



King County

Dow Constantine

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March 24, 2022

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

Dear Councilmember Balducci:

This letter transmits the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill Buffer Area Annual Report as required by Ordinance 18893.

The 920-acre Cedar Hills Regional Landfill, located in Maple Valley, has been in operation since the 1960s and is the last operating landfill in King County. Owned by King County and operated by the Solid Waste Division of the Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP), the landfill receives over 800,000 tons of solid waste each year. The King County solid waste system serves unincorporated areas and 37 of the 39 cities in King County.

On September 12, 1960, the Board of County Commissioners – King County approved a Special Permit via Resolution No. 21696 that established use of a sanitary landfill at the Cedar Hills site and, among other conditions, established a 1,000-foot buffer strip around the entire site to remain in its natural state. The eastern buffer was infringed upon in the mid-1960s, and efforts are ongoing to return the landfill buffer back into compliance with permit conditions.

This report provides information on actions to ensure the integrity of the buffer, including semi-annual flights to capture aerial photogrammetry images of the landfill and surrounding properties, inclusion of the buffer location in all planning and design documents to prevent any construction or operational activities from encroaching on the buffer, and monitoring of daily landfilling activities to ensure compliance. The report also describes continuing efforts by DNRP to purchase properties within the eastern buffer encroachment area, with five properties purchased to date.

Actions described in this report support the King County Strategic Plan goal of efficient, accountable regional and local government by optimizing County operations through innovation and continuous improvement. DNRP continues to seek purchase of properties in the eastern buffer as they become available and is making changes in operations and equipment as new ways to reduce impacts on neighbors of the landfill are found.

The Honorable Claudia Balducci

March 24, 2022

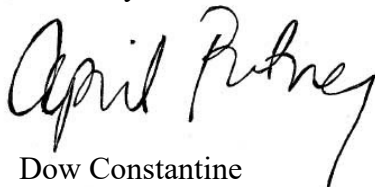
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It is estimated that this report required 20 hours by DNRP staff to produce, costing approximately \$1,900.

Thank you for your consideration of this report. The information in the report helps decision makers and King County residents understand the ongoing efforts by DNRP to maintain and improve the buffer area at the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill.

If your staff have any questions, please contact Pat D. McLaughlin, Director of the Solid Waste Division of the Department of Natural Resources and Parks, at 206-477-4501.

Sincerely,

 for

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Janine Weihe, Acting Chief of Staff

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

Shannon Braddock, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Karan Gill, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Mina Hashemi, Director, Council Relations, Office of the Executive

Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget

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

Pat D. McLaughlin, Division Director, Solid Waste Division, DNRP