



SCA Public Issues Committee

MINUTES

May 13, 2026 – 7:00 PM

Online Meeting

1. Welcome and Roll Call

Federal Way Councilmember, Lydia Assefa-Dawson, Public Issues Committee (PIC) Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:09 PM. 28 cities were represented. ([Attachment A](#)).

Guests included: Tracy Taylor, Auburn (PIC Alternate); Alex Andrade, Burien (PIC Alternate); Adam Olen, Duvall (PIC Alternate); Les Sessoms, Federal Way (PIC Alternate); Paul Adair, Issaquah (PIC Alternate); Katie Halse, Bellevue Staff; Andreana Campbell, Kirkland Staff; Amy Tsai, Redmond Staff; Jared Hill, Woodinville Staff; Cassie Byerly, King County Executive Staff; Tania Mondaca, King County Council Staff; Olivia Robinson, King County Wastewater Treatment Division Staff; Patience Malaba, Housing Development Consortium (HDC); Brady Nordstrom, HDC; Walter Dawson; Joseph Ruttenberg.

Chair Assefa-Dawson 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

Federal Way Councilmember, Lydia Assefa-Dawson, SCA PIC Chair, asked if there was anyone in attendance who would like to provide public comment and encouraged any individuals with comment to contact sca@soundcities.org .

Hearing none, Chair Assefa-Dawson closed this portion of the meeting.

3. Approval of Minutes – April 8, 2026 Meeting

Federal Way Councilmember, Lydia Assefa-Dawson, SCA PIC Chair, asked for any questions or amendments to the minutes of the April 8, 2026 SCA PIC meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Elizabeth Porter, Covington, moved, seconded by Councilmember Bill Boyce, Kent, to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2026 SCA PIC Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Chair's Report

Federal Way Councilmember, Lydia Assefa-Dawson, SCA PIC Chair, stated that the agenda was filled with three issues of high regional interest and noted that SCA staff would be providing time checks. She also reminded members of SCA's Guiding Principles.

5. Executive Director's Report

SCA Executive Director Robert Feldstein shared that he has met with staff of multiple cities to discuss ongoing items related to the King County Regional Homelessness Authority. He also stated that SCA will be distributing a survey to members shortly on Regional Transit Safety as well as starting up a monthly staff advisory group on the topic. Feldstein encouraged members to reach out to SCA Policy Analyst Dax Tate if they were interested in joining the group.

Feldstein also provided updates on the King County Transportation District (KCTD). He stated that another meeting is scheduled for Friday. Feldstein shared that an amendment to Supervisor Fain's amendment is expected. He stated that while the numbers being discussed are not what SCA members had hoped for, this represents a victory for SCA as nobody in the County was originally discussing a pass-through. He encouraged members to continue being engaged to support those who supported SCA.

6. Potential Affordable Housing Regional Initiative

Housing Development Consortium (HDC) Executive Director Patience Malaba and Associate Director of Government Relations and Policy Brady Nordstrom presented to members regarding the Potential Affordable Housing Regional Initiative. Presentation materials are attached and available on the SCA website [here](#).

HDC Executive Director Patience Malaba introduced the early work that has been done on a potential affordable housing regional initiative, stating no items presented are formal proposals. She overviewed that the HDC worked with King County Councilmember Claudia Balducci on a budget proviso for an updated King County Housing Needs Assessment; the data from this assessment suggests that progress has been made but that King County still needs 172,000 new homes in the next 20 years, with the greatest need in the 0-50% AMI range.

HDC Associate Director of Government Relations and Policy Brady Nordstrom reviewed current data. He stated that the region currently spends around \$1.5 billion on housing, but an annual funding gap of \$3.9 billion remains. He stated that an affordable housing levy has risen as a potential tool to address housing needs. The legislature passed a levy authority for cities, counties, and towns in 2020 that is not currently used by King County. It requires a simple majority approval by ballot measure, declaration of state of emergency, and a financing plan.

Nordstrom then presented possible concepts for levy funding allocation. Malaba overviewed that the King County Executive released an executive order in March that launches a workgroup analyzing a region-wide funding approach for a first-ever county-wide housing levy. She stated that HDC is working with the Executive to create a workplan to support the workgroup.

Chair Assefa-Dawson opened the floor for questions and discussion. There were no action items to report.

7. 2027 Proposed Sewer Rate Response Letter

SCA staff provided members with presentation regarding the 2027 Proposed Sewer Rate Response Letter. Materials are attached and available on the SCA website [here](#).

SCA Policy Analyst Laura Belmont provided an update on the 2027 Proposed Sewer Rate letter, including a review of the April PIC discussion. Belmont covered key components of the draft letter, an overview of the structure of the motion and amendment process, and a reminder that members who submitted amendments to the PIC packet must still submit amendments in the meeting. They then introduced the redlined draft letter.

Chair Assefa Dawson opened the floor for discussion. The Committee first discussed proposed amendments as included in the meeting materials and took the following actions:

Amendments 1–9 are attached to and incorporated into these minutes by reference.
([Attachment C](#))

Redmond Council President Melissa Stuart, SCA PIC Vice Chair, moved, seconded by Councilmember Jared Nieuwenhuis, Bellevue, to amend the letter as shown in Amendment 1 . The motion passed unanimously.

Vice Chair Stuart moved, seconded by Mayor Vic Kave, Pacific, to amend the letter as shown in Amendment 2. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember Laura Mork, Shoreline, moved, seconded by Mayor Sarah Moore, Burien, to amend the letter as shown in Amendment 3. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember Kate Kruller, Tukwila, moved, seconded by Council President Tola Marts, Issaquah, to amend amendment 4 by revising the second sentence. The motion passed unanimously.

Council President Bill Boyce, Kent, moved, seconded by Councilmember Jared Nieuwenhuis, Bellevue, to amend the letter as shown in Amendment 4, as amended. The motion passed via a roll call vote, with 4 opposed and 6 abstaining. The cities of Algona, Auburn, Black Diamond, Carnation, Covington, Federal Way, Issaquah, Kent, Kirkland, Maple Valley, Medina, Milton, Normandy Park, Pacific, Sammamish, Skykomish, and Tukwila voted in favor. The cities of Burien, Redmond, Renton, and Shoreline voted in opposition. Bellevue, Duvall, Kenmore, Lake Forest Park, North Bend, and Woodinville abstained.

Councilmember Shilpa Prem, Kirkland, moved, seconded by Federal Way Councilmember Lydia Assefa-Dawson, SCA PIC Chair, to amend the letter as shown in Amendment 5. The motion passed unanimously.

Amendments 6 and 7 were not considered.

Councilmember Jared Nieuwenhuis, Bellevue, moved, seconded by Councilmember Jason Roberts, Milton, to amend the letter as shown in Amendment 8. The motion passed unanimously.

Belmont stated that WTD had indicated that Amendment 9, as included in the PIC Packet, may require further legal consideration. Following discussion, the Committee took the following action:

Deputy Mayor Tracy Furutani, Lake Forest Park, moved, seconded by Moore, to amend the letter as shown in Amendment 9 pending legal review. The motion failed by a roll call vote, with 15 opposed, and 2 abstaining. The cities of Algona, Auburn, Burien, Federal Way, Issaquah, Kent, Lake Forest Park, and Shoreline voted in favor. The cities of Bellevue, Black Diamond, Carnation, Covington, Duvall, Kenmore, Kirkland, Maple Valley, Normandy Park, North Bend, Pacific, Redmond, Sammamish, Tukwila, and Woodinville voted in opposition. Medina and Milton abstained.

Chair Assefa-Dawson called for additional amendments on the floor.

By request of a member, SCA staff shared a copy of the draft letter reflecting the approved amendments reflected before the final vote.

A typographical error regarding the projected year in which rates would double was identified and corrected by staff in the version before the Committee.

Councilmember Kate Kruller, Tukwila, moved, seconded by Councilmember Shilpa Prem, Kirkland, to amend the letter by changing “alarmed by the affordability” to “alarmed by the inaffordability.”

Council President Tola Marts, Issaquah, moved, seconded by Councilmember Mark Joselyn, North Bend, to amend the proposed language to “lack of affordability.” The motion passed unanimously.

The motion by Kruller, as amended, passed unanimously.

Councilmember Laura Mork, Shoreline, moved, seconded by Councilmember Kate Kruller, Tukwila, to recommend approval of the draft 2027 Proposed Sewer Rate Response Letter, as amended, to the SCA Board of Directors. The motion passed unanimously via a roll call vote, with 27 in favor, none opposed, and none abstaining. The cities of Algona, Auburn, Bellevue, Black Diamond, Burien, Carnation, Covington, Duvall, Federal Way, Issaquah, Kenmore, Kent, Kirkland, Lake Forest Park, Maple Valley, Medina, Milton, Normandy Park, North Bend, Pacific, Redmond, Renton, Sammamish, Shoreline, Skykomish, Tukwila, and Woodinville voted in favor.

8. Sound Transit Enterprise Initiative

SCA staff provided members with presentation regarding the Sound Transit Enterprise Initiative. Materials are attached and available on the SCA website [here](#).

SCA Policy Analyst Dax Tate overviewed that Sound Transit is expected to vote on a proposed approach to their Enterprise Initiative program, meant to address a forecasted \$34.5 billion

deficit to deliver the Sound Transit 3 package. Tate then overviewed the latest proposal at the time of the meeting, which prioritizes the West Seattle, Tacoma, and Everett extensions while delaying or deferring other projects. He also reviewed the upcoming timeline related to this issue. He stated another executive meeting was to be held and that a final vote by Sound Transit is anticipated at their May 28 Board Meeting, after which point the Enterprise workplan will be ongoing.

Tate overviewed the draft SCA statement in the PIC packet, stating that the goal was to avoid pitting cities against one another and express appreciation for staff. Tate stated that the SCA staff recommendation regarding the statement is to recommend it as-is, recommend it with minimal adjustments, or vote not to recommend it in favor of city or subregional engagement.

SCA Executive Director Robert Feldstein stated that members should ask themselves whether the statement reflects a communal viewpoint.

Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, moved, seconded by Councilmember Kate Kruller, Tukwila, to amend the statement to remove “are willing to be flexible and” from the last sentence of the statement. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Vic Kave, Pacific moved, seconded by Councilmember Jason Roberts, Milton, to recommend approval of the draft statement regarding the Sound Transit Enterprise Initiative, as amended, to the SCA Board of Directors. The motion passed 24-0-1, with Maple Valley abstaining.

9. Updates/Informational Items

The Committee was directed to review items included in the meeting materials. There was no discussion.

10. For the Good of the Order

Councilmember Bill Boyce, Kent, thanked Federal Way Councilmember Lydia Assefa-Dawson, SCA PIC Chair, for her work running the meeting. SCA Executive Director Robert Feldstein and Councilmember Kate Kruller, Tukwila, echoed these sentiments.

11. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

**Public Issues Committee Meeting
May 13, 2026**

City	Representative	Alternate
Algona	David White	Troy Linnell
Auburn	Nancy Backus	Tracy Taylor
Beaux Arts Village	Aletha Howes	
Bellevue	Jared Nieuwenhuis	Naren Briar
Black Diamond	Tamie Deady	
Burien	Sarah Moore	Alex Andrade
Carnation	Jim Ribail	Sam Harrison
Clyde Hill	Dean Hachamovitch	
Covington	Elizabeth Porter	Kristina Soltys
Des Moines	Yoshiko Grace Matsui	Harry Steinmetz
Duvall	Ronn Mercer	Adam Olen
Enumclaw	Chance LaFleur	Jan Martinelli
Federal Way	Lydia Assefa-Dawson	Les Sessoms
Hunts Point	Joe Sabey	
Issaquah	Tola Marts	Paul Adair
Kenmore	Eric Adman	Nathan Loutsis
Kent	Bill Boyce	Toni Troutner
Kirkland	Shilpa Prem	Kelli Curtis
Lake Forest Park	Tracy Furutani	Larry Goldman
Maple Valley	Syd Dawson	Dana Parnello
Medina	Heija Nunn	
Mercer Island	Wendy Weiker	Julie Hsieh
Milton	Jason Roberts	Bruce White
Newcastle	Paul Charbonneau	Andy Jacobs
Normandy Park	Eric Zimmerman	Sue-Ann Hohimer
North Bend	Errol Tremolada	Mark Joselyn
Pacific	Vic Kave	
Redmond	Melissa Stuart	Vikek Prakriya
Renton	Ruth Pérez	Armondo Pavone
Sammamish	Debbie Treen	Josh Amato
SeaTac	Peter Kwon	Mohamed Egal
Shoreline	Laura Mork	
Skykomish	Henry Sladek	
Snoqualmie	Louis Washington	Dan Murphy
Tukwila	Kate Kruller	Dennis Martinez
Woodinville	David Edwards	James Randolph
Yarrow Point	Katy Kinney Harris	

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

Attachment B: Zoom Chat Log

19:11:41 From Tola Marts, Issaquah to Hosts and panelists:

But my very capable alternate Paul Adair is listening on the public link!

19:39:28 From Robert Feldstein, SCA to Hosts and panelists:

One clarification - the MIDD tax was renewed last year. The implementation plan of the already-passed MIDD-tax is coming this year.

19:46:46 From Patience Malaba, HDC to Hosts and panelists:

Helpful thanks. Best Starts is what's up for renewal in 2027

19:50:52 From Aj Foltz, SCA (she/her) to Hosts and panelists:

Please note that we will move forward to the next agenda item at 7:55pm. Thank you!

19:56:59 From Jim Ribail, Carnation to Hosts and panelists:

I'm looking at this through a voters lens. I really think there needs to be a more tangible plan around this issue. Not just how money will be spent if it's approved. I think there is a trust issue with voters right now. They are looking for more of a hard plan, rather than just how money might be spent.

19:57:45 From Heija Nunn, Medina to Hosts and panelists:

This could chill voter willingness to approve area specific endeavors.

19:58:05 From Patience Malaba, HDC to Hosts and panelists:

patience@housingconsortium.org

20:43:09 From Jason Roberts, Milton to Hosts and panelists:

<https://soundcitiesassociation->

[my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/laura_soundcities_org/IQAswj8I95aTQYIY8mdguu6jAWx6Dzvxlcr_ilUPGFL8K8M?e=Cw1DzZ&wdLOR=c0C563143-7C92-4856-B307-B8FAD0596449](https://soundcitiesassociation-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/laura_soundcities_org/IQAswj8I95aTQYIY8mdguu6jAWx6Dzvxlcr_ilUPGFL8K8M?e=Cw1DzZ&wdLOR=c0C563143-7C92-4856-B307-B8FAD0596449)

21:11:15 From Debbie Treen, Sammamish to Hosts and panelists:

Doesn't this need 2/3 vote

21:14:34 From Shilpa Prem, Kirkland to Hosts and panelists:

awesome job to everyone!

21:14:44 From Debbie Treen, Sammamish to Hosts and panelists:

Great meeting!

21:14:48 From Shilpa Prem, Kirkland to Hosts and panelists:

fantastic work!!

21:14:50 From Jason Roberts, Milton to Hosts and panelists:

Great work~!

21:15:02 From Jared Nieuwenhuis, Bellevue to Hosts and panelists:

Good night everyone!

Attachment C: 2027 Proposed Sewer Rate Response Letter Amendments

Amendment #1

First paragraph, remove last sentence

~~We request that WTD continue its Sewer Rate and Capital Work Plan including third party review and multi-year rate options, incorporate a longer range financial outlook, provide transparent reporting on system health and policy alignment, and clearly articulate the steps taken to identify and achieve cost savings.~~

Amendment #2

Second paragraph, combine multiple sentences

Currently, monthly sewer rates are projected to double by 2033 and triple over the course of the forecasting period. ~~These increases only account for the regional portion of the sewer rate, as~~ Because cities and sewer districts levy their own rate increases to fund their local systems, further adding to ratepayer burden. ~~In light of this, we encourage WTD to more holistically incorporate an understanding of the significant impact of rates on people living in the County. Sharp wholesale rate increases mean cities need to more acutely track their own ability to increase rates to address local system needs.~~ We request that rate examinations not be siloed; local, such that increases as well as increases to other utilities' rates, especially by the County, are need to be annually factored into future sewer rate discussionsproposals.

Amendment #3

Second paragraph, adds a sentence in the middle of the second paragraph

In light of this, we encourage WTD to more holistically incorporate an understanding of the significant impact of rates on people living in the County. Along these lines, due to shared affordability concerns, the SCA Public Issues Committee will also be discussing the solid waste rate at a future meeting.

Amendment #4

Break the original second paragraph to allow for the addition of a few sentences on the need for the County to engage with cities on rate-setting.

Further, ~~Sharp~~ wholesale rate increases mean cities need to more acutely track their own ability to increase rates to address local system needs. We request that rate examinations not be siloed, such that increases to other utilities' rates, especially by the County, are factored into future sewer rate proposals. King County must also establish a more structured and ongoing engagement process with cities throughout the rate-setting cycle. Cities are on the front lines where ratepayers are impacted. Early, consistent collaboration is necessary to fully understand local constraints and avoid

unintended affordability consequences. Without this level of engagement, it will be increasingly difficult to support this latest proposal or any future rate proposals of this magnitude.

Amendment #5

Add a new paragraph before the paragraph starting with “We are committed...” calling for an affordability summit. Add a corresponding bullet point to the end of the list of requests.

There is an urgent need for a second affordability summit in 2026 to reassess initiatives that increase costs without clear benefits. With decisions looming that could add billions in expenses, like nutrient removal plans for Puget Sound, we must consider households struggling with essentials like food and healthcare. The key finding of the first summit is that a significant majority of the rate increases are caused by regulatory requirements. Pausing or rolling back these requirements should be the purpose of the second summit.

...

- Continue collaboration on the planning of the second affordability summit.

Amendment #6

Remove third bullet point from the list of requests

- ~~Continue to consider and present information on the needs of the system and whether rates have kept up with those needs.~~

Amendment #7

Sponsor: Redmond

Remove second sentence from last bullet point

- Collaborate with regulators to develop a data-informed regulatory approach to achieve meaningful environmental outcomes. ~~Alternative pathways for regulatory capital projects should also provide relief from the stacking of expensive projects.~~

Amendment #8

Sponsor: Bellevue

Add a new bullet point to the end of list of requests

- Advocate for increased state and federal investment, including grants or low-interest funding, to support local sewer agencies and reduce the reliance on ratepayers and comply with federal regulatory mandates.

Amendment #9

Add a new bullet point to the end of list of requests

- Collaborate with regulators and legislators to make sewer charges more equitable by switching from a uniform charge for each property type to a rate based on property values.