quality improvement. However, wastewater conveyance and treatment are highly regulated, and regulatory decisions, both current and future, can have significant impacts that limit the range of feasible options. For these discussions to be meaningful, and to effectively inform decision-making, policy-makers must have clear information about each strategy's viability in the wastewater regulatory environment and how both WTD assumptions and federal and state regulations could affect strategy feasibility. Without this information, policy-makers may find themselves choosing a strategy which is not viable under current or future regulations, risking the imposition of wastewater investment decisions by regulatory agencies and losing control over rates.

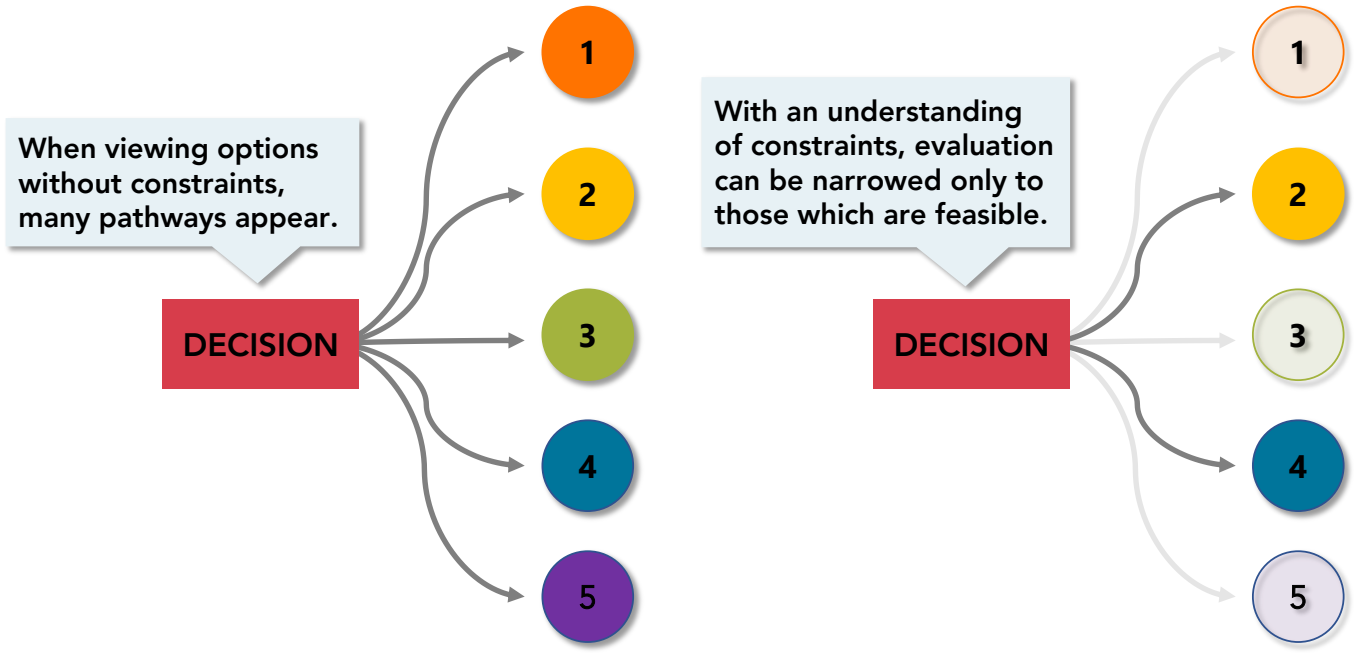
Additionally, if WTD does not analyze strategies against current and future regulatory considerations, plans for plant expansion could be at risk. Based on the 2019 *Treatment Plant Flows and Loadings Study Summary Report*, King County's largest wastewater treatment plants (WWTP)—Brightwater, South Plant, and West Point—are at or expected to exceed design parameters[2] and require expansion or facility re-

[2] All three facilities are expected to exceed max month influent loading for Total Suspended Solids (TSS) and 5-day Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD_5) within the planning period. According to the 2019 *Treatment Plant Flows and Loadings Study Summary Report* West Point is already near the maximum month influent levels. South Plant is expected to reach max month loading between 2025 and 20230, and Brightwater is expected to reach maximum month loading between 2020 and 2023.

rating[3] to serve forecasted demand growth in the region. As part of the plant expansion process, WTD will need to modify each facility's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit, at which time the public—including tribal and non-governmental organizations—will have the opportunity to weigh in and could oppose changes on the basis of the WWTPs by applying all known, available, and reasonable methods of prevention, control, and treatment. If this were to occur, WTD may find that it cannot meet the needs of new growth, leading to a moratorium on new service connections.

Modeling the impact of regulatory outcomes on various strategies by WTD will help ensure policy-makers are considering viable strategies, that they understand the impacts of regulatory outcomes on consumer rates, and ensure plants are able to serve growth in the region. Moreover, it can help the County create a roadmap of alternatives should a crucial assumption prove false.

EXHIBIT B: Evaluating constraints, such as regulatory changes, allows policy-makers to focus only on feasible plans of action.



Source: King County Auditor's Office.

The five strategies proposed by WTD are unlikely to be feasible given current expectations around future regulatory outcomes. Regulatory uncertainty comes largely from two areas, both related to federal Clean Water Act compliance: King County's consent decree with the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for combined sewer overflows (CSO) and the Puget Sound Nutrient Source Reduction Program. These

[3] Re-rating is a process by which a plant's design parameters (Flow, Total Suspended Solids, Biological Oxygen Demand) are modified without making capital improvements. Facility expansion is the process of adding infrastructure to the plant to support higher design parameters.

regulations can dictate the range of feasible Actions within two of the highest cost decision areas identified by WTD: wastewater treatment[4] and wet weather management.[5]

EXHIBIT C: Federal and state regulatory decisions may make many of the strategies proposed by WTD infeasible.

SCENARIO	Existing consent decree; no nitrogen limits issued	Modified consent decree; no nitrogen limits issued	Modified consent decree; nitrogen loading set at current levels	Existing consent decree; nitrogen loading set at current levels	Nitrogen loading set at 8mg/L equivalent	Nitrogen set at 3mg/L equivalent
STRATEGIES PROPOSED BY WTD	A	A	A	A	A	A
	B	B	B	B	B	B
	C	C	C	C	C	C
	D	D	D	D	D	D
	E	E	E	E	E	E

Source: King County Auditor's Office analysis of WTD strategies as presented to the Regional Water Quality Committee on July 7, 2021.

None of the strategies presented by WTD[6] would result in a nitrogen reduction within the range of nutrient loading limits likely to be set by the Department of Ecology (DOE).[7] WTD has identified

[4] The wastewater treatment decision area cost will vary based upon actions selected for implementation, but is estimated by WTD to have a cost at most optimistic between $710 million to $27.7 billion. WTD states conceptual capital cost estimates are provided with an accuracy of most optimistic to plus 150%.

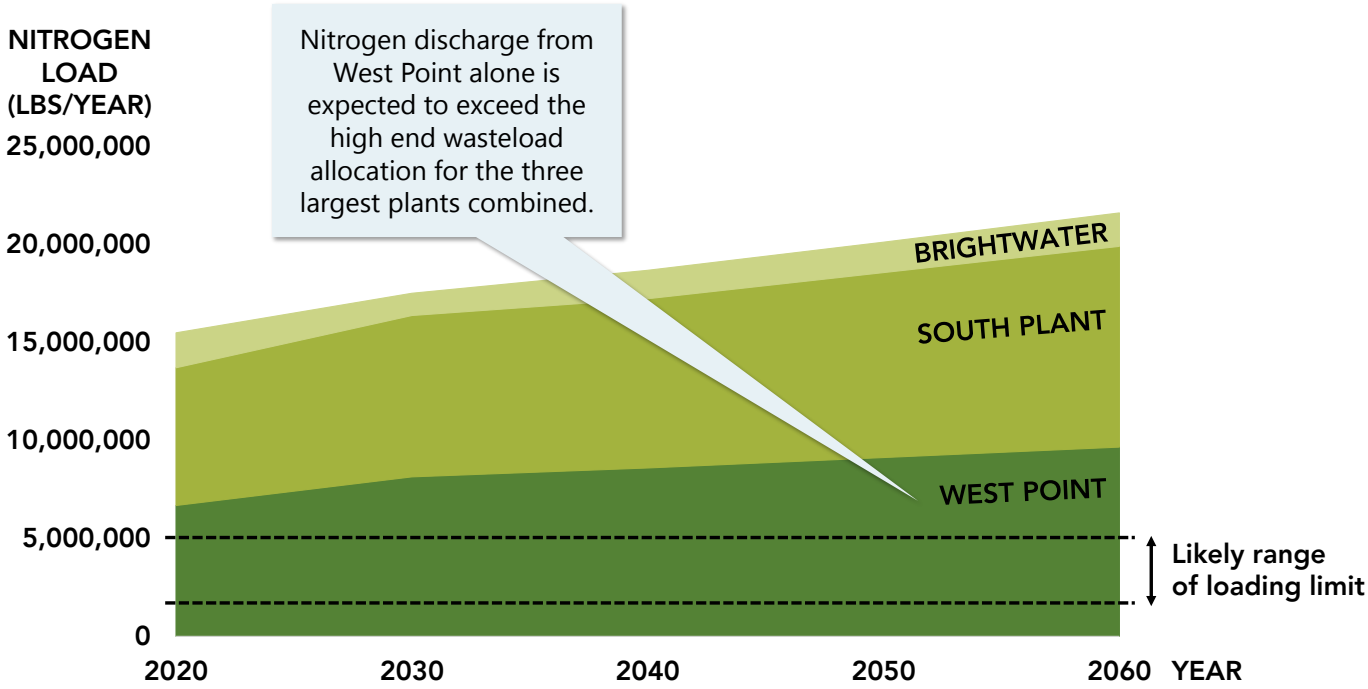
[5] The wet weather management decision area cost will vary based upon actions selected for implementation, estimated by WTD to cost, at most optimistic, between $3.3 billion and $20 billion in conceptual capital. WTD states conceptual capital cost estimates are provided with an accuracy of most optimistic to plus 150%.

[6] Strategy A, as presented to date by WTD in *Actions: Characterizing Water Quality Investment Options* (2021), proposes individual nitrogen reduction at each regional WWTP at 8mg/L.

[7] The Puget Sound Nutrient Source Reduction Program (PSNSRP) is a Department of Ecology (DOE) program to develop a nutrient reduction plan and accompanying wasteload allocations for anthropogenic sources of nitrogen within the Puget Sound watershed. While wasteload allocations are in development, DOE plans on issuing the first Puget Sound Nutrient General Permit (PSNGP) effective January 1, 2022, which will set action levels for municipal wastewater treatment plants that directly discharge to Puget Sound. These action levels are based upon historical nitrogen loading and were set with the goal of preventing nitrogen loading to Puget Sound from increasing from current levels. For jurisdictions like King County with multiple plants, the most recent draft permit allows a jurisdiction to choose to either use a bubbled action level for all three plants, allowing flexibility for improved nitrogen treatment at one plant to offset nitrogen increases at another, or individual plant action levels. In the second permit cycle, the PSNGP will set a nitrogen-loading limit, in pounds per year (lb/yr), for King County's wastewater treatment plants (WWTP). The wasteload allocation is not a concentration-based limit. If an 8mg/L effluent limit on nitrogen achieves the required loading limit in the second permit cycle, future growth in the service area will require further nitrogen removal efforts or a decrease in effluent volume to Puget Sound (i.e., through

wastewater treatment plant improvements and decentralized approaches[8] that may result in a nitrogen reduction within the likely range of outcomes, but this approach is not presented as a wholistic strategy to demonstrate what compliance with potential nitrogen limits would require. Exhibit D, below, shows nitrogen loading under various scenarios, with bars representing the lower and higher range of wasteload allocations currently being modeled by DOE.

EXHIBIT D: Without significant reductions, King County will not comply with potential future nutrient limits developed by the Department of Ecology.



Projected Wastewater Treatment Plant Nitrogen[9] Loading at Existing Treatment

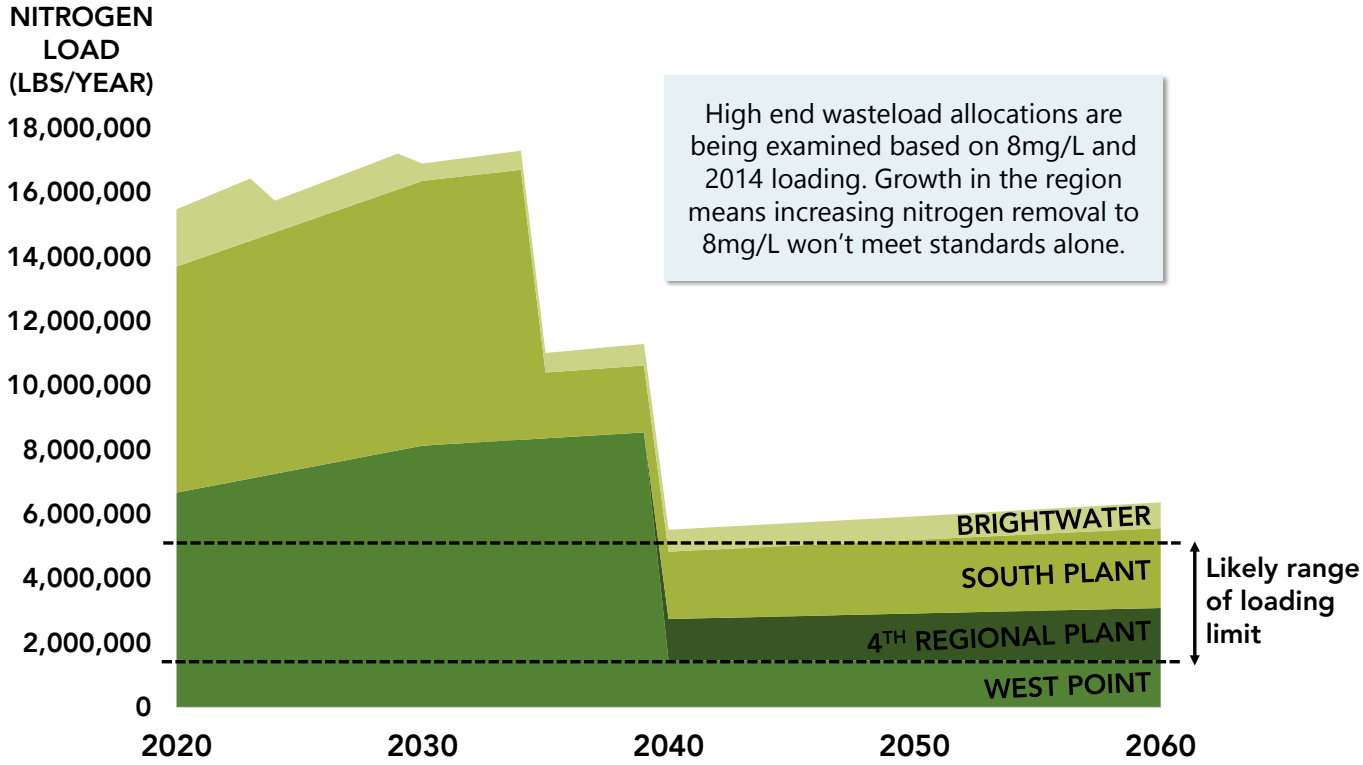
Source: King County Auditor's Office analysis of data from WTD Priority 1 question responses dated August 16, 2021, Brown and Caldwell *King County Nitrogen Removal Study: Final Report,* September 2020, *Brightwater Treatment Plant Peak Flow and Wasteload Projects 2010-2060,* January 2019, *South Plant Treatment Plant Peak Flow and Wasteload Projects 2010-2060,* January 2019, *West Point Treatment Plant Peak Flow and Wasteload Projects 2010-2060,* January 2019, and Department of Ecology Salish Sea Year 2 Modeling Inputs provided August 2021.

aquifer recharge or indirect potable reuse) in order to maintain the same nitrogen-loading level. DOE is currently modeling scenarios that evaluate water quality improvements based upon different nitrogen reduction scenarios. For King County's plants, these scenarios range from nitrogen-bubbled loads of approximately 11 to 33 percent of 2020 levels (wasteload allocation range of 1,690,010 lbs/yr to 5,076,150 lbs/yr). It is, therefore, reasonable to assume the wasteload allocation for King County's WWTPs will be in this range.

[8] These approaches included building scale decentralized treatment, secondary treatment at wet weather treatment stations, implementation of treatment upgrades to achieve 8mg/L TIN at West Point and 3m/L at South Plant and Brightwater, and advanced treatment and beneficial use of South Plant effluent.

[9] Where the word nitrogen is used in the report, it means total inorganic nitrogen or TIN.

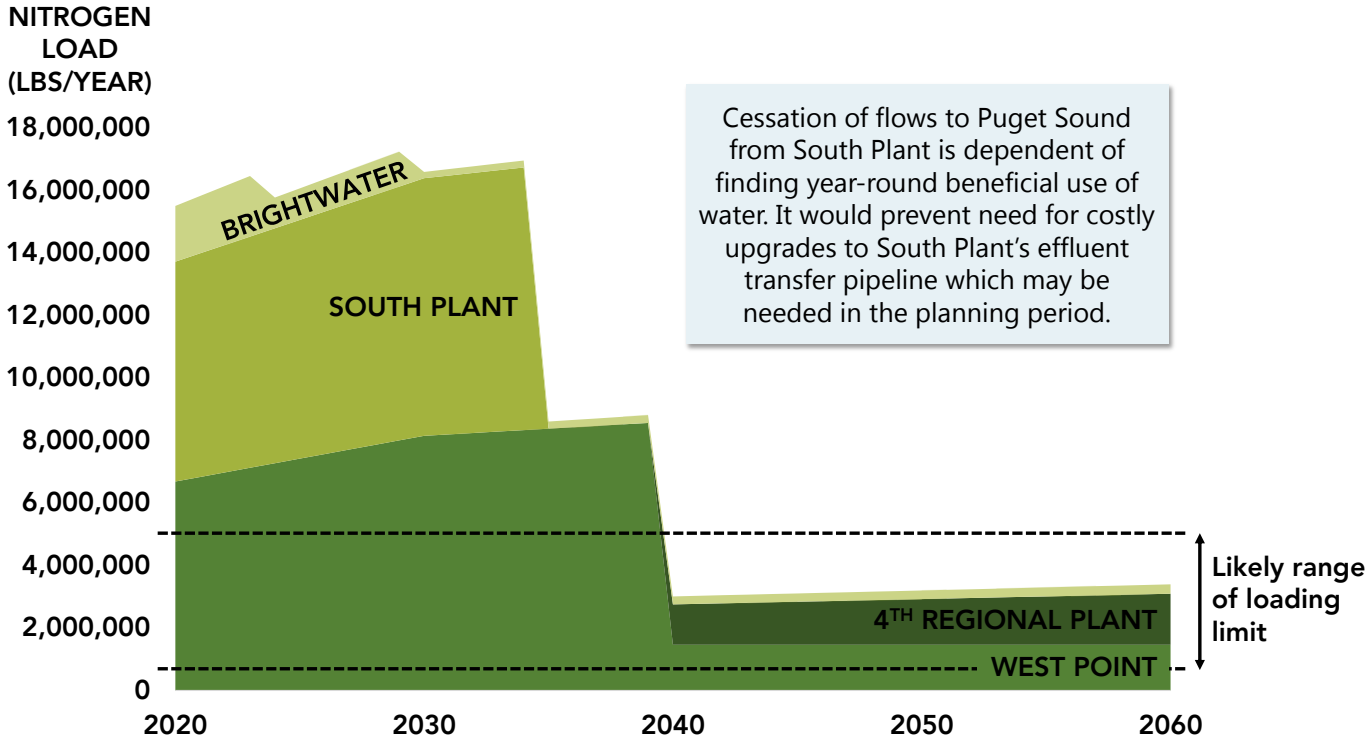
EXHIBIT E: Even the most aggressive wastewater treatment plant reductions proposed may not meet likely nutrient limits developed by the Department of Ecology.



Projected Wastewater Treatment Plant Nitrogen Loading Per Year with Treatment Upgrades to 8mg/L Effluent Nitrogen Concentration (Strategy A)

Source: King County Auditor's Office analysis of data from WTD Priority 1 question responses dated August 16, 2021, Clean Water Plan Advisory Group Meeting #10 Briefing Document, *Actions Characterizing Water Quality Investment Options,* May 2021, Brown and Caldwell *King County Nitrogen Removal Study: Final Report,* September 2020, *Brightwater Treatment Plant Peak Flow and Wasteload Projects 2010-2060*, January 2019, *South Plant Treatment Plant Peak Flow and Wasteload Projects 2010-2060,* January 2019, *West Point Treatment Plant Peak Flow and Wasteload Projects 2010-2060,* January 2019, and Department of Ecology Salish Sea Year 2 Modeling Inputs provided August 2021. This assumes one regional facility is upgraded every five years, starting in 2030.

EXHIBIT F: WTD has identified wastewater treatment improvements which may meet likely nutrient limits developed by the Department of Ecology, but they are not presented by any Action, or within any strategy.



Projected Wastewater Treatment Plant Nitrogen Loading Per Year Treatment Upgrades to 8mg/L Effluent at West Point, 3m/L at Brightwater, and Full Reuse of South Plant Effluent

Source: King County Auditor's Office analysis of data from WTD Priority 1 question responses dated August 16, 2021, Brown and Caldwell, *Actions Characterizing Water Quality Investment Options,* May 2021, *King County Nitrogen Removal Study: Final Report,* September 2020, *Brightwater Treatment Plant Peak Flow and Wasteload Projects 2010-2060,* January 2019, *South Plant Treatment Plant Peak Flow and Wasteload Projects 2010-2060,* January 2019, *West Point Treatment Plant Peak Flow and Wasteload Projects 2010-2060,* January 2019, and Department of Ecology Salish Sea Year 2 Modeling Inputs provided August 2021.

Given the magnitude of discharge from King County's WWTPs, compliance with strict nutrient limits set by DOE is likely to require significant capital investments at the regional WWTPs. King County's WWTPs contribute 57 percent of the total nitrogen loading to Puget Sound from domestic wastewater treatment plant marine point discharges. In the best-case scenario—meaning highest expected wasteload allocation—King County would be expected to reduce nitrogen loading by 67 percent compared to 2020 levels. Decentralized treatment at wet weather treatment stations and building-scale decentralized treatment can produce significant reductions in marine nitrogen. However, even at the most optimistic range, these reductions are only approximately 37 percent of the reductions needed, and at least optimistic only 9 percent. While non-point trading has been discussed, WTD has determined non-point trading is not a feasible option to pursue to offset improvements at wastewater treatment plants because a large amount of land is needed. Additionally, trading can only occur once water quality-based limits are set, meaning any reductions needed in the first permit cycle must occur at the WWTPs.

Four of five WTD strategies assume a successful modification of the existing consent decree, extending the timeline for compliance by 30 years—an unlikely outcome given current EPA guidance.[10] King County's consent decree requires all CSO locations to be under control by December 31, 2030. In 2019, WTD requested the consent decree be renegotiated with an extended compliance timeline to 2040. While the status of the negotiations is not public due to confidentiality agreements, four of the five strategies include a renegotiated consent decree compliance timeline of 2060, effectively proposing a 47-year compliance timeframe. The EPA consent decree compliance tracking spreadsheet, dated 2017, shows average compliance timeframe for CSO and/or sanitary sewer systems consent decrees at an average of 15 years. Therefore, it is likely that negotiations may not lead to an extended compliance timeframe of 2060. If King County is unsuccessful in renegotiating the consent decree, then strategies B-E would no longer be viable, as they all assume renegotiation of the compliance timeline to 2060.

Two WTD strategies assume an approach that would require a change to Washington Administrative Code. Strategies C and D indicate the method for CSO compliance is "extended CSO Control Program timeline and/*or alternative water quality investments*"[11]. Policy-makers should be aware there is no existing regulatory framework that would allow King County to pursue alternative water quality investments in lieu of controlling CSOs. Such a change would require an amendment to the Washington Administrative Code, which requires achievement of the greatest reasonable reduction of CSOs, defined as "control of each CSO in such a way that an average of one untreated discharge may occur per year[12]".

Questions for policy-maker consideration:

- What are the risks of an unsuccessful renegotiation of the consent decree, and what would be the impact on rates?
- What are the risks of not planning for implementation of nutrient removal, including how it might affect WTD's ability to serve new connections?
- What regulatory outcomes are required for each strategy and/or action to be viable?
- Are there examples and lessons learned from other jurisdictions in the United States, where broad regulatory changes, such as those proposed by WTD, were sought and achieved?

Lack of transparency obscures cost differences between Actions

The packaging of projects into Actions and the presentation of cost and benefits at the Action level, rather than the project level, obscures details about the costs and benefits of each Action's component projects making it more difficult for decision-makers to effectively weigh options. For example, there are two Actions proposed for compliance with the consent decree: Current CSO Long-Term Control Plan (LTCP) Implementation and Extended CSO Control Implementation (exhibit G, below). In the *2021 Actions* Report, which provides cost estimates on a high-level Actions basis, an extended LTCP implementation results in a conceptual capital cost savings of $1.1B–2.6B—when compared to

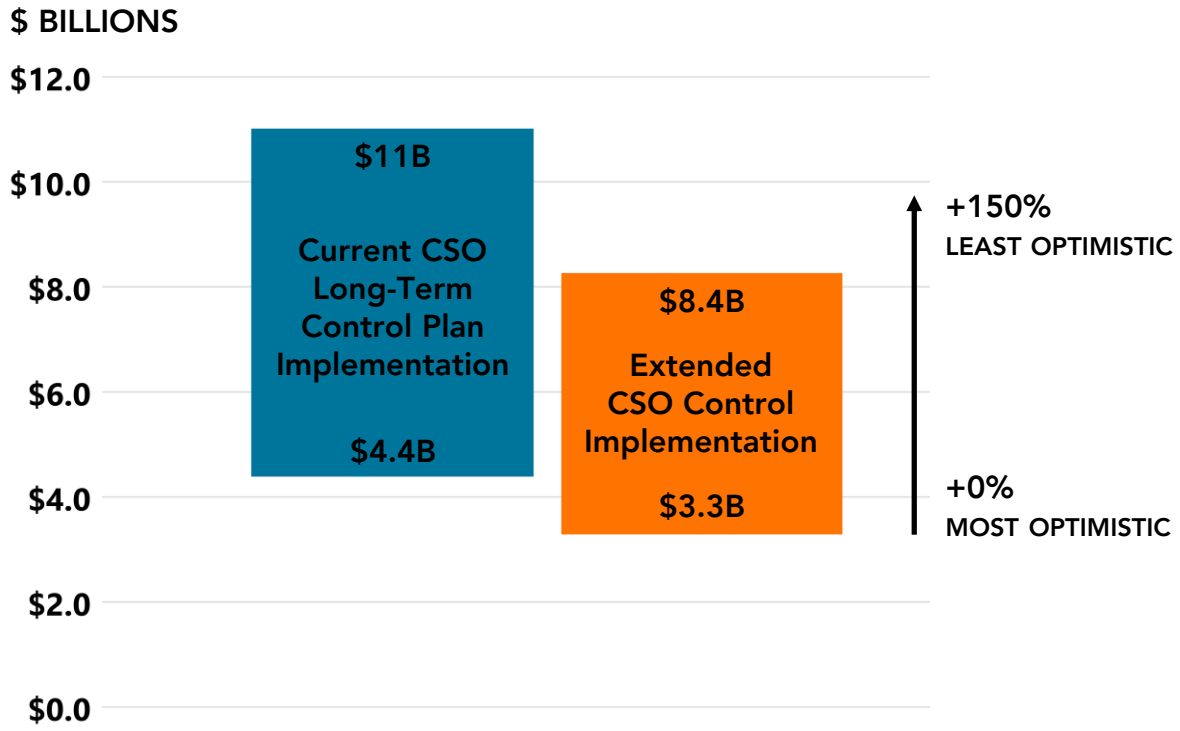
[10] *Environmental Protection Agency Combined Sewer Overflows — Guidance for Financial Capability Assessment and Schedule Development,* February 1997, and *Memorandum on Financial Capability Assessment Framework for Municipal Clean Water Act Requirements,* November 2014.

[11] Emphasis added

[12] WAC 173-245-020 (22)

current LTCP implementation.[13] The majority of the difference in capital cost ($980M–2.5B) is the result of a 30 percent acceleration fee, which WTD presents as the premium for delivering the remaining LTCP within ten years. However, it is unclear why this 30 percent markup is included on supplemental compliance, which would occur after 2033 and alone contributes 20 percent to the increased conceptual capital cost when compared to the extended CSO control implementation timeline. Additionally, it is unclear why the consent decree compliance project costs continue to grow at such a fast pace. In a 2019 letter to the EPA, WTD stated the remaining consent decree compliance projects would be expected to cost $1.9B or more, depending on alternative chosen and timeline. In the most recent cost estimates provided by WTD, the remaining projects now have a lowest, most optimistic conceptual capital cost of $2.94B,[14] an increase of nearly 55 percent.[15]

EXHIBIT G: **Presentation of costs on Action-level basis obscures differences in costs.**



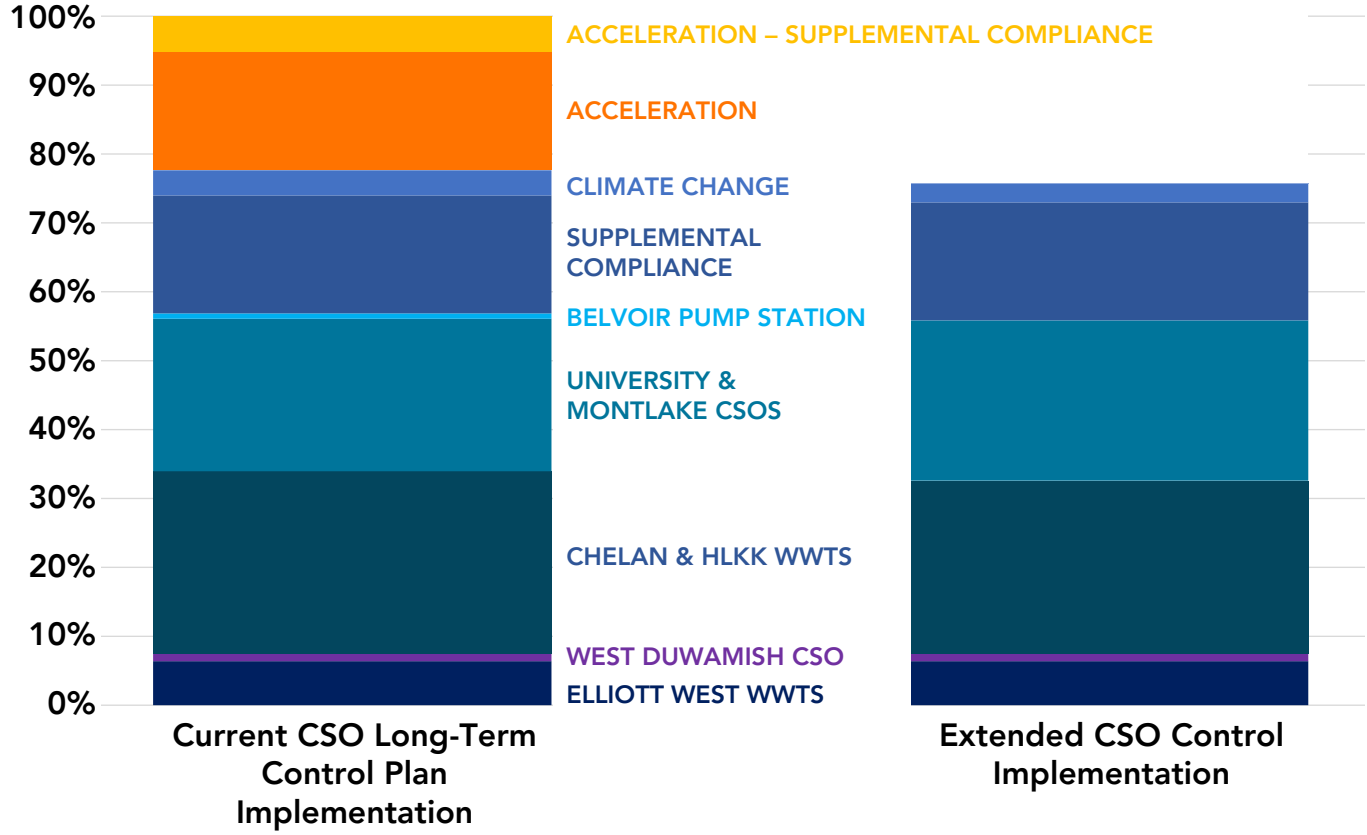
Source: WTD Priority 1 question responses, dated August 26, 2021

[13] Comparisons made here are based upon the low-end range. WTD has presented its estimates as conceptual program planning estimates with a range of lowest, most optimistic to +150%.

[14] 2020 nominal dollars. Conceptual cost estimates are provided by WTD with a range of lowest, most optimistic, to +150%.

[15] This represents the conceptual capital costs presented by WTD for Duwamish CSO Storage Tank (West Michigan St. and Terminal 115), CSO Storage Tank near Chelan Ave. Regulator Station, HLKK WWTS, University Storage Tank, and Montlake CSO Storage Tank with the five percent climate change, and 30 percent acceleration factor.

EXHIBIT H: Difference in conceptual capital costs between current and extended CSO control implementation is due mostly to acceleration factor.

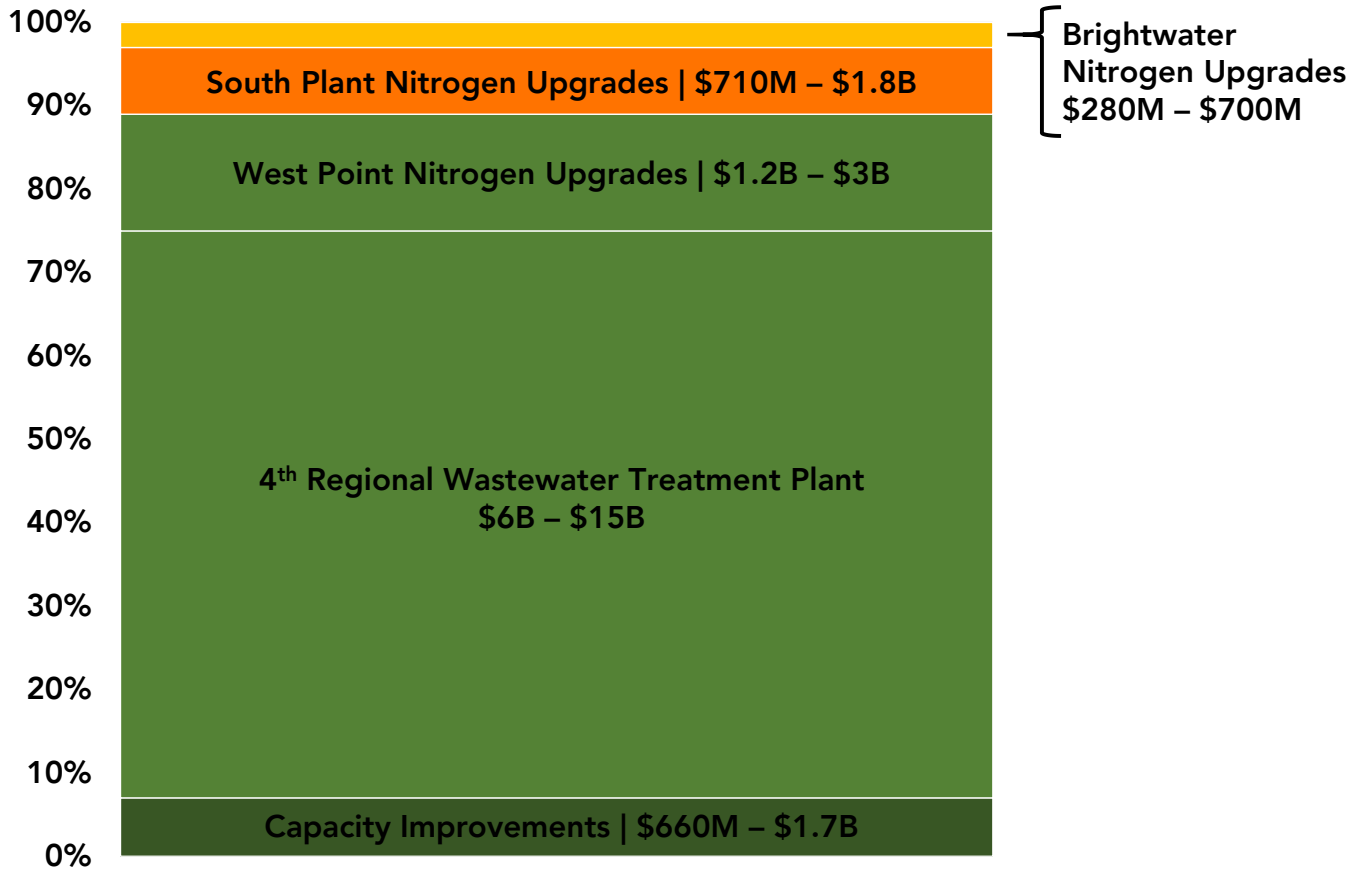


Source: WTD Priority 1 question responses, dated August 26, 2021

Similarly, the grouping of WWTP upgrades obscures the cost of upgrades at each individual plant. Grouping the projects as packages without providing a cost breakdown may make it appear that WWTP improvements are an expensive method to achieving nitrogen reductions. Viewing a detailed breakdown provides a more nuanced view and shows improvements at some plants can lead to big benefits for a fraction of the total Action cost. Exhibit I, below, shows of the needed $8.9B–$22B estimated by WTD to achieve individual nitrogen levels at each WWTP, $7.2B–$18B in capital costs are related to nitrogen removal at West Point, while only $990M–$2.5B in conceptual capital costs would be required to achieve nitrogen levels of 8mg/L at both South Plant and Brightwater. Implementing these upgrades at South Plant and Brightwater would result in a reduction of nitrogen loading at King County's WWTPs by 43 percent for a conceptual capital investment of $990M–$2.5B.[16]

[16] WTD presented its estimates as conceptual program planning estimates with a range of lowest, most optimistic to +150%.

EXHIBIT I: Implementing nutrient removal improvements[17] at South Plant and Brightwater represents only 11 percent of the cost of individual plant nitrogen reduction.



Source: WTD Priority 1 question responses dated August 26, 2021.

Questions for policy-maker consideration:

- What are the costs of projects within individual Actions?
- Are there alternative ways projects could be grouped to improve outcomes at a lower cost?

Strategies may not ensure the best water quality outcome

The best water quality outcome may not be represented in WTD's strategies, making it difficult for decision-makers to facilitate the best outcomes. According to the Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget, review of the strategies will include an assessment against the 2020–2025 Clean Water Health Habitat Strategic Plan. However, determination of achievement of the best water quality outcome at the lowest cost can only occur if all Actions are carefully considered by WTD. For example, Urban Growth Area (UGA) On-Site Septic System (OSS) Conversion, Regional Stormwater Facilities Program, and Regional Stormwater Retrofits are the only Actions with meaningful freshwater phosphorus reductions. Phosphorus has been identified by King County as the pollutant most frequently leading to "potentially toxic cyanobacteria blooms, reduction in water clarity, and odors and surface scums associated with nuisance

[17] The capital cost to achieve 8mg/L year-round effluent concentrations.

levels of algae"[18] in local lakes. UGA OSS Conversion results in higher phosphorus reductions than all three stormwater treatment options combined. However, UGA OSS Conversion does not appear in any of the five strategies presented by WTD, while Regional Stormwater Facilities Program and Retrofit appear in two (strategies C and D).

EXHIBIT J: Urban Growth Area On-Site Septic System Conversion provides significantly greater phosphorus removal (lb/yr) than other Actions, but is not considered as part of any strategy.

	Freshwater Phosphorus (lb/yr)		King County Costs[19]	
Actions	**Low**	**High**	**Low**	**High**
Urban Growth Area On-Site Septic System Conversion	1,700	40,000	$940,000,000	$2,360,000,000
Expanded Stormwater Treatment at Existing Wastewater Facilities	100	410	$230,000,000	$580,000,000
Regional Stormwater Facilities Program	350	1,400	$3,560,000,000	$9,000,000,000
Regional Stormwater Retrofit Program	630	2,500	$1,500,000,000	$3,800,000,000

Source: Freshwater phosphorus reductions are as provided in the 2021 *Actions* Report. King County costs were calculated by the King County Auditor's Office.

The screening lens WTD used to select Actions can also unnecessarily limit the range of projects under consideration. For example, City-Scale Decentralized Treatment limits screening of satellite wastewater facilities to those "where conveyance capacity limitations have been identified… or where significant future development has been identified."[20] However, satellite facilities could be located along areas of existing development and transmission mains and without these two limitations. This would create beneficial water reuse opportunities higher up in the sewershed, eliminating costly long transmission lines from South Plant, and reduce nitrogen discharges to Puget Sound. Additionally, satellite treatment could provide flow reductions to regional wastewater treatment plants, similar to decentralized building-scale treatment, without the safety concerns and potential de-incentivization of industry/commercial business growth in the county that decentralized building-scale treatment faces.

[18] King County (2017) *2016 Freshwater water quality* https://kingcounty.gov/services/environment/data-and-trends/indicators-and-performance/kingstat/2016/indicators/aquatic-environment/fresh-water-quality.aspx

[19] King County costs are calculated as conceptual capital, operations and maintenance, and repair and replacement less revenue and avoided costs in nominal 2020 dollars.

[20] King County Wastewater Treatment Division, *Actions: Characterizing Water Quality Investment Options,* 2021

Question for policy-maker consideration:

- What are WTDs goals for the Clean Water Plan and how do those align with yours?
- To what extent did WTD consider water quality benefits in its development of Actions and strategies?

Conclusion

The Clean Water Plan will guide how billions of public dollars are invested over the next 40 years. By evaluating non-viable strategies and Actions, instead of a range of actionable ones that meet anticipated regulatory requirements, King County risks selecting a sub-optimal strategy that does not meet regulatory requirements, provide the lowest possible rates, or deliver the best water quality outcome. Greater clarity around regulatory constraints and project costs, along with inclusion with a wider range of strategies would increase the probability of determining the optimal approach for the future of King County's wastewater system.

Zainab Nejati, PE, Principal Capital Analyst, conducted this review. Please contact Zainab at 206-263-1692 if you have any questions about the issues discussed in this letter.

Acknowledgments

We wish to thank the Department of Natural Resources and Parks, the Wastewater Treatment Division, and the Clean Water Plan team for their cooperation with this review and provision of timely information.

Appendix 1

Questions to Wastewater Treatment Division for policy-makers to consider

This appendix consolidates the questions laid out in our Clean Water Plan management report, which policy-makers may wish to ask as they explore the water quality investments options and deliberate on what Actions should be evaluated as part of the Clean Water Plan strategies.

- What are the risks of an unsuccessful renegotiation of the consent decree, and what would be the impact on rates?
- What are the risks of not planning for implementation of nutrient removal, including how it might affect WTD's ability to serve new connections?
- What regulatory outcomes are required for each strategy and/or action to be viable?
- Are there examples and lessons learned from other jurisdictions in the United States, where broad regulatory changes, such as those proposed by WTD, were sought and achieved?
- What are the costs of projects within individual Actions?
- Are there alternative ways projects could be grouped to improve outcomes at a lower cost?
- What are WTDs goals for the Clean Water Plan and how do those align with yours?
- To what extent did WTD consider water quality benefits in its development of Actions and strategies?

Appendix 2

Conceptual Program Planning Estimates for Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Program Wet Weather Management Actions

Breaking down costs by project shows the difference in the projects and costs between the two programs. Projects here are grouped by CSO locations.

CSO Program — Current CSO Long-Term Control Plan Implementation		CSO Program — Extended CSO Control Implementation	
CONCEPTUAL PROGRAM PLANNING ESTIMATES (2020 DOLLARS)			
Project	**Total Project Cost Range**	**Project**	**Total Project Cost Range**
Elliott West Wet Weather Treatment Station (WWTS)	$280,000,000–$700,000,000	Elliott West Wet Weather Treatment Station (WWTS)	$280,000,000–$700,000,000
West Duwamish CSO Storage Tank (West Michigan St. and Terminal 115)	$48,000,000–$120,000,000	West Duwamish CSO Storage Tank (West Michigan St. and Terminal 115)	$48,000,000–$120,000,000
CSO Storage Tank near Chelan Ave. Regulator Station	$210,000,000–$520,000000	Chelan Hanford Lander Kingdome King Street (CHLKK) CSO WWTS	$1,100,000,000–$2,800,000,000
Hanford Lander Kingdome King Street (HLKK) Wet Weather Treatment WWTS	$950,000,000–$2,400,000,000		
University Storage Tank	$600,000,000–$1,500,000,000	Consolidated CSO Tunnel for University and Montlake	$880,000,000–$2,200,000,000
Montlake CSO Storage Tank	$370,000,000–$930,000,000	Opportunistic ROW and Flow Separation in Montlake Basin: Interlaken Park Creek	$10,000,000–$25,000,000

Table continues on next page

CSO Program comparison table, continued			
Project	**Total Project Cost Range**	**Project**	**Total Project Cost Range**
		Opportunistic ROW and Flow Separation in Montlake Basin: Alley Creek	$57,000,000–$140,000,000
		System Optimization (University Regulator Gate Setpoint Modification)	$72,000,000–$180,000,000
Belvoir Pump Station Overflow Storage	$34,000,000–$85,000,000	System Optimization (Belvoir Pump Station Modification)	$250,000–$630,000
Supplemental compliance: potential future operational and capital measures to maintain control given anticipated climate change conditions	$750,000,000–$1,900,000,000	Supplemental compliance: potential future operational and capital measures to maintain control given anticipated climate change conditions	$750,000,000–$1,900,000,000
		Programmatic Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) for CSO Reduction (GSI Retrofit Partnership Program)	$2,100,000–$5,300,000
Climate Change Factor (5%)	$160,000,000–$400,000,000	Climate Change Factor (5%)	$120,000,000–$300,000,000
Acceleration Factor (30%)	$980,000,000–$2,500,000,000		
Total (40-year)	**$4,400,000,000–$11,000,000,000**	**Total (40-year)**	**$3,300,000,000–$8,400,000,000**

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NON-AUDIT

NON-AUDIT: This letter is not an audit as defined in Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards, but conforms to office standards for independence, objectivity, and quality.

June 8, 2022
SCA PIC Meeting

Item 8:
Conservation Futures Ballot Measure
DISCUSSION

SCA Staff Contact
Brian Parry, SCA Policy Director, brian@soundcities.org , 206-499-4159

Discussion

During his State of the County Address in May 2022, King County Executive Dow Constantine announced that he would be seeking voter approval in November 2022 of a levy lid lift to increase the Conservation Futures Tax from its current rate of 3.12-cents per $1,000 of assessed value to the statutory maximum of 6.25-cents per $1,000.

In total, according to projections from the King County Office of Economic and Financial Analysis, the proposed levy lid lift would increase the total CFT collection in 2023 by more than $27 million to a total of approximately $50.4 million. Between 2023 and 2031 the effect of the lid lift would be an increase in available CFT funds of $269.8 million to a total of $494.9 million over that period. It is estimated the owner of a median priced home in King County ($820,000) would pay an estimated $27.96 in additional property tax in 2023 for a total of $51.25.

In announcing the proposed CFT levy lid lift, Executive Constantine highlighted that the proposal would implement the Land Conservation Initiative, and "rapidly accelerate protection of the last, best 65,000 acres of urban greenspace, forests, farmland, trails, river corridors, and natural areas."

The proposal is currently before the County Council, who are anticipated to take vote on whether to place the measure on the November ballot in July. PIC members are encouraged to share feedback at the June 8 PIC meeting to inform communications with the King County Council as they deliberate on the proposal.

Background
The County Executive transmitted to the County Council Ordinance 2022-0199, which would place a measure on the November 8, 2022 ballot that would raise the conservation futures tax (CFT) property tax rate to the statutory maximum of 6.25-cents per $1,000 of assessed valuation. The proposed ordinance is currently before the King County Budget and Finance Committee and is anticipated to be considered for final adoption as early as July 5 and no later than July 26, 2022. A fact sheet on the proposal provided by King County can be found in (Attachment A).

CFT is a dedicated property tax authorized under state law that grants counties the authority to collect up to 6.25-cents per year for the purposes of acquiring property rights to conserve open space lands. King County first began collecting CFT in 1982 and, since that time, has provided $135.9 million in proceeds that have funded the purchase of 7,700 acres of open space lands. King County originally set its CFT at the maximum level, but due to the limits on annual property tax growth under state law, the rate has dropped to approximately 3.12-cents per $1,000 of assessed value and is projected to be 2.84-cents in 2023.

The mechanism proposed by the County Executive to increase the CFT rate is a single-year permanent levy lid lift. If approved, the measure would increase the 2023 rate to 6.25 cents per $1,000 of assessed value and use that amount to calculate the levy in subsequent years, subject to state limitations on annual increases.

Through the county's CFT program, the county accepts annual application from King County cities, towns, park districts, nonprofit organizations, and the county itself for open space acquisition proposals. These applications are reviewed by a sixteen-person advisory committee, which makes annual recommendations based on criteria in county code (KCC 26.12). The proposed levy lid lift would not change current policy as to how CFT revenues are spent.

In total, according to projections from the King County Office of Economic and Financial Analysis, the proposed levy lid lift would increase the total CFT collection in 2023 by more than $27 million to a total of approximately $50.4 million. Between 2023 and 2031 the effect of the lid lift would be an increase in available CFT funds of $269.8 million to a total of $494.9 million over that period.

Year	CFT Revenue w/o Lift	CFT Revenue w/ Lift	Incremental Revenue Gained Through Lift
2023	$22,929,465	$50,393,341	$27,463,876
2024	$23,440,737	$51,550,587	$28,109,850
2025	$23,953,012	$52,675,203	$28,722,191
2026	$24,472,719	$53,812,602	$29,339,883
2027	$24,996,323	$54,963,175	$29,966,852
2028	$25,520,443	$56,118,916	$30,598,474
2029	$26,052,313	$57,282,323	$31,230,010
2030	$26,583,205	$58,458,805	$31,875,601
2031	$27,125,860	$59,644,585	$32,518,725
Total	**$225,074,077**	**$494,899,538**	**$269,825,461**

Source: Regional Policy Committee staff report; June 8, 2022

Based on analysis provided by King County, the owner of a median priced home in King County ($820,000) would pay an estimated $27.96 in additional property tax in 2023 for a total of $51.25.

Tax Year	Projected Value of Median-AV Home	Total CFT Cost to Median-AV Homeowner w/o Lift	Total CFT Cost to Median-AV Homeowner w/ Lift	Incremental Cost to Median-AV Homeowner w/ Lift
2023	$820,000	$23.29	$51.25	$27.96
2024	$880,000	$23.94	$52.54	$28.60
2025	$930,000	$24.55	$53.94	$29.39
2026	$980,000	$25.09	$55.08	$29.99
2027	$1,020,000	$25.30	$55.69	$30.40
2028	$1,080,000	$25.92	$57.02	$31.10
2029	$1,130,000	$26.33	$57.74	$31.41
2030	$1,190,000	$26.78	$58.91	$32.13
2031	$1,240,000	$27.03	$59.52	$32.49

Source: Regional Policy Committee staff report; June 8, 2022

Land Conservation Initiative

In announcing the proposed CFT levy lid lift, Executive Constantine highlighted that the proposal would "accelerate the Land Conservation Initiative, a regional partnership of communities, cities, farmers, businesses, and environmental leaders to protect 65,000 acres of the highest conservation-value open space."

The Land Conservation Initiative was launched in 2016 with the formation of a Land Conservation Advisory Group to advise the county on ways to preserve the remaining high-value conservation lands in King County within a generation. The Advisory Group issued a final report and recommendations in December 2019. The final report identified goals and strategies to protect and maintain approximately 65,000 acres of high conservation value lands. These include lands identified by the county as well as those identified by many cities at the time the final report was being drafted.

In total, the report identified $2.4 billion in "King County Conservation Priorities," $1.7 billion in "City Conservation Priorities," and $160 million in "Equity Conservation Priorities." Total dollar amounts identified by category and by city from that time period can be found here. When accounting for existing funding sources and 30-years of real estate appreciation, the additional funding needed for the Initiative was projected to be approximately $1.9 billion.

Among the recommendations of the Advisory Group that have already been adopted are changes to the CFT program to accelerate purchasing capacity and to promote more equitable access to publicly owned parks, trails, and open spaces. This was achieved through an increase to the bond cap from 50% to 80% of anticipated annual conservation futures tax levy funds for debt service, and removal of the requirement that a project receive equal or greater funding from another source in order to receive a CFT grant if the project is in a defined

opportunity area.[1] In addition, new funding was provided for in the 2020-2025 Parks levy to support operating and maintaining acquired open space lands.

As part of its work, the Advisory Group considered several potential public funding strategies to fill the projected acquisition funding shortfall: increase to the Conservation Futures Tax levy; a general levy lid lift; establishment of a "REET 3" excise tax on the purchase and sale of property of up to 1%; and the sale of bonds to accelerate availability of capital. In addition to public funding options, updated analysis by King County estimates between $277 and $292 million in private funding over 30 years to support the Initiative from Transfer of Development Rights purchases, mitigation credits, carbon credits, and private philanthropy.

The preferred additional source of acquisition funding recommended by the Advisory Group was an increase to the countywide CFT to the statutory maximum of 6.25-cents per $1,000 of assessed value. At the time, the impact of this increase on the median valued household in King County was estimated at $10-$12 per year. At that time, the increase was projected to generate an additional $15 million in year one and $618 million over 30 years.

Per the Advisory Group's final report, fully funding the initiative would require "resetting" the Conservation Futures Tax levy to 6.25-cents up to two additional times over the course of the acquisition period.

A proposal to increase the CFT to 6.25-cents was considered in 2018, but ultimately the Executive chose not to pursue the levy lid lift and focused on near-term options to accelerate acquisitions (increased bonding flexibility and additional funds in the 2020-2025 Parks Levy). The PIC last discussed the CFT levy lid lift proposal at its meeting on February 14, 2018 and feedback to the proposal provided by SCA cities at that time can be found in the minutes from that meeting.

Next Steps

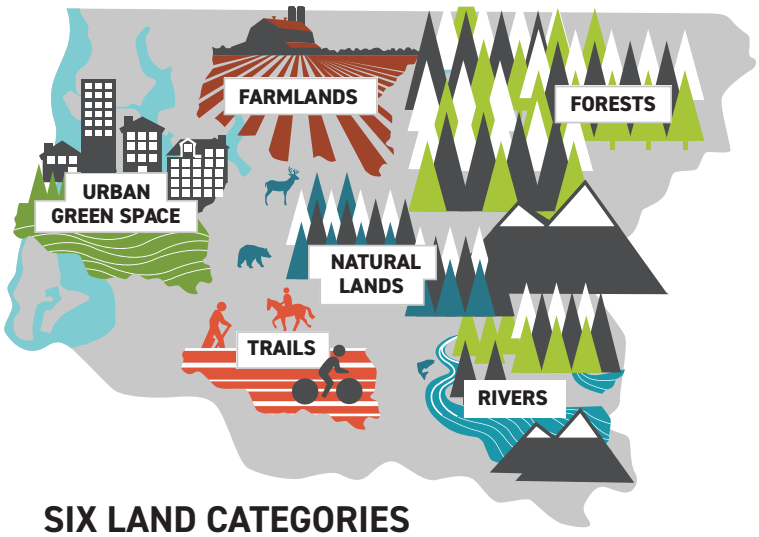
To be placed on the November 8 ballot, the King County Council must approve the CFT ordinance no later than July 26, but may take action as soon as July 5 according to the latest council timeline. The Regional Policy Committee , to which SCA appoints members, will be briefed on the proposal on June 8, 2022. Questions or feedback can be provided to SCA Policy Director Brian Parry, brian@soundcities.org , 206-499-4159.

[1] "Opportunity Areas" are locations where households are greater than a quarter mile from publicly-owned accessible park, greenspace, or trail that simultaneously fall in the bottom third of census tracts for household income and the top third of ZIP codes for hospitalization rates due to asthma, diabetes, and heart disease.

Restoring King County's full potential to protect the last, best open spaces

Over the past 40 years, King County has protected more than 100,000 acres of open space – greenspace, parks, trails, farmland, forests, river corridors, and more – that contribute to the quality of life we enjoy today.

65,000 ACRES TO SUSTAIN US



SIX LAND CATEGORIES

THIS IS OUR GENERATION'S OPPORTUNITY TO FINISH THE JOB

We worked with cities, farmers, businesses, and environmental leaders to identify the last, best places to protect before they are lost forever. Together, we created the Land Conservation Initiative, a partnership to protect the remaining 65,000 acres of high conservation-value open space. We sought advice from the Open Space Equity Cabinet to ensure that our land conservation work contributes to equity and social justice.

We're off to a strong start, but to accomplish our vision we must accelerate our acquisitions now before the land is no longer affordable.

The challenge

Land conservation in King County—and 13 other counties—is largely funded by the Conservation Futures Program that the state created 50 years ago. Unfortunately, the program today is generating about half the revenue it was originally designed to due to separate state legislation that limits annual property tax increases to 1 percent, far below the rate of inflation. As a result, the Conservation Futures tax rate has declined by almost 50 percent while property values have increased.

Conservation Futures can no longer keep the pace as property values of the last, best open spaces rise.

The solution

King County voters can restore Conservation Futures back to the original $6.25 cents per $1,000 assessed property value and restart the gradual decline. For less than $2 more per month for the average homeowner, we could double our ability to protect and restore the most important open spaces within a single generation.

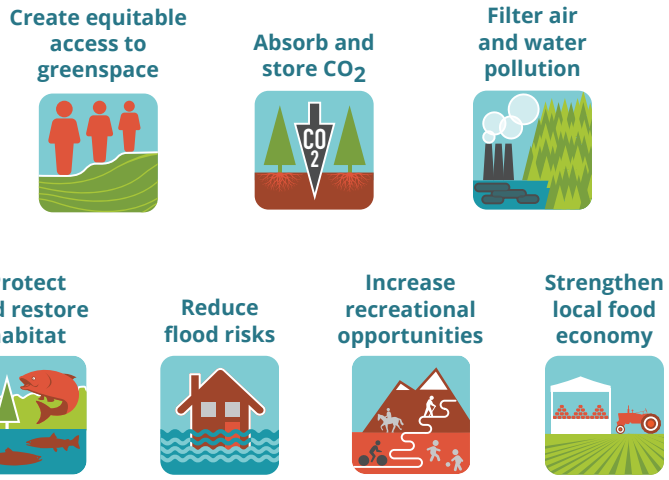
REALIZING OUR FULL POTENTIAL TO PROTECT THE LAST BEST PLACES

By realizing the full potential of state-authorized revenue, we can:

- Improve access to open space for the 500,000 people in King County who don't currently live near a greenspace, park, or trail.
- Protect mature forests that are absorbing the CO_2 that contributes to climate change.
- Restore riparian corridors for native salmon, providing more food for Puget Sound orcas.

Learn more: www.kingcounty.gov/land-conservation

Contact: Heather Ramsay Ahndan, Land Conservation Initiative Program Manager | hahndan@kingcounty.gov



June 8, 2022
SCA PIC Meeting

Item 9:
King County Utility Rates
UPDATE

SCA Staff Contact
Kazia Mermel, SCA Policy Analyst, kazia@soundcities.org, 206-495-3020

SCA Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC) Committee Members
Mayor Penny Sweet, Kirkland (Caucus Chair, RWQC Vice Chair); Councilmember Conrad Lee, Bellevue (Caucus Vice Chair); Councilmember Victoria Hunt, Issaquah; Councilmember Laura Mork, Shoreline; Councilmember Tim Harris, Carnation (alternate); Mayor Jessica Rossman, Medina (alternate)

SCA Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) Committee Members
Mayor Penny Sweet, Kirkland; Councilmember Phillippa Kassover, Lake Forest Park

Update

King County is in the process of developing 2023 sewer rates and solid waste rates and fees that would take effect January 1, 2023.

Since members were last briefed on utility rates at the April PIC meeting, the Executive transmitted the 2023 sewer rate increase to County Council, and the Council's Budget and Financial Management Committee voted to recommend the Council pass the sewer rate proposal. Council is due to take final action on sewer rates in early June. This ordinance would set a 5.75% increase for 2023, increasing the monthly sewer rate to $52.11. This rate increase is the same as was shared with PIC in April.

Since PIC was briefed in April, the King County Solid Waste Division (SWD) has updated their recommended rate path to raise the per-ton disposal rate by 9.60% for 2023, translating to an additional $0.79 on the average monthly bill for curbside customers. The percentage increase and curbside impact are different than the 8.94% and $0.89, respectively, shared in April due to a correction by SWD of their rate calculations and changes in assumptions related to worker pay increases and investment risk. The proposed increase to the yard waste recycling fee is consistent with what was shared in April, changing from the current rate of $100 per ton to $115 per ton in 2023. This rate proposal was transmitted to the County Executive in late May and is expected to be transmitted to Council in early June.

Discussion

2023 Sewer Rate & Capacity Charge Proposal

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 June 30 which will take effect the following January 1.

For the 2023 rate, WTD is recommending a 5.75% increase, increasing the monthly sewer rate to $52.11. Rate drivers include COVID-19 revenue impacts, high inflation, labor market constraints, reliability investments, regulatory responses, capacity increasing investments, the Clean Water Plan, and climate change. The Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee (MWPAAC) has sent letters to the Executive and County Council that express support for the rate proposal, with some reservations particularly around long-term rate planning.

WTD Proposed 2023-2032 Sewer Rate Plan

2023-2032 Rate Plan	Adopted 2021	2022 Process									
DNRP/WTD Proposal	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**	**2027**	**2028**	**2029**	**2030**	**2031**	**2032**
Rate Increase %	4.00%	**5.75%**	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%	9.00%	9.00%	9.00%	9.00%	9.00%
Monthly Sewer Rate	$49.27	**$52.11**	$55.11	$58.28	$61.64	$65.19	$71.06	$77.46	$84.44	$92.04	$100.33
Rate Increase $	$1.90	**$2.84**	$3.00	$3.17	$3.36	$3.55	$5.87	$6.40	$6.98	$7.60	$8.29
All-In Debt Service Coverage	1.55x	1.59x	1.63x	1.64x	1.66x	1.67x	1.70x	1.73x	1.70x	1.71x	1.71x
Policy Cash Funding						6-Year Average	45%			10-Year Average	40%
Projected CIP Spend ($m)	$283	$307	$326	$381	$429	$503	$633	$752	$849	$928	$908

During the 2021 rate development process in the spring of 2020, SCA members expressed concerns about proposed increases that could raise costs passed on to cities, local utility providers, and ratepayers already struggling with the economic hardships resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

In response to this concern, SCA adopted the following policy position regarding 2021 sewer rate and solid waste fee increases:

> The Sound Cities Association (SCA) urges King County and other entities to forego any increase in rates and fees until and unless all other options are explored and exhausted, in light of the COVID-19 public health emergency and the resulting economic impacts.

For the 2022 rate, WTD initially recommended no rate increase. However, a number of rate drivers including investments toward critical asset management needs and addressing power reliability issues at the West Point Treatment Plant would have necessitated a 10.5% increase in 2023, 2025, 2027, and 2029. Stakeholders including SCA and MWPAAC advocated for a 4% increase in 2022 and annualized rate-setting to smooth the rate path.

Sewer Rate Transmittal Timeline	
March 24, 2022	Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) transmitted 2023 Sewer Rate & Capacity Charge legislative package to the Executive's Office
April 6, 2022	RWQC received second preliminary sewer rate briefing
April 13, 2022	SCA Public Issues Committee (PIC) briefing on utility rates

April 21, 2022 (approx.)	Executive transmitted the recommended 2023 Sewer Rate & Capacity Charge to the County Council
May 4, 2022	RWQC was formally briefed on transmitted 2023 Sewer Rate & Capacity Charge
May 11, 2022	County Council's Budget and Fiscal Management (BFM) Committee discussed Sewer Rate & Capacity Charge, deferred
May 25, 2022	BFM voted to recommend the Council pass the Sewer Rate & Capacity Charge ordinance
Early June 2022	County Council action on sewer rate proposal
Mid-June 2022	Executive consideration and action on sewer rate proposal
June 30, 2022	Deadline for County to set the sewer rates

2023 Solid Waste Fee Development

King County's solid waste system is supported by a variety of fees 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 handling that waste are passed on to haulers, who are generally contracted with cities to provide collection and disposal service.

SWD is recommending a rate path that will raise the current per-ton disposal rate by a 9.6% increase for 2023, translating to an additional $0.79 on the average monthly bill for curbside customers. This increase is slightly lower than was anticipated (9.40%) last year due to an underspend in 2021-22 of about $6 million.

In addition to the solid waste fee, fees under consideration for the disposal of other materials include a proposal to increase the yard waste recycling fee from the current cost of $100 per ton to $115 per ton.

The rate proposal also includes the rate restructure that was briefed at the April PIC meeting. The new rate structure with the fixed charge was adopted by County Council in March of 2022; a revenue neutral fixed charge raising a total of $21.8 million is proposed for 2023, and one of $22.6 million for 2024.

SWD Draft Proposed Rate Plan

	2022*	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Revenue Requirement	9.40%	9.60%	9.60%	9.60%	9.60%	9.60%	9.60%
Commercial Tip Fee	$ 154	**$ 136**	**$ 151**	$ 168	$ 187	$ 206	$ 226
Fixed Charge**	$0	**$ 21.8**	**$ 22.6**	$ 23.1	$ 23.3	$ 24.6	$ 23.4
Curbside Impact		**$ 0. 79**	**$ 0.90**	$ 0.98	$ 1.08	$ 1.19	$ 1.32
Self-Haul Tip Fee	$ 154	**$ 169**	**$ 185**	$ 203	$ 223	$ 245	$ 270
Rate Stabilization Reserve**	$ 40.4	**$ 37.7**	**$ 34.3**	$ 24.4	$ 13.4	$ 6.2	$ 3.1

** These rates are under the old structure, 2023 and beyond is under the new structure*
***Fixed Charge and Rate Stabilization Reserve are shown in millions of dollars.*

Solid Waste Rates Transmittal Timeline	
May 20, 2022	SWAC voted to approve letter of support for rate proposal to Executive and County Council
Late May 2022	SWD transmitted rate proposal to Executive
Early June 2022	Executive is expected to transmit legislation to Council
September 1, 2022	Unofficial deadline for Council to pass rate (Council typically follows this to allow SWD time to implement policies, protocols, and communications before sending to cities)
September 30, 2022	Formal deadline for Council to pass rate
October 1, 2022	SWD sends to cities

Next Steps

Questions and comments can be directed to SCA Policy Analyst Kazia Mermel at kazia@soundcities.org or 206-495-3020.

June 8, 2022
SCA PIC Meeting

Item 10:

Levies and Ballot Measures in King County

UPDATE

SCA Staff Contact

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

Update

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.

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

Future Ballot Measures – SCA Cities			
Year	**Month**	**Jurisdiction**	**Measure**
2022	August	Normandy Park	Civic Center capital improvement general obligation bonds up to $15,000,000*

Potential Future Ballot Measures – SCA Cities			
Year	**Month**	**Jurisdiction**	**Measure**
2022	November	Redmond	Public safety levy
2022	November	Shoreline	Levy lid lift
2022	November	Bellevue	Parks levy
2022	November	Burien	Levy lid lift
2022	November	Tukwila	Fire services levy
2022	November	Kent	Public safety levy
2022	November	Mercer Island	Parks levy

Potential Future Ballot Measures – Other Jurisdictions and Special Purpose Districts			
Year	**Month**	**Jurisdiction**	**Measure**
2022	November	King County	Conservation futures levy lid lift
2023	August	King County	Veterans, Seniors, and Human Services levy renewal
2024		King County	Automated Fingerprint Identification System levy renewal
2025		King County	Parks levy renewal
2025		King County	EMS levy renewal
TBD		King County	Housing levy
TBD		King County	Transit levy

*60% majority and minimum turnout of 40% of voters casting ballots in the last general election required for passage