



King County

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

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February 14, 2024

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

Dear Councilmember Upthegrove:

As required by Ordinance 18628, this letter transmits the fourth quarter (Q4) 2023 report documenting the efforts taken to continue protecting water quality in our region in response to the West Point Treatment Plant (West Point) flood event that occurred on February 9, 2017. The report addresses updates made since the 2023 third quarter (Q3) report was submitted to the Council in November 2023.

The report includes updates on the implementation plan for the recommendations provided by AECOM in 2017. Additionally, the six corrective actions required by the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) noted in the Ordinance are considered complete as of the 2018 fourth quarter report transmitted in February 2019.

Related to the second requirement addressing comprehensive training, the remaining four Operator-in-Training (OIT) graduates from the 2022 class accepted permanent positions within the Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) plant operations. In Q4, 16 graduates of the 2023 OIT class continued rotation through WTD plant areas at Brightwater, West Point, and South treatment plants to gain operational experience.

In response to the third reporting requirement involving the assessment of strategies to address plant constraints and improve redundancy, WTD's review and improvement of plant operational procedures is a continuous improvement process. Updates will be provided as procedures are refined and/or new procedures developed.

Related to the fourth reporting requirement to evaluate and prioritize potential capital projects to increase redundancy and minimize the risk of flooding, a solution to protect the plant from

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flooding due to high-level conditions and avoid reliance on single instrument activation has been identified. In Q4, WTD began the planning and organization process while at the same time working to staff the project team. Implementation will be coordinated with the many other capital projects under way at the West Point Treatment Plant, and timing is to be determined. Protocols are in place to mitigate the risk associated with the recommendation until the long-term solution can be implemented.

In Q4, there were no updates to the first requirement to implement a Life Safety Management System (LSM), as simulator training was completed in Q2.

The report furthers the Strategic Climate Action Plan goal of preparing for climate change by providing information on preparing West Point to handle the effects of increasingly severe storms.

Thank you for your consideration of this report. It will help policymakers and the public understand how King County is improving systems at West Point and is also preparing to withstand or mitigate the impact of future storms.

If your staff have any questions, please contact Kamuron Gurol, Division Director of the Wastewater Treatment Division of the Department of Natural Resources and Parks, at 206-263-5767.

Sincerely,



for

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff

Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council

Karan Gill, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Penny Lipsou, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive

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

Kamuron Gurol, Division Director, Wastewater Treatment Division, DNRP