



## SCA Public Issues Committee

March 13, 2024 – 7:00 PM

### Online Meeting

Members of the public may view and listen to the meeting by using the following link from a computer, tablet, or smartphone:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84535071353?pwd=cFFWMFB5TVdabUNlaDFrQ2V1UGE0QT09>

Or dial in by phone: 1-253-215-8782 / 845 3507 1353/ Passcode: 540246

## AGENDA

1. **Welcome and Roll Call** – Chris Roberts, Shoreline, Chair 3 minutes
2. **Public Comment** – Chris Roberts, Shoreline, Chair 5 minutes
3. [Approval of Minutes – February 14, 2024 Meeting](#) 2 minutes  
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4. **Chair’s Report** – Chris Roberts, Shoreline, Chair 5 minutes
5. **Executive Director’s Report** – David Hoffman, SCA Executive Director 5 minutes
6. [Crisis Care Centers Levy Implementation Plan](#) 30 minutes  
DISCUSSION  
Page  
Kelly Rider, Interim Director, King County Department of Community and Human Services
7. [Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update](#) 30 minutes  
ACTION  
Page  
Kamuron Gurol, Director, King County Wastewater Treatment Division
8. [Legislative Session Recap](#) 20 minutes  
DISCUSSION  
Page 40  
Andie Parnell, SCA Policy Analyst
9. [Levies and Ballot Measures](#) 10 minutes  
UPDATE  
Page 46  
Brian Parry, SCA Policy Director

**10. Upcoming Events**

- a. SCA Board of Directors Meeting – Wednesday, March 20, 2024
- b. SCA Public Issues Committee Meeting – Wednesday, April 10, 2024

**11. For the Good of the Order**

**12. 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. SCA acknowledges the systemic racism and inequalities in our society and continues its commitment to the work needed to address them.

## 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

## 2024 Public Issues Committee Roster

City	Representative	Alternate
Algona	Troy Linnell	David White
Auburn	Nancy Backus	
Beaux Arts Village	Aletha Howes	
Bellevue	Jared Nieuwenhuis	Dave Hamilton
Black Diamond	Tamie Deady	Kristiana de Leon
Bothell	Rami Al-Kabra	Carston Curd
Burien	Kevin Schilling	
Carnation		
Clyde Hill	Steve Friedman	
Covington	Joseph Cimaomo, Jr.	Kristina Soltys
Des Moines	Harry Steinmetz	Yoshiko Grace Matsui
Duvall	Amy McHenry	Rick Shaffer
Enumclaw	Chance LaFleur	Corrie Koopman-Frazier
Federal Way	Susan Honda	Lydia Assefa-Dawson
Hunts Point	Joseph Sabey	
Issaquah	Tola Marts	Victoria Hunt
Kenmore	Nigel Herbig	Melanie O'Cain
Kent	Bill Boyce	
Kirkland	Kelli Curtis	John Tymczyszyn
Lake Forest Park	Tom French	Lorri Bodi
Maple Valley	Sean Kelly	Dana Parnello
Medina	Michael Luis	
Mercer Island	Dave Rosenbaum	Ted Weinberg
Milton	Shanna Styron Sherrell	Tim Ceder
Newcastle	Paul Charbonneau	Ariana Sherlock
Normandy Park		Su
North Bend	Errol Tremolada	Brenden Elwood
Pacific	Vic Cave	
Redmond	Melissa Stuart	Osman Salahuddin
Renton	Ruth Perez	Valerie O'Halloran
Sammamish	Amy Lam	Sid Gupta
SeaTac	Jake Simpson	Iris Guzmán
Shoreline	Chris Roberts	John Ramsdell
Skykomish	Henry Sladek	
Snoqualmie	Cara Christensen	Louis Washington
Tukwila	Tosh Sharp	Jovita McConnell
Woodinville	David Edwards	James Randolph
Yarrow Point	Katy Kinney Harris	



## SCA Public Issues Committee

### MINUTES

February 14, 2024 – 7:00 PM

ONLINE MEETING

#### 1. Welcome and Roll Call

PIC Chair Chris Roberts, Shoreline, called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM. 29 cities were represented ( [Attachment A](#) ). Guests present included: Councilmember Sid Gupta, Sammamish (PIC Alternate); Councilmember Osman Salahuddin, Redmond (PIC Alternate); Louis Washington, Snoqualmie (PIC Alternate); Katie Halse, Bellevue staff; Amy Tsai, Redmond staff; Jovita McConnell, Tukwila staff; Jared Hill, Woodinville staff; Tania Mondaca, King County staff; and Mina Hashemi, King County staff.

He noted that any discussion in the chat for those joining online would be maintained for public records purposes and included in the PIC minutes ( [Attachment B](#) ).

#### 2. Public Comment

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

#### 3. Approval of the December 13, 2023 PIC Meeting Minutes

Chair Roberts asked if there were any amendments to the minutes of the December 13, 2023 PIC meeting.

**Deputy Mayor Harry Steinmetz, Des Moines, moved, seconded by Mayor Kelli Curtis, Kirkland, to approve the December 13, 2023 PIC minutes. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### 4. Chair's Report

Chair Roberts welcomed everyone to the first PIC meeting and encouraged members to reach out at any time with potential discussion topics or suggestions on how the committee can be most effective. Roberts asked for volunteers to serve on a working group to suggest any revisions to the PIC Operating Policies. The purpose of the subcommittee is to make recommendations about improving how PIC operates, meeting format, procedures for bringing forward and considering issues, among other topics. Roberts also asked for volunteers from the SCA South Caucus to fill a vacancy on the PIC Nominating Committee, which makes recommendations to PIC on regional board and committee appointments.

#### 5. Executive Director's Report

SCA Executive Director David Hoffman reported that the Board at their first meeting on January 29<sup>th</sup> and elected Issaquah Mayor Mary Lou Pauly as Board President, Des Moines Mayor Traci Buxton as Vice President, Mercer Island Councilmember Wendy Weiker as Secretary, and Renton

Mayor Armondo Pavone as Treasurer. He reported the high points of Board discussion at the January 29<sup>th</sup> Board retreat. He encouraged members to attend the upcoming SCA Lunch and Learn on February 29<sup>th</sup> and the SCA networking dinner and reception on March 6<sup>th</sup>.

## **6. Legislative Update**

Association of Washington Cities Director of Government Relations Candace Bock and Government Relations Advocate Lindsey Hueer provided an update on the 2024 legislative session. Bock provided an update on the upcoming cut off dates and supplemental budget releases. Bock and Hueer then gave updates on the bills pertaining to AWC's legislative priorities.

## **7. 2024 PIC Meeting Schedule**

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported on the draft 2024 PIC meeting schedule. Per the SCA bylaws PIC meetings are held monthly or as deemed necessary by the chair, the committee, or the SCA board.

**Mayor Kelli Curtis, Kirkland, moved, seconded by Councilmember Joseph Cimaomo, Jr., Covington, to approve the 2024 PIC meeting schedule as shown in [Item 7 Attachment A](#) . There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.**

## **8. Regional Board and Committee Appointments**

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported that the PIC Nominating Committee met on February 5 to make recommendations for appointment to SCA positions on regional boards and committees. Following the election tonight there are still alternate vacancies on several committees.

**Mayor Kelli Curtis, Kirkland, moved, seconded by Deputy Mayor Amy McHenry, Duvall to recommend the SCA Board of Directors appoint 2024 Board and Committee representation as shown in [Item 8 Attachment A](#) . The motion passed unanimously.**

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

SCA Policy Analyst Andie Parnell shared updates on recent and ongoing activities of the King County Regional Homelessness Authority. In early 2024, KCRHA appointed a new interim CEO, completed the Point-In-Time Count, and passed their 2024 final budget. For the rest of 2024, KCRHA will complete their CEO search, subregional implementation plans, PIT data aggregation, Subcommittee final recommendations, new Collective Bargaining Agreements, the 2025 budget, and the interlocal agreement renewal.

Mayor Kevin Schilling, Burien, said he would like to see more information about how KCRHA is managing homelessness services, where they are available, and how that is tied to their funding sources. He asked about the Point in Time survey and whether it included allowing individuals to identify substance use disorder as a cause of losing housing. Parnell said that she would request more information.

Mayor Kelli Curtis, Kirkland, said that she participated in the recent Point in Time count and recalled that data on substance use disorder was collected. There was further discussion about precisely how the data was collected and the need for additional information.

Mayor Kevin Schilling, Burien, said that more needs to be done to ensure there is a fair distribution of homelessness services across the county.

Councilmember Tola Marts, Issaquah, said that the question of how King County and the region allocate human services funding is an important issue SCA should be engaged as it impacts all 38 cities. He stressed the importance of quality data being collected as a part of Point in Time count because it drives service responses.

Councilmember Errol Tremolada, North Bend, asked about provider eligibility and Parnell said she would follow-up directly. Tremolada said homelessness is a top concern in North Bend as with other cities.

#### **10. PIC Orientation and New Member Welcome**

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry presented an orientation on the role of PIC.

#### **11. Potential Future Levies and Ballot Measures**

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry shared an update on pending city levies and ballot measures.

#### **12. Upcoming Events**

- a. SCA Board of Directors Meeting – Wednesday, February 21, 2024
- b. SCA Public Issues Committee Meeting – Wednesday, March 13, 2024
- c. SCA Board of Directors Meeting – Wednesday, March 20, 2024

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

#### **14. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

**Public Issues Committee Meeting  
February 14, 2024**

City	Representative	Alternate
<b>Algona</b>	Troy Linnell	David White
<b>Auburn</b>	Nancy Backus	Larry Brown
Beaux Arts Village	Aletha Howes	
<b>Bellevue</b>	Jared Nieuwenhuis	Dave Hamilton
<b>Black Diamond</b>	Tamie Deady	Kristiana de Leon
<b>Bothell</b>	Rami Al-Kabra	Carston Curd
<b>Burien</b>	Kevin Schilling	
Carnation		
<b>Clyde Hill</b>	Steve Friedman	
<b>Covington</b>	Joseph Cimaomo, Jr.	Kristina Soltys
<b>Des Moines</b>	Harry Steinmetz	Yoshiko Grace Matsui
<b>Duvall</b>	Amy McHenry	Rick Shaffer
<b>Enumclaw</b>	Chance LaFleur	Corrie Koopman-Frazier
Federal Way	Susan Honda	Lydia Assefa-Dawson
Hunts Point	Joseph Sabey	
<b>Issaquah</b>	Tola Marts	Victoria Hunt
<b>Kenmore</b>	Nigel Herbig	Melanie O'Cain
Kent	Bill Boyce	
<b>Kirkland</b>	Kelli Curtis	John Tymczyszyn
<b>Lake Forest Park</b>	Tom French	Lorri Bodi
<b>Maple Valley</b>	Sean Kelly	Dana Parnello
Medina	Michael Luis	
<b>Mercer Island</b>	Dave Rosenbaum	Ted Weinberg
<b>Milton</b>	Shanna Styron Sherrell	Tim Ceder
<b>Newcastle</b>	Paul Charbonneau	Ariana Sherlock
Normandy Park	Eric Zimmerman	Sue-Ann Hohimer
<b>North Bend</b>	Errol Tremolada	Brenden Elwood
<b>Pacific</b>	Vic Kave	
<b>Redmond</b>	Melissa Stuart	Osman Salahuddin
<b>Renton</b>	Ruth Perez	Valerie O'Halloran
<b>Sammamish</b>	Amy Lam	Sid Gupta
SeaTac	Jake Simpson	Iris Guzmán
<b>Shoreline</b>	Chris Roberts	John Ramsdell
Skykomish	Henry Sladek	
<b>Snoqualmie</b>	Cara Christensen	Louis Washington
<b>Tukwila</b>	Tosh Sharp	Jovita McConnell
<b>Woodinville</b>	David Edwards	James Randolph
<b>Yarrow Point</b>	Katy Kinney Harris	

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

## SCA PIC February 14, 2024

### Attachment B: Chat Log

20:00:50 From Kevin Schilling, Burien to Hosts and panelists:

Can we bring down the presentation so we can see everyone again please?

20:08:54 From Kevin Schilling, Burien to Hosts and panelists:

If the role is to be a coordinator, it was ineffective over the last year for the most high profile homelessness issue in the county.

20:11:03 From Katy Kinney Harris, Yarrow Point to Hosts and panelists:

When will we see the results of the PIT count? I Need to be able to tell constituents what those numbers are...especially children, young adults and families.

20:16:28 From Kevin Schilling, Burien to Hosts and panelists:

This should be reflected in the minutes. Similarly to what Candice said about the Kenmore bill being unfairly labeled and described because we have tough local issues to solve, it should be the same between cities and KCRHA. I received pointed and public critiques directly from KCRHA staffers that wrote letters and then leaked them to the press about statements I made when Burien was trying to tackle our own issue last year. It doesn't feel like there's a positive relationship building desire there. And until that operation style changes, I'm going to remain skeptical of their desire to partner and be equitable in the distribution of resources.



March 13, 2024  
SCA PIC Meeting

**Item 6:**  
Crisis Care Centers Implementation Plan

***DISCUSSION***

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**SCA Staff Contact**

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

**SCA Regional Policy Committee Members**

Mayor Angela Birney, Redmond; Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn; Mayor Armondo Pavone, Renton; Deputy Mayor Jay Arnold, Kirkland; Councilmember Debra Srebnik, Kenmore (alternate); Mayor Dana Ralph, Kent (alternate)

**Update**

King County voters in 2023 approved a nine-year property tax levy to create a countywide network of five crisis care centers, restore residential treatment capacity, and strengthen the county’s community behavioral health network (“Crisis Care Centers Levy”). The goal of the levy is to provide places for people experiencing urgent behavioral health need to access immediate care and promote continuity of care by linking the 988 system, mobile crisis teams, and other behavioral health resources.

A proposed [implementation plan](#) for the levy has been transmitted by the County Executive and is now being considered by the County Council and the Regional Policy Committee. The implementation plan proposes how levy proceeds will be invested between 2024 and 2032 as required by the levy ordinance.

The County Council and Regional Policy Committee were briefed on the implementation plan in February and are currently scheduled to take action to approve the plan in April-May 2024.

PIC will be joined in March by Kelly Rider, Interim Director, King County Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS), who will provide a briefing on the levy and next steps for the implementation plan.

**Background**

The Crisis Care Centers Levy, approved by voters in February 2023, seeks to invest in a network of five crisis care centers, restore and expand mental health residential treatment beds, and strengthen the behavioral health workforce. The five centers are to be sited with at least one in each of four geographic “crisis response zones” and one center serving youth.

The centers will fill an identified gap in King County’s behavioral health system by creating places for people to go who are experiencing an urgent behavioral health need. At the time of



levy adoption, King County had only one crisis center, located in Seattle. The 46-bed Crisis Solutions Center operated by Downtown Emergency Services Center (DESC) requires a referral from police, a mobile crisis team, or a mental health professional. The center does not accept walk-in or self-referred clients. Demand for the center’s services exceeds their supply of beds.<sup>1</sup> Without sufficient capacity for stabilization and treatment, individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis are often referred to emergency rooms or to local jails when there is a risk of harm to themselves or others.

Additionally, since 2018, King County has lost approximately one-third of its residential mental health beds. Many beds were lost due to a lack of funding.<sup>2</sup> As of July 2022, individuals faced an average wait time of 44 days before being placed in a mental health treatment bed.<sup>3</sup>

The need for behavioral health services in King County is growing. In recent years there has been an increase in calls to crisis lines, clients served by crisis response programs, and investigations into the need for involuntary behavioral health treatment. The implementation plan identifies that in 2022, among adults enrolled in Medicaid in King County with identified mental health needs, roughly half did not receive treatment.

Establishing and operating five new crisis centers was identified as the “paramount purpose” or priority of the levy. Preserving and restoring residential treatment beds and growing the behavioral health workforce are identified as “supporting purposes.” Total levy revenue is estimated at \$1.25 billion over nine years (2024-2032) with 1% allowable growth.

#### *Levy Implementation Plan*

The ordinance authorizing the levy required the County Executive to transmit a proposed levy [implementation plan](#) by December 31, 2023, and that plan is now under consideration by the County Council and the Regional Policy Committee. The proposed implementation plan will direct levy expenditures from 2024 through 2032. In accordance with the levy ordinance, the proposed implementation plan will include the following:

1. A description of the purposes of the levy.
2. Descriptions of strategies and allowable activities.
3. A financial plan to direct the use of levy funds.
4. A description of how the executive will seek and incorporate federal, state, philanthropic, and other funds where possible to enhance the levy’s purposes.

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<sup>1</sup> Source: [Seattle Times](#)

<sup>2</sup> Source: [KUOW](#)

<sup>3</sup> Source: [King County Executive’s Office](#)

5. A description of the executive’s assumptions about the role of Medicaid funding in the financial plan, and the planned approach to billing eligible services to Medicaid or other sources of payment.
6. A description of the process by which King County and cities shall collaborate to support siting of new facilities that use levy proceeds for construction or acquisition.
7. A summary of the process and key findings of the community and stakeholder engagement process.
8. A process to make substantial adjustments to the financial plan.
9. A description of the composition, duties of, and process to establish an advisory body for the levy, which may be a pre-existing King County board or commission.
10. A description of how the executive shall provide online annual reports.
11. A description of how the purpose of the crisis response zones described in this levy is to promote King County geographic distribution of crisis care centers so that they are accessible for walk-in and drop-off crisis care throughout King County, but that the crisis care zones shall not be used to limit the ability of any person in King County to use any particular crisis care center.

*Crisis Care Center Site Requirements*

Per the implementation plan, DCHS will conduct a competitive procurement process to identify crisis care centers operators. These operators will then lead the development of the center in coordination with the county, applicable local jurisdiction(s), and community partners. The plan allows levy proceeds to be used to develop and construct facilities that may include purchasing land; acquiring an existing facility; planning, design, building renovation or expansion; new construction; or other capital pre-development and development costs. Ongoing capital facility maintenance costs for Crisis Care Centers would also be allowed.

The implementation plan establishes minimum requirements to ensure Crisis Care Center facilities can support the clinical model, offer meaningful transportation access, meet accessibility and zoning requirements, and meet state behavioral health facility licensure requirements.

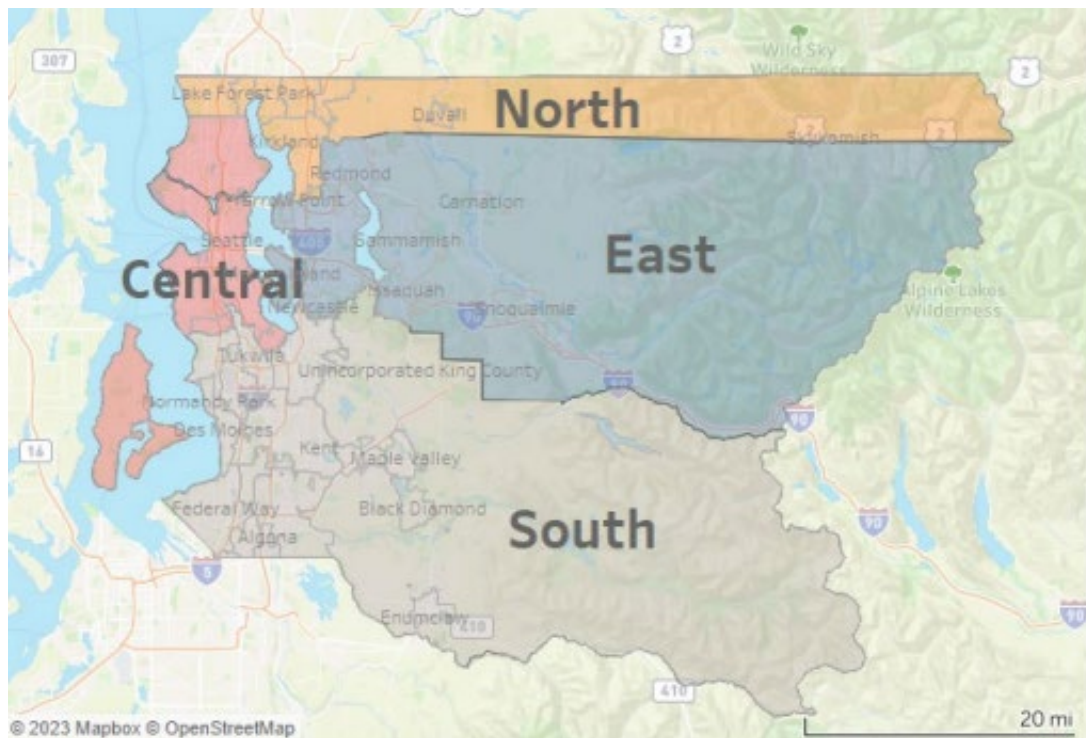
The five requirements are:

1. Sufficient size, defined as approximately 30,000 to 50,000 square feet of clinical space within one building, multiple adjacent buildings, or buildings connected by transportation for clients;

2. Transportation access with preference given to sites with "meaningful access to public transportation, convenient access for ambulances and first responders, proximity to major transportation arterials, and free public access for any person;"
3. ADA accessibility with preference given to "facility designs that incorporate the principles of universal design, meaning they are accessible to all people to the greatest extent possible without the need for adaption or specialized design;"
4. Crisis Care Center facilities are an eligible use under relevant zoning and permitting; and
5. The site can satisfy state licensure requirements.

### *Crisis Response Zones*

The levy ordinance requires that at least one crisis care center be located within each of the four crisis response zones defined by the ordinance:



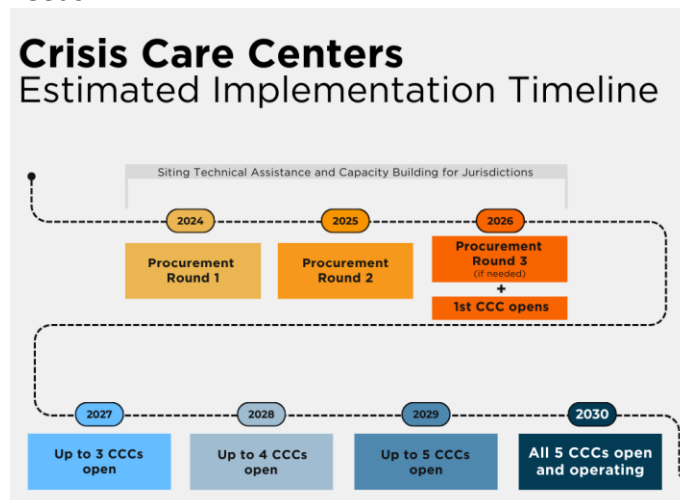
The purpose of the crisis response zones is to promote access by geographically distributing centers across King County. Crisis response zones do not restrict who can access care centers, meaning a person seeking services or a first responder seeking to transport a person to receive services, can access a crisis care center in any zone.

DCHS is working to move quickly to open the five crisis centers to meet community need. DCHS plans to select crisis care center operators through competitive procurement beginning in 2024 and will give preference to proposals that can begin operations rapidly. The 2024 procurement process is expected to award contracts for a maximum of three centers, with additional procurement processes in 2025 and again in 2026 (if necessary).

The implementation plan includes a description of “the process by which King County and partner cities shall collaborate to support siting of new capital facilities.” The plan states that DCHS will give preference to “proposals that demonstrate support from a jurisdiction located within the crisis response facility is proposed.” Support would be demonstrated by a written statement that includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Support for a crisis care center to be developed and operated by the proposed operator.
- Support for the proposed crisis care center facility site and confirmation that the site meets or is likely to meet the jurisdiction’s zoning and other relevant local development requirements.
- If a specific site is not yet identified, willingness to support the proposed operator in identifying a site that complies with the jurisdiction’s zoning and other local development requirements.
- Commitment to supporting the proposed operator in engaging community members regarding the siting, development, and ongoing operations of a crisis care center facility.

The plan states that if, by December 31, 2026, King County does not have viable identified locations with local jurisdiction support, “King County reserves all available rights, authorities, means, and abilities to proactively site and open” such facilities. The County Executive would only be authorized to pursue this “alternative siting process” after transmitting a notification letter to the King County Council describing the decision no earlier than January 1, 2027. At the Regional Policy Committee briefing in February, SCA representatives expressed the need for additional clarity about how viability will be determined as a part of this process, and ensuring that local jurisdictions are fully engaged in the selecting providers who are best able to respond to their community’s needs.



SCA PIC March 13, 2024  
Item 6

### **Additional Resources**

- [Crisis Care Centers Levy information page](#)
- [Community Briefing PowerPoint](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Legislative Documents](#)

### **Next Steps**

The County Council and Regional Policy Committee will continue their review of the proposed Crisis Care Centers Levy Implementation Plan in March and April, with final action to adopt the plan by the County Council slated for late May. Questions or feedback can be provided to SCA Policy Director Brian Parry, [brian@soundcities.org](mailto:brian@soundcities.org) , 206-499-4159.



March 13, 2024  
SCA PIC Meeting

**Item 7:**  
Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update

***DISCUSSION***

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**SCA Staff Contact**

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

**SCA Regional Water Quality Committee Members**

Councilmember Conrad Lee, Bellevue; Deputy Mayor Laur Mork, Shoreline; Mayor Jessica Rossman, Medina; Councilmember Sarah Moore, Burien (alternate); Councilmember Yolanda Trout-Manuel, Renton (alternate)

**Update**

The King County Wastewater Treatment Division has begun the process of updating the Regional Wastewater Services Plan (RWSP) to provide for wastewater treatment and services beyond the current plan’s scope of 2030. The RWSP outlines programs and projects to increase wastewater system capacity and function; gives guidance on recovering and recycling beneficial resources from the wastewater treatment process; and provides direction on protecting and monitoring water quality and meeting permit conditions.

The process to update the RWSP replaces an earlier effort begun in late 2018 to develop a new “Clean Water Plan,” which was paused in late 2021 over concerns about scope and regulatory uncertainty. Decisions made in the update to the RWSP will provide a roadmap for addressing many complex challenges related to wastewater, including aging infrastructure, growing population, changing climate, increasing regulatory demands, and rate affordability. Ultimately, the plan will influence billions of dollars of infrastructure spending and

PIC will be joined in March by Kamuron Gurol, Director, King County Wastewater Treatment Division, who will provide a briefing on the RWSP and plans for its update.

**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.

The Regional Wastewater System Plan (RWSP) was adopted in November 1999 to provide for wastewater treatment services through 2030. In late 2018, WTD initiated a process to update the RWSP with a “Clean Water Plan” that was intended to serve as a wastewater comprehensive plan and replace the RWSP. In late 2021, in response to concerns about the Clean Water Plan planning process scope and regulatory uncertainty with significant cost

implications, WTD “paused” the Clean Water Plan planning process. These concerns, as well as numerous goals for regional wastewater planning, were reflected in Clean Water Plan Guiding Principles that were developed by SCA members on RWQC, reviewed and recommended by PIC, and adopted by the SCA Board in August 2022 ( [Attachment A](#) ). A presentation to RWQC from March 6, 2024 on the renewed process is attached ( [Attachment B](#) ).

WTD has now launched a process that is focused more directly on wastewater services and updating the RWSP. At the March PIC meeting, WTD Director Kamuron Gurol will provide an overview of what will be included in the RWSP update, the reasons an update is needed now, how the system and regulatory environment has changed since adoption of the RWSP, and the role of various entities in supporting and providing direction to the effort.

### **Next Steps**

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

## 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.

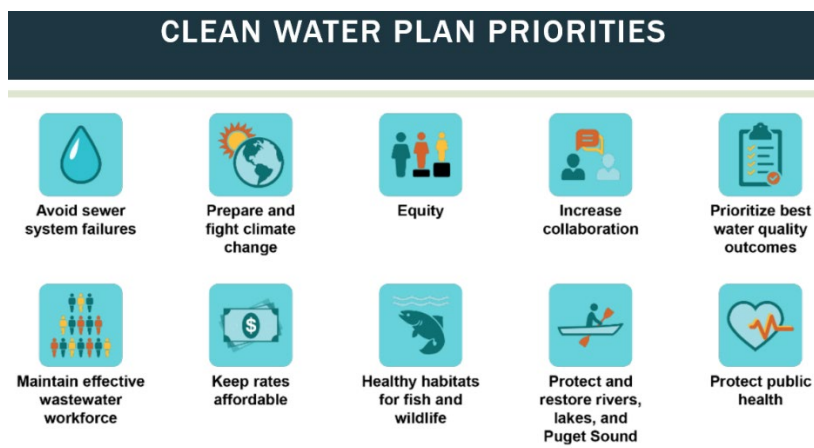
6. **Maintain an emphasis on total sewer rates.** When evaluating affordability, consider the impacts a decision will have on the total sewer rate, where the total sewer rate is defined as the rate to cover both King County and local system rates. Ultimately, it is the total sewer rate that impacts ratepayers. 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. Provide documentation that the best available science has been used to arrive at options presented.**
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 the County’s wastewater contract agencies representing some percentage of the County’s population.** Such a process is required for adoption of the King County Solid Waste Comprehensive Plan, pursuant to interlocal agreement.<sup>1</sup> 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!

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<sup>1</sup> 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.



March 6, 2024

# Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update Revised Approach



# Agenda

- Purpose of briefing
- Regional Wastewater Services Plan (RWSP) elements
- Need for plan update
- Revised process, vision for clean water
- Key roles and coordination with the Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC)
- Next steps





# Why we do this

## A regional system for protecting water quality and public health

- Serve 1.9 million people in 424 sq-mi service area
- Provide high quality and effective treatment to wastewater collected by 34 local sewer agencies
- Recover and beneficially use biosolids, biogas, recycled water and sewer heat

## Wastewater Treatment Division Mission

*We protect public health and the environment by collecting and cleaning wastewater while recovering valuable resources for a healthy and resilient Puget Sound*



# The RWSP: the comprehensive plan for wastewater

## Pre-1961 – Master Plan

- Current RWSP amends original Master Plan
- Major update in 1999 followed by several amendments
- RWSP is a functional plan under the King County Comprehensive Plan

## RWSP policies and regulations adopted and amended by King County Council

- King County Code 28.84 (Water Pollution Abatement)
- KCC 28.86 (Wastewater Treatment)

## Additional components of the RWSP

- Plans for Combined Sewer Overflows, Conveyance System Improvement, Infiltration/Inflow, and others

## RWSP and related documents form a General Sewer Plan

- Ecology approval required

# Wastewater Treatment Policies (KCC 28.86)

- Treatment plant
- Conveyance
- Infiltration/Inflow
- Combined sewer overflow control
- Biosolids
- Water reuse
- Wastewater services
- Water quality protection
- Wastewater planning
- Environmental mitigation
- Public involvement

*28.86.040 A. The RWSP policies, as set forth in this chapter, shall provide direction for the operation and further development of the wastewater system, its capital improvement program and, as necessary, the development of subsequent policies.*

# Reasons to update the plan

- About half-million more people live in King County than in 2000 and an additional three-quarters of a million people are projected to live here by 2050
- Climate change impacts are already happening and are projected to become more pronounced over time (storms, droughts, wildfire and others)
- An aging system, sufficient capacity for growth, and regulations will require significant investments (\$billions)
- Protect water quality and address current and emerging contaminants and pollutants
- Ensure greater equity and address affordability for customers
- An update to the long-range plan will support the extension of local agency sewage disposal contracts, many of which expire in 2036, and continue to strengthen the relationship with local agencies
- Help make the case for state/federal support, and meet the requirements for General Sewer Plan update for approval by Ecology



# Once the effort is complete, we will have...



Updated RWSP policies in King County Code for the regional wastewater system including a vision for clean water



Policies, plans, and documents that meet state requirements for Ecology approval of General Sewer Plan update

# Clean Water Plan process

- Paused to consider feedback and due to regulatory uncertainty for Nutrients and Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Consent Decree (CD)
- During the pause, WTD is/has:
  - Negotiating the CSO CD modification
  - Implemented the initial cycle for the Puget Sound Nutrient General Permit and monitored litigation
  - Improved transparency in the capital planning and sewer rate processes for MWPAAC and RWQC
  - Held productive discussions and developed an approach to updating the RWSP



# Proposed process will:

- Focus on wastewater system issues and policies, informed by context with related water policies, actions and outcomes
- Affirm King County will meet all regulatory obligations
- Result in updates to KCC 28.84 and 28.86, provide policy guidance for 20+ years
  - WTD to also undertake functional plan and capital program updates to ensure investments are consistent with policy guidance
- Be completed in phases with early policy amendments in 2025
- Include a vision for clean water to guide policy work

# A vision for clean water would...

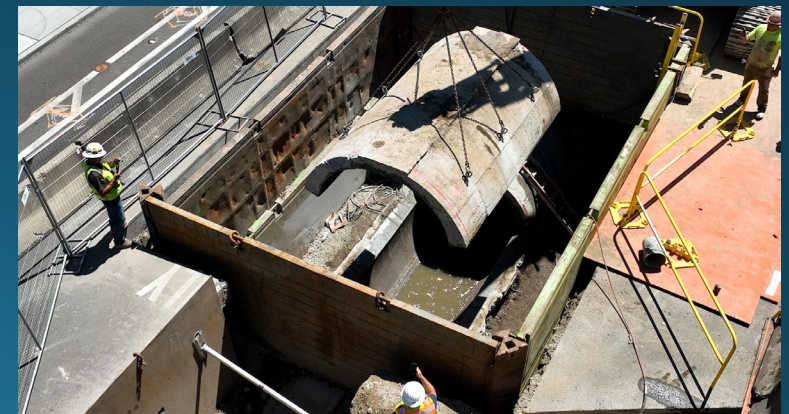
- Describe the wastewater system we want in 2075
  - *Imagine what's possible, if we get this right...*
- Include shared regional values, such as:
  - Water quality and public health
  - Equity and social justice
  - Affordability
  - Sustainability, stewardship, and resiliency
  - Addressing impacts from climate change and other hazards
    - For example, building state-of-the-art facilities like the [Georgetown Wet Weather Treatment Station](#) to withstand climate impacts while improving water quality in the Duwamish River





# A vision for clean water would...

- Embrace innovative & “circular economy” approaches
  - Enhancing resource recovery and beneficial use, energy generation
    - Biogas WTD has been purifying and selling renewable natural gas from South Treatment Plant since 1987
    - Sewer heat recovery: First pilot project in South Lake Union executed through a public-private partnership
  - Controlling the sources of contamination – an upstream vs. end-of-pipe approach
- Reflect other environmental and related policy goals
  - Comprehensive Plan, Strategic Climate Action Plan, Clean Water Healthy Habitat, etc.
- Be included in RWSP policies
  - Help guide policy amendments and implementation



# Key roles for this effort

## County Executive:

- Articulate a vision for clean water and provide policy guidance
- Transmit recommended policies for legislative review/approval

## WTD:

- Refresh and use information already developed
- Perform research and analysis on key drivers for the system, trends and opportunities in the industry
- Seek input from interested parties (contract agencies, NGOs, community members, Tribes and others)
- Develop policy amendment options and related analyses
- Conduct environmental review and issue SEPA documents

# Key roles for this effort

## MWPAAC, cities, utilities and districts:

- Review technical analyses and work products including vision and policies
- Develop recommendations for Executive, RWQC and County Council
- Help ensure engagement with contract agencies is robust
- Provide key local perspectives and keep regional needs in mind

## Community members:

- Provide valuable perspectives and input especially from communities not traditionally included in wastewater policy planning

## Tribes and regulatory agencies:

- Provide review and comment on key work products

# Key roles for this effort

## RWQC:

- Confirm high-level principles to guide the process
  - Roles & responsibilities for RWQC, MWPAAC, and other parties
  - Timeline and key milestones
- Review and discuss current RWSP policies, review challenges and opportunities, and provide early policy input
- Recommend policy amendments to County Council

## County Council:

- Consider RWQC recommendations and adopt amendments



# Once the effort is complete, we will have...



Updated RWSP policies in King County Code for the regional wastewater system including a vision for clean water



Policies, plans, and documents that meet state requirements for Ecology approval of General Sewer Plan update

# Next steps for this work in 2024/25

- Coordinate RWSP update work with RWQC 2024/25 work plan
  - Monthly cadence for RWQC to review current RWSP policies
  - Identify early policy amendments for decision in 2025
  - Early comments on the vision for clean water
- Early policy amendments
  - WTD work, review by MWPAAC and interested parties
  - Executive transmits, RWQC reviews, County Council adopts
- Vision process, and analytical work on rest of policy amendments also commences
  - Timeline and engagement process to be presented at April RWQC

# Mission and opportunity

## Our Mission

*We protect public health and the environment by collecting and cleaning wastewater while recovering valuable resources for a healthy and resilient Puget Sound*

## Opportunity with this process

Create the system we want future generations to inherit



## Item 8:

### Legislative Session Recap

#### **DISCUSSION**

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#### **SCA Staff Contact**

Andie Parnell, SCA Policy Analyst, [andie@soundcities.org](mailto:andie@soundcities.org) , 206-724-4060

#### **Update**

PIC members will receive a recap of the 2024 Washington State Legislative Session. Members will have the chance to discuss city legislative priorities and review the 2024 legislative session's outcomes.

The short, 60-day Washington State Legislative Session ended on March 7, 2024. At the March PIC meeting, PIC will discuss and review the 2024 legislative session.

In February, PIC received a mid-session update from the Association of Washington Cities (AWC). The latest information on AWC priority bills can be found on AWC's weekly "[hot sheet](#)," [bill tracker](#) , and [state budget comparison](#) . AWC will provide a full recap of city-related issues from the 2024 legislative session on April 11, 2024. Register for the virtual webinar [here](#) .

#### **2024 SCA Legislative Agenda**

The 2024 SCA Legislative Agenda as recommended by PIC, was approved by the SCA Board of Directors in December ( [Attachment A](#) ) . Key priority areas identified by SCA members include addressing public safety, including resources to address auto theft and property crime, and to recruit and retain officers; promoting economic vitality and workforce development; addressing the behavioral health crisis; replacing the 1% property tax cap; increasing investment in local infrastructure; promoting housing affordability; and allocating state and federal funds to cities to prepare for and mitigate climate change impacts.

#### **Public Safety and Officer Recruitment**

*SCA legislative priority: Improve public safety by increasing tools and resources, including local taxing authority, to address auto theft and property crime and to support officer recruitment and retention.*

[SB 5424](#) authorizing general and limited authority Washington law enforcement agencies to adopt flexible work policies.

**Status:** Passed the legislature.

[SB 6157](#) expanding civil service eligibility to DACA recipients.

**Status:** Passed the legislature.

[HB 2311](#) establishing peer support services for first responders.

**Status:** Passed the legislature.

[I 2113](#) allowing police pursuits upon reasonable suspicion of a crime and posing a threat to the safety of others.

**Status:** Passed the legislature.

[SB 5056](#) establishing a special allegation and sentencing enhancement for “habitual property offenders.”

**Status:** Did not pass.

[SB 6261](#) creating penalties for theft of property or equipment used by firefighters or emergency medical service providers.

**Status:** Did not pass.

### **Economic Vitality and Workforce Development**

*SCA legislative priority: Promote economic vitality by increasing support for community revitalization and workforce development programs in critical fields with hiring shortages.*

[HB 2044](#) standardizing limitations on voter-approved property tax levies.

**Status:** Passed the legislature.

[HB 2354](#) creating an option for impacted taxing districts to provide a portion of their new revenue to support any tax increment area proposed within their jurisdiction.

**Status:** Passed the legislature.

[HB 2137](#) allowing a Tourism Promotion Area’s legislative authority to designate exemptions to the tourism promotion lodging charge.

**Status:** Passed the legislature.

[HB 2428](#) allowing cities to voluntarily share certain sales and use tax revenue.

**Status:** Passed the legislature.

[SB 5897](#) modifying provisions of the business licensing service program.

**Status:** Passed the legislature.

[HB 1870](#) increasing opportunities for local communities to secure federal funding.

**Status:** Passed the legislature.

## **Addressing the Behavioral Health Crisis**

*SCA legislative priority: Address the behavioral health treatment crisis by increasing the capacity of the crisis response system and funding local programs that connect individuals with needed care and diversion programs.*

[HB 1929](#) establishing a supportive transitional housing program for young adults following inpatient behavioral health treatment.

**Status:** Passed the legislature.

[SB 5853](#) extending the crisis relief center model to provide behavioral health crisis services for minors.

**Status:** Passed the legislature.

[HB 2088](#) extending liability protections for responders dispatched from mobile rapid response crisis teams and community-based crisis teams.

**Status:** Passed the legislature.

[HB 2195](#) authorizing use of state school construction funding dollars for early learning facilities within K-12 public schools.

**Status:** Passed the legislature.

[HB 2247](#) modifying licensing requirements, practice settings, and reimbursement requirements for behavioral health professions.

**Status:** Passed the legislature.

[SB 5906](#) implementing a statewide drug overdose prevention and education campaign.

**Status:** Passed the legislature.

[HB 5920](#) restoring the Department of Health's authority to issue certificate of need exemptions for psychiatric hospital beds.

**Status:** Passed the legislature.

[SB 6228](#) modifying health plan coverage of behavioral health and substance use treatment.

**Status:** Passed the legislature.

[SB 6251](#) authorizing behavioral health administrative service organizations (BH-ASOs) to develop protocols for optimizing crisis response in their regional service areas.

**Status:** Passed the legislature.

[SB 6308](#) extending the timeline for implementation of components of the 988 system.

**Status:** Passed the legislature.

[HB 2408](#) requiring the crisis call center system platform used by designated 988 contact hubs to be capable of allowing any crisis line dedicated to the needs of American Indian and Alaska Native persons to receive crisis assistance.

**Status:** Did not pass.

[SB 6295](#) establishing an enhanced, integrated care approach to provide resources for the highest users of competency services.

**Status:** Did not pass.

### **Replacing the 1% Property Tax Cap**

*SCA legislative priority: Support sustainable funding for core local services by replacing the 1% cap on annual property tax increases with a limit tied to inflation and population growth and increasing flexibility for use of existing revenue sources.*

[SB 5770](#) revising the 1% property tax cap to tie the cap for local governments to inflation up to 3%.

**Status:** Did not pass.

### **Increasing Investment in Local Infrastructure**

*SCA legislative priority: Continue to invest in local infrastructure, transportation, and mobility by increasing investment in the Public Works Assistance Account, honoring commitments made in Move Ahead Washington, and providing local funding options with an emphasis on preservation and maintenance.*

[SB 6040](#) requiring prompt payment in public works to subcontractors of any tier that are certified small business or recognized women or minority-owned business.

**Status:** Passed the legislature.

[SB 6192](#) revising additional work and change orders on public and private construction projects.

**Status:** Passed the legislature.

[SB 6089](#) eliminating certain minimum requirement equivalencies for electrical inspectors.

**Status:** Passed the legislature.

[HB 2020](#) establishing a state administered public infrastructure assistance program within the emergency management division.

**Status:** Passed the legislature.

[SB 5452](#) authorizing impact fee revenue to fund improvements to bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

**Status:** Passed the legislature.

[SB 6167](#) adopting the recommendations of the capital projects advisory review board regarding local government procurement rules among special purpose districts, first class and second-class cities, and public utility districts.

**Status:** Did not pass.

[HB 2252](#) allowing small business establishments in residential zones.

**Status:** Did not pass.

### **Promoting Housing Affordability**

*SCA legislative priority: Promote housing affordability by providing resources such as local option REET to assist cities with implementation of local affordable housing plans and recently adopted planning and zoning changes and reducing the cost of regulations on housing production.*

[HB 2321](#) modifying middle housing requirements and minimum residential density requirements.

**Status:** Passed the legislature.

### **Mitigating Climate Change Impacts**

*SCA legislative priority: Allocate state and federal funding to cities to mitigate and prepare for impacts of climate change, including responding to extreme weather emergencies.*

[HB 2301](#) improving the outcomes associated with waste material management systems, including products affecting organic material management systems.

**Status:** Passed the legislature.

[SB 5934](#) authorizing a city, code city, or county to encourage pollinator friendly plants in any landscaped areas.

**Status:** Passed the legislature.

[HB 2105](#) ensuring the protection of instream resources in connection with the issuance of water right permits in water resource inventory areas in which minimum instream flows are not being met.

**Status:** Did not pass.

### **Next Steps**

Questions and comments can be directed to SCA Policy Analyst Andie Parnell at [andie@soundcities.org](mailto:andie@soundcities.org) or 206-724-4060.



# Sound Cities Association

## 2024 Legislative Agenda



### Improve Public Safety

Increase tools and resources, including local taxing authority, to address auto theft and property crime and to support officer recruitment and retention.

### Promote Economic Vitality

Increase support for community revitalization and workforce development programs in critical fields with hiring shortages.

### Address the Behavioral Health Treatment Crisis

Increase the capacity of the crisis response system and fund local programs that connect individuals with needed care and diversion programs.

### Support Sustainable Funding for Core Local Services

Replace the 1% cap on annual property increases with a limit tied to inflation and population growth and increasing flexibility for use of

### Invest in Transportation Infrastructure & Mobility

Increase investment in the Public Works Assistance Account, honor commitments made in Move Ahead Washington, and provide local funding options with an emphasis on preservation and maintenance.

### Promote Housing Affordability

Provide resources such as local option REET to assist cities with implementation of local affordable housing plans and recently adopted planning and zoning changes, and reduce the cost of regulations on housing production.

### Mitigate and Prepare for Impacts of Climate Change

Allocate state and federal funding to cities to mitigate and prepare for the impacts of climate change, including responding to extreme

## Legislative Guiding Principles

SCA adopts the following guiding principles through which all legislative proposals will be measured against:

- \*Advance racial equity and social justice
- \*Improve the social safety net
- \*Make no unfunded mandates to cities
- \*Preserve local decision-making authority
- \*Honor commitments to shared revenues



March 13, 2024  
SCA PIC Meeting

**Item 9:**  
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

Future Ballot Measures – SCA Cities			
Year	Month	Jurisdiction	Measure
2024	April	Enumclaw	Community center general obligation bonds

Future Ballot Measures – Other Jurisdictions, Schools, and Special Purpose Districts			
Year	Month	Jurisdiction	Measure
2024	April	Kent SD	Technology and capital projects levy
2024	April	Tahoma SD	Replacement of educational programs and operations levy
2024	April	East Pierce Fire and Rescue	One-year levy lid lift

Potential Future Ballot Measures – Other Jurisdictions and Special Purpose Districts			
Year	Month	Jurisdiction	Measure
2024		King County	Automated Fingerprint Identification System levy renewal
2024		Seattle	Transportation Levy renewal (“Move Seattle”)
2025		King County	Parks levy renewal
2025		King County	EMS levy renewal
2027		King County	Best Starts for Kids levy renewal
TBD		King County	Housing levy
TBD		King County	Transit levy
TBD		King County	Climate resiliency levy lid lift

**Next Steps**

SCA members are encouraged to send information about any levies or ballot measures under consideration by your city or that will impact SCA cities to SCA Policy Director Brian Parry at [brian@soundcities.org](mailto:brian@soundcities.org) or (206) 499-4159.