

**King County****Dow Constantine**

King County Executive

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February 21, 2024

The Honorable Claudia Balducci
Chair, Regional Water Quality Committee
King County Courthouse
516 Third Ave.
Seattle, WA 98104

RE: Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update

Dear Chair Balducci and Members of the Regional Water Quality Committee:

Thank you for your December 13, 2023, letter regarding the update to the Regional Wastewater Services Plan (RWSP). I agree that our regional wastewater system is facing a series of complex and often competing challenges. To address these challenges, a strategic roadmap is needed to guide our region's future investments for wastewater treatment.

The Department of Natural Resources and Parks Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) started the Clean Water Plan process in 2018. Between 2018 to 2021, WTD developed background information, identified a range of possible future investments, and engaged with partners, stakeholders, and communities. In 2021, WTD paused development of the Clean Water Plan to thoughtfully consider agency and partner feedback and to allow time for more regulatory certainty regarding requirements for nutrients and the combined part of our system.

Over the last two years, WTD has had productive discussions with a broad group of interested partners and stakeholders throughout the region. Building off the feedback received, WTD has developed a revised approach for moving forward with the planning process. Key aspects of the revised approach include:

- Broadening knowledge of key challenges and opportunities regarding the regional wastewater system
- Developing a set of guiding principles to guide the planning process including for public and interested party engagement
- Developing a vision for the future to guide policy development
- Identifying priorities and near-term actions to advance the work

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- Regularly briefing the Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC) to gather input to inform policy development.

I understand that WTD is scheduled to present the revised approach at the March 6, 2024, RWQC meeting, and will continue to work with RWQC staff to develop a workplan accordingly.

Thank you again for your letter. I look forward to working together to complete this important work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dow Constantine". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dow Constantine
King County Executive