



## King County

**Dow Constantine**

King County Executive

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September 29, 2023

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 15805, this letter provides a semiannual report to the King County Council on the status of negotiations regarding a new sewage disposal contract between King County and the 34 local sewer agencies served by the Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) of the Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP). This report updates the information contained in the March 2023 report.

The term of existing contracts with 25 local agencies will terminate on July 1, 2036, and nine will terminate on July 1, 2056. Between 2014 and 2019, DNRP, in consultation with the Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee (MWPAAC) and a negotiation team consisting of staff from DNRP, four cities, and one sewer district, developed an initial draft new contract to address items of interest to the local sewer agencies and King County.

To help ensure coordination between the contract update and related long-range wastewater planning work, it was decided that DNRP would complete the necessary staff work on three contract items concurrently with the Clean Water Plan process. Those items are guiding principles for industrial waste, the capacity charge calculation through 2030, and the capacity charge calculation after its current end date of 2030.

In fall 2021, DNRP paused the Clean Water Plan. This pause provided additional time for DNRP to consider the feedback received to date from elected officials, local sewer agencies, and other affected parties, and to refine the planning process. Based on the feedback received, DNRP is developing a revised planning process for the Clean Water Plan. DNRP staff will provide a Clean Water Plan update at an upcoming Regional Water Quality Committee meeting.

The discussion of an updated Capacity Charge methodology and the policy changes necessary to implement the update has been moved from MWPAAC's 2023 work plan to its 2024 work plan. This change in the work plan schedule will allow WTD and MWPAAC to focus on other priorities in 2023, including developing a long-term capital needs forecast methodology.

The Honorable Dave Upthegrove

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Thank you for your consideration of this report. The new sewer contract mentioned in this report would help ensure a continued long-term commitment between the County and local sewer agencies to protect water quality.

If your staff have questions, please contact Kamuron Gurol, Division Director of the Wastewater Treatment Division, 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