



## King County

### **Dow Constantine**

King County Executive

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March 29, 2023

The Honorable Dave Upthegrove  
Chair, King County Council  
Room 1200  
C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Upthegrove:

This letter transmits the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill Buffer Area Annual Report as required by Ordinance 18893, Section 5.

The 920-acre Cedar Hills Regional Landfill, located in Maple Valley, has been in operation since the 1960s. It is the last operating landfill in King County. Owned by King County and operated by the Solid Waste Division of the Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP), the landfill receives more than 800,000 tons of solid waste a year. The King County solid waste system serves the unincorporated area and 37 of the 39 cities in King County.

On September 12, 1960, the Board of County Commissioners – King County, approved a Special Permit via Resolution No. 21696 that established use of a sanitary landfill at the Cedar Hills site and, among other conditions, established a 1,000-foot buffer strip around the entire site to remain in its natural state. The eastern buffer was infringed upon in the mid-1960s, and efforts are ongoing to return the landfill buffer to compliance with permit conditions.

This report provides information on actions taken to ensure the integrity of the buffer, including semi-annual flights to capture aerial photogrammetry images of the landfill and surrounding properties, inclusion of the buffer location in all planning and design documents to prevent any construction or operational activities from encroaching on the buffer, and monitoring of daily landfilling activities to ensure compliance. The report also describes continuing efforts by DNRP to purchase properties from interested sellers within the eastern buffer encroachment area, with nine properties purchased to date, four of them in 2022.

In 2022, DNRP procured and deployed an intelligent odor control system to help neutralize odors emitted at the active refuse area of the landfill. The system is mobile and thus can be moved to any part of the landfill where odor is a concern. Notably, according to data provided by the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency, odor complaints attributed to the landfill decreased from 86 complaints in 2021 to 46 complaints in 2022.

The Honorable Dave Upthegrove

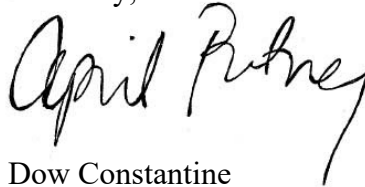
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Thank you for your consideration of this report. The information in the report helps decision makers and King County residents understand the ongoing efforts by DNRP to maintain and improve the buffer area at the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill.

If your staff have any questions, please contact Pat D. McLaughlin, Division Director of the Solid Waste Division of the Department of Natural Resources and Parks, at 206-477-4501.

Sincerely,

 for

Dow Constantine  
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

Shannon Braddock, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Karan Gill, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Mina Hashemi, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive

Christie True, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)

Pat D. McLaughlin, Division Director, Solid Waste Division, DNRP