



SCA Public Issues Committee: PIC Hot Sheet 5/13/2026

Please review the details in this document for a quick overview of the PIC discussions and actions this month. More details are provided in the associated memorandums for each item. **The purpose of this document is to serve as a quick tool for PIC members to help them communicate with their elected and staff colleagues in your city.** Use this document – especially the ****Questions for your Colleagues** – to try and engage your peers so you can bring a more comprehensive view into the PIC. On some questions, you may also want to ask city staff for their perspective or knowledge.

(Note: This document is new and a work in progress, we welcome your feedback).

Associated PIC packet materials can be found on the [SCA website](#).

Item 6: Potential Affordable Housing Regional Initiative **DISCUSSION**

At the May PIC meeting, Patience Malaba from the Housing Development Consortium (HDC) and her staff are providing a briefing regarding a potential regional initiative to fund affordable housing development in King County. Earlier this year, HDC initiated conversations regarding a potential levy with a group that includes King County, Seattle, and SCA member city leadership, along with affordable housing developers and other partners. On March 31, 2026, Executive Girmay Zahilay issued an Executive Order that emphasizes identifying new, dedicated revenue sources to address King County's affordable housing shortage. With this announcement, HDC's work on a potential affordable housing regional initiative has been elevated to regional discussion.

HDC is seeking early input on the feasibility and fundamentals of a potential affordable housing levy from SCA cities. HDC is willing to continue these discussions directly with cities and welcomes feedback on how to expand their outreach and engagement throughout this process. Development of an affordable housing levy is in the earliest stages and may be planned for a 2027 or 2028 ballot.

****Questions for your Colleagues:**

- What are the potential opportunities that come with this initiative?
- What are the potential barriers or challenges that come with this initiative?
- For this levy to be seen as a success or adding value to your city, what would the levy need to achieve?
- Beyond the need for more funding, what are additional barriers to building affordable housing in your community?
- How can HDC and regional partners best engage with cities throughout this process?

Item 7: 2027 Proposed Sewer Rate Response Letter*DISCUSSION/POTENTIAL ACTION*

The King County Executive has proposed a 12.75% monthly sewer rate increase, which raises the current monthly rate of \$62.66 to \$70.65. The sewer rate is forecasted to continue rising by double-digit percentages through 2032, resulting in the monthly sewer rate doubling by 2032 and more than tripling by 2042. SCA members have expressed concerns around how multiple years of double-digit rate increases, particularly when compounded with other utility rate increases, impacts affordability for ratepayers. The SCA Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC) Caucus has suggested SCA submit a sewer rate response letter.

At the April PIC meeting, members voted to discuss a sewer rate response letter at the May PIC meeting. At the May PIC meeting, members will review the final draft of a letter to the King County Council and vote to elevate the letter to the SCA Board of Directors for review and approval.

SCA received 20 amendments to the sewer rate letter; some are part of a striking amendment while others are being considered separately. Attachment A represents a striking amendment to the letter, while Attachment B lays out amendments to be considered separately. Please review these amendments before the PIC meeting and be ready to vote on them.

****Questions for your Colleagues:**

- Do you support SCA sending a letter in response to the 2027 sewer rate proposal?
- Do you support the amendments provided in the attachments?
- Do you want to see any other changes to the sewer rate response letter?

Item 8: Sound Transit Enterprise Initiative*DISCUSSION/POTENTIAL ACTION*

At the April PIC meeting, members voted to discuss Sound Transit's Enterprise Initiative and a potential statement to the Sound Transit Board of Directors at the May PIC meeting.

At the May PIC meeting, SCA Policy Analyst Dax Tate will provide a briefing on the Enterprise Initiative, including background information, updates from the May 7 Executive Committee meeting, next steps, and opportunities for city engagement.

After the briefing, PIC members will be asked to consider whether or not to recommend that the SCA Board provide a brief statement to the Sound Transit Board [See Item 8 – Attachment A]. **Please communicate with your city councils prior to the PIC meeting and bring answers to the questions below.**

Staff recommendation: Due to the short timeline and complexity of this issue across the region, SCA staff recommend either (1) recommending the statement as is or with minimal adjustments, or (2) voting not to recommend the statement, in favor of individual or subregional engagement around specific asks.

****Questions for your Colleagues:**

- Do you support SCA issuing a statement regarding the Sound Transit Enterprise Initiative?
- Are there changes you would like to see to the statement?

Item 9: Updates/Informational Items

DISCUSSION

Item 9.a: Regional Boards & Committees Upcoming Issues

This standing PIC item provides an overview of key issues scheduled for discussion on regional boards and committees to inform the Public Issues Committee and support proactive engagement and policy alignment.

The SCA policy staff have identified the following issues for consideration by PIC as potential items for discussion:

- PSRC Transportation Policy Board: Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)
 - The RTP is open for public comment, and the planned final vote to approve will take place at the PSRC General Assembly meeting in May.

Item 9.b: Levies & Ballot Measures

This standing item details upcoming King County and special district levies and ballot measures. **PIC members are encouraged to share upcoming or recently approved city and special districts levies and ballot measures with SCA staff.**

Item 9.c: PIC 2026 Work Plan

This new standing item provides a look ahead at upcoming topics for PIC meetings. The PIC work plan is a living document, subject to change as issues arise or are identified for discussion. The items listed on the work plan are not finalized unless formally listed on an upcoming PIC agenda.