



**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**February 21, 2007**

**Motion 12466**

**Proposed No.** 2007-0089.2

**Sponsors** Phillips

1           A MOTION establishing the 2007 work plan for the  
2           regional water quality committee of the King County  
3           council.

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6           WHEREAS; the regional water quality committee of the King County council is  
7           established by the King County charter and may develop, recommend and review  
8           regional policies and plans for consideration by the metropolitan county council, and

9           WHEREAS, the regional water quality committee develops, reviews and  
10          recommends countywide policies and plans related to the water pollution control  
11          functions formerly provided by the municipality of metropolitan Seattle, and

12          WHEREAS, plans and policies that are assigned to the committee include, but are  
13          not limited to, water quality comprehensive and long-range capital improvement plans,  
14          service area and extension policies, rate policies, and the facility siting policy and major  
15          facilities siting process;

16          NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

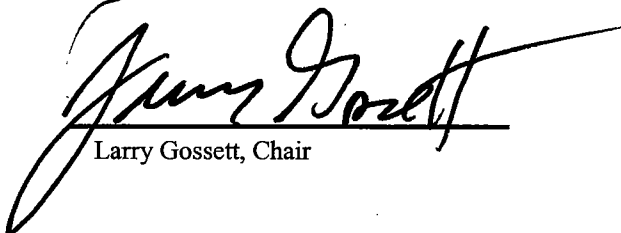
17           A. The work plan for the regional water quality committee for 2007 shall address  
18 countywide policies, plans or topics listed in Attachment A to this motion.

19           B. In addition to the items listed in subsection A of this motion, the work plan  
20 shall include countywide policies or plans that respond to current or emergent concerns  
21 related to water quality that are of regional interest and that relate to multiple  
22 jurisdictions. The committee may amend its work plan to include such issues, for  
23 consideration by the council.  
24

Motion 12466 was introduced on 2/5/2007 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 2/20/2007, by the following vote:

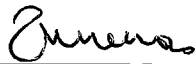
Yes: 9 - Mr. Gossett, Ms. Patterson, Ms. Lambert, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Phillips, Ms. Hague and Mr. Constantine  
No: 0  
Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Larry Gossett, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

**Attachments**      A. Regional Water Quality Committee 2007 Work Plan Summary for the Committee, dated February 7, 2007



**Regional Water Quality Committee  
2007 Work Plan Summary for the Committee**

**ISSUES FOR 2007**

**Work Plan Item: Conveyance System Improvement Program**

Per Regional Wastewater Services Plan, the Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) has been working on an update to the Conveyance System Improvement (CSI) Program. Based on the work associated with updating the CSI program, in the second quarter of 2007, the Executive is expected to transmit policy recommendations to guide future conveyance improvements.

In 1999, the conveyance system Improvement (CSI) program began by developing a system to identify and prioritize ten planning areas, or basins in the wastewater service area. Regional conveyance system improvement planning was completed in 2003 for each of the basins. This initial work culminated in the 2003 regional conveyance system plan. The plan identified improvements that would help the system meet projected capacity demands based on wastewater flow, infiltration and inflow (I/I), and urban growth projections made at the time, as well as ensure the facilities meet the twenty year peak flow storm design standard. Since 2003, new flow monitoring and modeling information was developed with the assistance of the local agencies that contribute wastewater flows to King County's regional system. This new flow monitoring and modeling information was developed as part of the I/I control program and reported on in the Regional Needs Assessment (transmitted to the Council and RWQC in March 2005). This information provides a more accurate basis for projecting future flow and capacity demands. In 2005 and 2006 planning, vetting and prioritizing of potential projects has continued (along with the design and construction of projects needed in the near-term). The Executive is now anticipated to transmit policy recommendations based on the work associated with updating the CSI program for review and approval of the Council.

**2007 Task:** Transmittal of CSI program policies for approval is expected April 2007. Briefings on the updated CSI program and recommend policies and action on the policies is anticipated in May and/or June.

**Work Plan Item: RWSP Comprehensive Review Report**

The 1998 Regional Wastewater Services Plan called for a regular comprehensive review of RWSP to evaluate the validity of planning assumptions used to identify capital facilities and programs outlined in the RWSP. Last year the RWQC and Council changed the due date of this report from every three years to every three to five years. This flexibility is intended to result in more comprehensive and accurate reports by allowing DNRP to include the most up-to-date information on items such as population and flow forecasts (based on census data), recently completed key milestones, and water quality data. The next RWSP Comprehensive Review will be issued in September 2007, and will include all elements of that year's RWSP Annual Report.

The suburban cities caucus has indicated via a position paper and a recent submittal of its "priorities" for 2007 that envisions the discussion, if not potential revision of some financial policies regarding the capacity charge and assignment of combined sewer overflow investments. RWSP policies call for a report from WTD April 2007 on alternatives to Culver

funding (currently drawn as a percentage of the overall operating budget for WTD) for the support of water quality projects/programs – which might lead to some policy amendments.

**2007 Task:** Transmittal of the RWSP Comprehensive Review Report is scheduled for September 2007 (a briefing would occur in October). However, discussion of RWSP policy may occur at any time and need not wait for the transmittal of the report.

**Work Plan Item:** **Brightwater Project Progress**

Continue to monitor permitting and construction of the treatment plant, conveyance and outfall. Council, via budget proviso has directed hiring of a consultant to provide independent oversight and monitoring of the treatment plan, conveyance facilities and marine outfall elements of the Brightwater project. The consultant was expected to make quarterly reports to RWQC and Budget and Fiscal Management Committees tied to completion of major design phases. The consultant provided scope, schedule and budget review for major Brightwater project phase submittals. At this point, the project has completed the design phase and components, starting with the site preparation and environmental mitigation at the treatment site and the tunnel construction

In addition to this independent oversight, the council's 2007 budget funds a new function within the King County Auditor's office to oversee King County's large capital construction projects, with the mission of controlling cost overruns and unforeseen expansion of project scopes, schedules and budgets. The office will be a pilot project for 2007. It will reside in the oversight and performance assurance section within the King County Auditor's office, which is an independent agency of the legislative branch. The office will be staffed by two term-limited employees overseeing the work of expert consultants who will provide independent oversight and performance assurance on four priority capital projects, including the Brightwater project. The office will also evaluate county-mandated procurement practices. It is not known yet how this additional oversight might be integrated into progress reports to the RWQC.

**2007 Task:** Continue to monitor project progress via briefings from consultant and executive staff. Briefings tentatively scheduled quarterly. A cost update is expected in the second quarter.

**Work Plan Item:** **Annual Rate and Capacity Charge**

Policy FP-12 calls for King County to charge its customers sewer rates and capacity charges sufficient to cover the costs of constructing and operating its wastewater system. Revenues are to be sufficient to maintain capital assets in sound working condition, providing for maintenance and rehabilitation of facilities so that total system costs are minimized while continuing to provide reliable, high quality service and maintaining high water quality standards. In addition, the amount of the capacity charge shall be a uniform charge, to be approved annually and shall not exceed the cost of capital facilities necessary to serve new customers.

The RWQC is not referred rate and capacity charge legislation, but sets financial policies in the RWSP.

**2007 Task:** Review the Executive's proposal for annual rate and capacity charge. Comment/advise the Council as compelled. Rate and capacity charge legislation is typically transmitted to Council in April. A briefing should tentatively be planned for the committee April/May, 2007. Legislation on annual rate must be passed by July, 2007.

**Work Plan Item:** **Monitoring of Component Agency Contract Extensions**

As noted, in various venues, including a briefing before the committee in 2006, the lack of contract extensions is affecting the rate and capacity charge as King County undertakes significant borrowing (for Brightwater construction and other major projects) at less than ideal bond term lengths. The suburban caucus has indicated its interest in monitoring the status of agency contract renewals/extensions.

**2007 Task** Status reports as requested by the committee.

**Work Plan Item: Reclaimed Water Feasibility Study**

Per the revised RWSP policies, WTD is working on a reclaimed water feasibility study to be transmitted to the Council and RWQC in December 2007. A consultant is being retained to conduct the study. The "scope of work" for the report will be based on the adopted RWSP policy, but it is anticipated the work may be structured to provide interim reports or base documents that can be reviewed and/or approved as the foundation for the final report.

**2007 Task** Status reports as requested by the committee, with tentative briefings anticipated in May and October 2007 and a briefing following submittal of the report.

**ON-GOING ISSUES FOR RWQC CONSIDERATION IN 2007:**

**Work Plan Item: Sediment Management/Lower Duwamish Superfund Updates**

The RWSP policies call for the development of a long-range sediment management strategy to prioritize cleanup of contaminated sediments at specific CSO locations. WTD is carrying out a sediment management plan developed in the late 1990s to remediate sediment near some county CSO outfalls that are contaminated with a variety of heavy metals (including lead, copper, and zinc), phthalates, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and hydrocarbons. King County is responsible for cleaning up sediment contamination related to CSOs under federal laws. WTD is currently conducting several sediment clean-up projects. In addition, work continued in 2006 on the remedial investigation for the Lower Duwamish Waterway Superfund site. The draft remedial investigation is scheduled for public review in early 2007. The detailed work plan for the feasibility study for the project was expected to be ready for public review in late 2006. Work is expected to continue on the feasibility study through 2007. Clean ups at two of the "early action" sites are currently scheduled to begin in late 2007. Post-remediation monitoring will continue at Diagonal/Duwamish cleanup site.

**2007 Task** Committee members requested a status briefing in early 2007.

**Work Plan Item: Inflow/Infiltration (I/I) policy follow up and project development**

RWSP policies call for controlling I/I in the regional and local systems, if cost-effective. The RWQC and Council approved the Executive's "Recommended Regional Infiltration and Inflow Control Program" report and recommendations in April 2006. Based on the recommendations, WTD is working with MWPAAC to select "initial projects" to be designed and constructed in the next couple of years.

**2007 Task:** The committee should probably be briefed on I/I program progress – with at least an update on the initial I/I projects selected in October 2007.

**Work Plan Item: Odor Control**

In 2003 the Council (following RWQC review and recommendations) adopted new odor control policies for new and existing facilities. RWSP Policy TPP-4 calls for King Count to

upgrade and retrofit existing treatment facilities in a phase manner. The first phase of improvements are being completed in 2007.

**2007 Task:** Committee should be briefed on progress implementing the phased improvements to WestPoint and South Treatment Plants. Tentatively should plan for a briefing in the third quarter, 2007.

**Work Plan Item:** Asset Management

The RWSP calls for King County to establish a wastewater facilities assets management plan, updated annually, establishing replacement of worn, inefficient and/or depreciated capital assets to ensure continued reliability of the wastewater infrastructure. Since the adoption of the plan, Wastewater Treatment Division has reorganized itself to create a section solely dedicated to asset management. In the 2004 they participated in a thorough audit and benchmarking program to evaluate its asset management program. The Division continues to follow through on the recommendations in the audit and benchmarking report and is promoting and updating best management practices to better forecast capital needs, design and construct projects, track and maintain capital assets and forecast asset renewal and replacement.

In 2005 WTD completed its "Economic Evaluation Procedures" for capital project alternative analysis. The King County Audit Office has reviewed these procedures and is proposing that Roads and Transit adopt these procedures too. Asset management staff are conducting a series of workshops with senior management to define WTD's "level of service". Once the service levels are defined they will develop "performance metrics". "Risk Management" workshops with senior WTD management are scheduled in the first quarter of 2007. And the section has currently using "business cases analyses" for maintenance decisions.

**2007 Task:** Briefing second quarter to monitor progress and potentially provide input regarding recommendations on the level of service, risk management and business case evaluations for future asset management investments.

**Work Plan Item:** Review of Puget Sound Partnership Recommendations

In December 2006 the Puget Sound Partnership released its final report to Governor Gregoire outlining a series of recommendations to reach a healthy Puget Sound by 2020. Titled "Sound Health, Sound Future -- Protecting and Restoring Puget Sound," the report addresses all of the Governor's charges to the Partners.

The Partnership recommends five top-priority areas for immediate work:

- Clean up areas with immediate septic problems.
- Protect Puget Sound habitat.
- Restore damaged habitat.
- Accelerate control and cleanup of toxic pollution at in-water sites and within one-half mile of Puget Sound.
- Significantly reduce polluted stormwater runoff.

In addition the Partnership recommends engaging and educating the public, creating a new structure for action and accountability (including a science advisory committee), and increasing state funding to accelerate restoration of the Sound. The Partnership estimates the total cost to clean up and restore Puget Sound at nearly \$9 billion between now and the state's goal date of 2020. Many of these objectives overlap with the Regional Wastewater

Service Plan policies and implementation via programs and projects. Review of the recommendations, especially as they may pertain to King County's wastewater discharges to Puget Sound and other water quality programs and projects is probably merited.

**2007 Task:**

Briefing in the first quarter from the Partnership for Puget Sound and/or analysis from committee staff to identify opportunities to coordinated policies, programs or projects.