



Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee

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September 5, 2007

The Honorable Ron Sims,
King County Executive

The Honorable Larry Gossett, Chair
King County Council

The Honorable Larry Phillips, Chair
King County Regional Water Quality Committee

Dear Executive Sims, and Councilmembers Gossett and Phillips:

The Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee (MWWPAAC) is writing this letter to support the proposed ordinance that would update conveyance policies in the Regional Wastewater Services Plan (RWSP); and, to provide its perspective on the Conveyance System Improvement (CSI) Program Update.

MWWPAAC has worked with Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) staff to review and provide input on both the update of the CSI Program, and on the conveyance policies contained in the ordinance. The policy amendments would do the following.

- Commit WTD to conduct field verification of projected conveyance system needs prior to implementing a capital conveyance system improvement project;
- Commit WTD to updates of the CSI program every five years beginning in 2013;
- Commit WTD to conduct region-wide flow monitoring at the turn of each decade in order to have accurate flow monitoring data that matches with census data; and,
- Commit WTD to evaluate demand management alternatives to meet, delay, or downsize identified conveyance needs, such as infiltration and inflow (I/I) reduction, reclaimed water facilities, and water conservation.

MWWPAAC supports these new polices for the following reasons.

1. The CSI Program identifies projected capacity needs for the conveyance system through 2050. This requires the use of predictive models to identify future needs. While models are useful tools, model results should not be the primary basis for deciding to commit capital resources to building larger conveyance facilities.

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2. Actual growth in regional population, employment, and the associated growth in wastewater volumes will vary from projections of growth. MWPAAC believes that regular five-year updates of the CSI Program will help to ensure that conveyance improvement priorities match actual growth rates in the region.
3. Region-wide flow monitoring was last conducted in 2001 and 2002 with the assistance of the MWPAAC agencies. The information has proved very valuable to all parties. It is estimated that flow monitoring will cost approximately \$5-million, or about 1-percent of the total planned capital investment in conveyance system improvements through 2050. MWPAAC believes this is a necessary investment to maintain accurate information about flow volumes and capacity across the entire wastewater system. MWPAAC agencies will support this monitoring effort by collaborating with WTD staff on the installation of flow meters in agency collection facilities.
4. MWPAAC agencies have invested significant time and effort working with WTD staff to develop the Regional Infiltration and Inflow Program, and other innovative approaches to managing wastewater flow volumes. We believe that the RWSP should clearly direct that innovative approaches to addressing conveyance capacity needs be evaluated to determine their feasibility and cost-effectiveness as a part of WTD's project design process. This will help to manage costs as well as provide opportunities for improving the overall performance of the wastewater system.

MWPAAC and individual local agencies were consulted throughout the development of this CSI Program Update. We provided input that was used to estimate growth rates. Criteria used to prioritize conveyance projects were also developed with the assistance of MWPAAC. Finally, key recommendations within the CSI Program and accompanying policy ordinance (such as conducting field verification of conditions prior to designing new conveyance facilities) were provided by MWPAAC.

MWPAAC believes the updated Conveyance System Improvement Program is an accurate estimate of our future conveyance needs that also includes clear direction to ensure that capital investments are made when and where they are most needed. We believe the policy direction contained in the ordinance addresses MWPAAC's primary concerns, which are to address actual needs and control costs.

Thank you

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dave Christensen', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dave Christensen, MWPAAC Chair