

Updated RWSP Schedule for Policy Analysis

Timeline (RWQC Discussion)	Policy Memo Number	Major Policy Questions from Scoping Document	Will Options be provided?
<u>Group #1</u> (Memos 1 & 2) Separated System Conveyance Step #1: March 2026 Step #2: Nov 2026 (<i>tentative</i>) Elements that relate to the Relationship to Contracts and Equity and Social Justice policy questions will be addressed as part of each policy memo. See Group #10 and Group #11 for details.	1	How should I/I be managed and how can costs be fairly apportioned? Should system capacity be expanded to account for increases in I/I? Should I/I policies change to support reducing the capacity needed for I/I? <i>(Cost apportionment will also be addressed in Group 9 Rate Structure Memo)</i> Given the uncertainties in future growth rates reported by Washington State and the Puget Sound Regional Council, how aggressively beyond legal requirements should WTD expand [conveyance] capacity to account for future population growth?	Options Provided Response will be provided without options in Step 2
	2	How should the conversion of on-site septic systems to sewers in the service area be managed and should WTD implement programs to encourage conversion within the service area?	Options Provided

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<u>Group #2</u> (Memo 3) Pollution (Source Control and Legacy) Step #1: April 2026 Step #2: Dec 2026 (<i>tentative</i>) Elements that relate to the Relationship to Contracts and Equity and Social Justice policy questions will be addressed as part of each policy memo. See Group #10 and Group #11 for details.	3	What upstream or source control actions should the region undertake to prevent contaminants and reduce costs?	Options Provided
<u>Group #3</u> (Memo 4) Asset Renewal and Replacement Step #1: May 2026 Step #2: Jan 2027 (<i>tentative</i>) Elements that relate to the Relationship to Contracts and Equity and Social Justice policy questions will be addressed as part of each policy memo. See Group #10 and Group #11 for details.	4	How proactive vs. reactive should WTD be when deciding to refurbish or replace aging infrastructure? What level of redundancy of critical systems should WTD have? What level of risk tolerance should WTD accept? What approach should WTD use to fund Asset R&R projects? <i>Redundancy is discussed in memos 4 and 5.</i>	Options Provided Options Provided Options Provided

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<u>Group #4</u> (Memos 5, 6, 7) Climate Impact Preparedness and Natural Hazard Resiliency Step #1: June 2026 Step #2: Feb 2027 (tentative) Elements that relate to the Relationship to Contracts and Equity and Social Justice policy questions will be addressed as part of each policy memo. See Group #10 and Group #11 for details.	5	What level of resiliency should WTD plan for regarding seismic and other natural hazards to avoid or minimize risks? What level of risk tolerance should WTD accept? How can these considerations be best informed by the long-term capital motion work in progress? <i>Redundancy is discussed in memo 4 and 5.</i>	Options will be provided
	6	Should existing wastewater policy language (KCC 28.86) be revised to specifically call out planning for future climate conditions in addition to population growth and other environmental factors? How should WTD prepare and adapt to climate impacts (e.g., precipitation/storm intensities, sea level rise, river flooding, etc.) in line with the Strategic Climate Action Plan? What level of climate impact risk tolerance should WTD plan for to avoid or minimize risks to the system?	Response will be provided without options Options will be provided
	7	How much should WTD reduce energy use and reduce greenhouse gas emissions?	Options will be provided

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<u>Group #5</u> (Memo 8) Finance/Affordability July 2026 Elements that relate to the Relationship to Contracts and Equity and Social Justice policy questions will be addressed as part of each policy memo. See Group #10 and Group #11 for details.	8	How will WTD measure customer affordability for contract agencies and ratepayers? What other rate relief approaches should WTD implement to improve affordability for those who may struggle to pay their sewer bill?	Response will provide the range of industry used metrics and WTD's recommended metrics Options will be Provided
<u>Group #6</u> (Memo 9) Combined System Management Step #1: August 2026 Step #2: March 2027 (<i>tentative</i>) Elements that relate to the Relationship to Contracts and Equity and Social Justice policy questions will be addressed as part of each policy memo. See Group #10 and Group #11 for details.	9	How should WTD best upgrade the combined system to address regulatory requirements, regional water quality, and West Point operations? How can combined system costs be fairly apportioned? <i>(cost apportionment will also be addressed in Group 9 Rate Structure Memo)</i>	Options will be provided

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<u>Group #7</u> (Memos 10,11,12) Treatment Levels Step #1: September 2026 Step #2: April 2027 (<i>tentative</i>) Elements that relate to the Relationship to Contracts and Equity and Social Justice policy questions will be addressed as part of each policy memo. See Group #10 and Group #11 for details.	10	Should the County evaluate costs and plan for levels of treatment beyond current legal requirements? How should the County anticipate, engage with, and plan for future nutrient permit requirements, regulations related to CECs such as PFAS, or other future regulatory changes?	Options will be provided Response will be provided without options
	11	Given the uncertainties in future growth rates reported by Washington State and the Puget Sound Regional Council, how aggressively beyond legal requirements should WTD expand [treatment plant] capacity to account for future population growth? To what extent should WTD prioritize use of existing facility sites vs. acquiring new property to accommodate future treatment needs (including capacity)?	Response will be provided without options (similar to I/I memo) Options will be provided
	12	Should the region continue to provide a centralized approach for regional wastewater treatment, or should the region move towards a more decentralized approach?	Response will be provided without options

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<u>Group #8</u> (Memos 13,14,15,16) Resource Recovery (Energy, Biosolids, Recycled Water, New Sources) Step #1: October 2026 Step #2: May 2027 (<i>tentative</i>) Elements that relate to the Relationship to Contracts and Equity and Social Justice policy questions will be addressed as part of each policy memo. See Group #10 and Group #11 for details.	13	Energy production and heat recovery – Should WTD be expanding its efforts to capture energy and heat? If so, at what level of effort?	Options will be provided
	14	Biosolids – Should WTD further expand its efforts to develop Class A biosolids? What changes are needed to biosolid recovery policies to get to Class A? How can WTD best support environmental benefits while instituting safeguards to protect against environmental risks of contamination? How should cost considerations be weighed?	Options will be provided
	15	Recycled Water – Under what circumstances should the region expand the use of reclaimed water? Which uses (e.g., environmental benefits, groundwater recharge, industrial uses, irrigation) are most appropriate? How can WTD best support environmental benefits while instituting safeguards to protect against environmental risks of contamination? How should cost considerations be weighed?	Options will be provided
	16	How should WTD maximize recovery of new resources ? How should WTD prioritize and monetize environmental and other co-benefits when considering cost of recovering new resources?	Options will be provided

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<u>Group #9</u> (Memo 17) Finance/Affordability Q4 2026: Full analysis of the rate structure policy question 18 Also in March, May, Aug, Sep. 2026: WTD will begin to address the rate structure question sequentially where relevant as we move through Policy Question Groups 1, 3, 6, 7. This will allow RWQC members to see how the rate structure issue relates to various topics. Each relevant analysis would include a specific section dedicated to addressing “rate structure considerations” e.g. the policy memo 2 analysis will introduce and begin to address the rate structure question as it relates to the I/I issue. RWQC may choose to form a subcommittee focused on the rate structure question and/or WTD may propose a consultant-separate track for this discussion. Elements that relate to the Relationship to Contracts and ESJ policy questions will be addressed as part of each policy memo.		Should WTD update the rate structure for the capacity charge to align with current industry standards? (Note: The capacity charge rate structure was updated in 2021. A capacity charge methodology study is in progress.)	WTD proposed a new capacity charge methodology (see ordinance 2026-0066). In Rate Structure memo #17 WTD will address issues related to the capacity charge.
	17	Is there a better rate structure for the sewer rate? (Note: WTD has identified a work plan to further evaluate the residential customer equivalent conversion factor of 750 cubic feet per month) Will WTD maintain a single uniform sewer rate per residential customer equivalent (Robinswood “one for all, all for one”), or consider alternative cost recovery rate structures to reflect other system impacts?	Options will be provided Options will be provided

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<u>Group #10</u> (Memo 18) Equity and Social Justice Analyses for these questions will be integrated into each of the analyses for Groups 1 through 9. May 2027: A comprehensive ESJ analysis for these questions across all topics/groups will be completed.	18	How will equity and social justice be interwoven in the update: community engagement, rate structure analysis, etc.? What actions should WTD take to increase equity and social justice for the regional wastewater system? How should the regional wastewater system address environmental justice concerns as described in the 2021 Healthy Environmental for All Act, such as addressing the disproportionate environmental health impacts of vulnerable populations and overburdened communities?	Response will be provided without options Options will be provided (this memo will identify options with high equity impact that were described in earlier memos)
<u>Group #11</u> (Memo 19) Relationship to Contracts Analyses for these questions will be integrated into each of the analyses for Groups 1 through 9. June 2027 tentative (following completion of step #2 for all Groups of questions)	19	Are major policy updates aligned with component agency contracts? How will WTD implement the RWSP Update consistent with direction and requirements expected of contract agencies?	Response will be provided without options
Will be addressed across all 25 policy memos	NA	How should WTD efforts support the water quality of Puget Sound and applicable inland waterways?	All topics