

# PFAS and Contaminants of Emerging Concern

WTD and countywide response to King County Council Motion 16434

Regional Water Quality Committee  
October 2, 2024

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# Today's discussion

- PFAS/Contaminants of Emerging Concern (CECs) and the RWSP Update
- Overview of Motion 16434 requested actions
- WTD action in response
- Overview of countywide steps

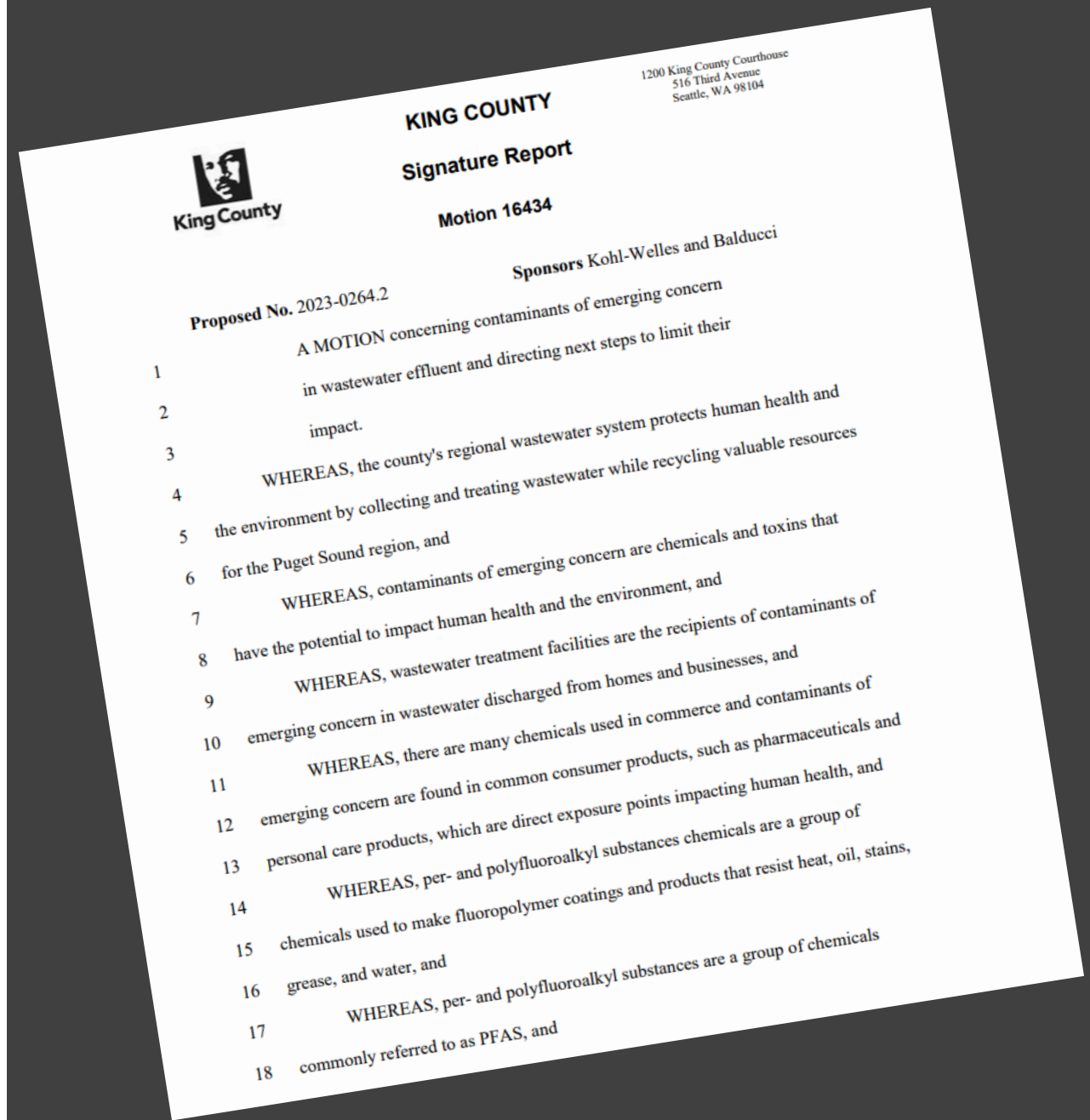
# PFAS/CECs and the RWSP Update

- PFAS/CECs identified in RWSP draft scoping document
- RWSP update will evaluate such things as:
  - Current and existing requirements
  - Planning for new and anticipated PFAS/CECs requirements  
Cost/benefit analyses of early/late action
  - Source Control Actions
    - Opportunities for regional partnerships
    - Education
    - Supporting and expanding State legislation

# Motion 16434

King County seeks to identify, prioritize, reduce, and control sources, exposures, and risk from PFAS and CECs to people and the environment in King County

- Nine requested actions to achieve goals



# Source control – best first step

- CECs come from upstream sources
- Most exposure risks to CECs are greater at their sources
- Source control is identified priority on every level—from federal to local
- Policy action and public education are key





# Action One

Seek operational, capital, or programmatic changes that may address PFAS

**WTD Actions:**  
Consider CECs in all planning efforts

An aerial photograph of a city, likely Seattle, showing a dense urban area with a river winding through it. In the background, there are mountains under a clear sky. The image is used as a background for the text boxes.

# Action Two

Determine most significant sources, pathways, and exposures in King County

## WTD Actions:

- On-going monthly sampling
- Future sewershed and industrial surveying
- Completed study of Recycled Water vs. Sammamish River



# Actions Three- Five

Support source control measures

Support state/federal PFAS action plans

Engage in regulations and legislation

## WTD Actions:

Commenting on and supporting numerous state and federal efforts



# Action Six

Seek funding and producer responsibility for CEC mitigation

## WTD Actions:

Assisted King County in joining national suit against 3M

Supported Safer Products for Washington

A close-up photograph of a person's hand held palm up, with several small, bright pink seeds scattered across the fingers and palm. The background is a soft-focus collage of autumn leaves in shades of red, orange, and yellow.

# Action Seven

Coordinate and share strategy  
with other jurisdictions

**WTD Actions:**  
Brief MWPAAC  
Participate in Department of  
Ecology biosolids sampling



# Action Eight

Research treatment technologies

WTD Actions:  
Literature Reviews  
External Partnerships



# Action Nine

Educate residents and businesses  
about reducing CECs

**WTD Actions:**

Website

Specific infographics

Countywide Communication Plan

# CECs Connect with Many Departments and Programs

DNRP

Wastewater Treatment

Stormwater Management

Solid Waste

Hazardous Waste

Salmon Recovery

Parks

Executive Services

Airport

Facilities Management

Procurement

Real Property

Public Health

Environmental Health

Local Services

Roads

# Countywide Actions: PFAS



## State Funding and Policy

Secured \$500,000 to the UW to study & develop mobile screening methods for consumer products.

Supported \$375,000 to Ecology to (a) ID priority consumer products for potential regulatory action and (b) strengthen disclosure requirements.

Policy bills: lead in cookware, PFAS in food packaging, toxic-free cosmetics



## Communications

Updating key messages, web page and public education campaign.

Recent Blog Post: Public Health Insider. [Ask a Tox Doc: Are “Forever Chemicals” in Takeout Food Containers?”](#)



## Procurement

Updated County’s Sustainable Purchasing Policy in 2023.

# Countywide Actions: PFAS, cont.



## Fire Fighting Foam

Fire fighting foam used in airport fire response is regulated by FAA, which recently approved PFAS-free foam.

King County International Airport is in process of transitioning to the new foam in coordination other airports in region.



## Lab Analysis Capacity

Lack of accredited labs has been a limiting factor for analyzing samples.

King County Environmental Laboratory has secured equipment, expertise, and is seeking accreditation to test for PFAS.



## Testing

King County is testing for PFAS in marine and freshwater fish, waste streams, and has secured grant for stormwater facility testing.

# Countywide Actions: Toxic Tire Dust or “6PPD-q”

- Secured grant funding and tested soil mix to filter roadway runoff.
- Testing stormwater facility for effectiveness in treating both 6PPD-q and PFAS.
- Updating County Stormwater Manual based on research.
- Mapping “hot spots” for roadway runoff.
- Developing countywide strategic plan.
- Partnering with Ecology's 6PPD-q Action Committee.





# CEC Framework in Development

## Approach and Principles:

- Proactive in identifying CECs
- Priorities informed by risk assessment
- Address sources as far upstream as possible
- Integrated approach across county programs
- Leverage county strengths
- Work in partnership with local governments, tribes, non-governmental organizations, universities





# Questions?

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**King County**

Department of Natural Resources and Parks

# What are CECs?

- Unregulated or minimally regulated substances or materials that may pose risk
- Found in personal care, household, agricultural products, and more
- Widespread in environment, including wastewater
- Includes PFAS, 6PPD-q, microplastics, pharmaceuticals



**CLOTHING**



**FURNITURE**



**REPELLANTS**



**LUBRICANTS**



**PAINT**



**NON-STICK  
COOKWARE**



**CARPETING &  
RUGS**



**DENTAL FLOSS**



**COSMETICS**



**PIZZA BOXES**

# Not all CECs are the same. . .

## Variation in:

- Risks to human health and ecosystems
- Toxicity, prevalence, and community exposure in King County
- Pathways for chemicals entering environment (air, water, ingestion)
- Direct and indirect county influence on controlling sources
- Impacts and costs: county operations

