



King County

Dow Constantine

King County Executive
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www.kingcounty.gov

December 28, 2021

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 status report on the analysis of toxic chemicals in treated wastewater effluent and potential health effects on Chinook salmon and southern resident killer whales (Orcas), required by Ordinance 19210, Section 112, Proviso P4.

The enclosed report describes the status of the tasks underway to meet the requirements of the proviso, including the results of sampling and testing of treated effluent from King County's large regional treatment plants and from the central basin of Puget Sound. This testing is intended to identify levels of chemicals in treated effluent and their potential to cause adverse health effects to Chinook salmon, and to the degree possible, Orcas.

This project will also compare these results to testing done of industrial wastes discharged to the regional sewer system and will assess the effectiveness of different treatment technologies for removing chemicals from the effluent. A team of experts from Washington State University Puyallup, University of Washington Tacoma, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration are conducting the research.

The work outlined in this report supports the King County Strategic Plan goal of a healthy environment by better understanding impacts of wastewater treatment on marine life.

It is estimated that the report required approximately 80 hours by staff to produce, costing approximately \$6,000 in staff hours. The estimated printing cost for this report is nominal.

Thank you for your consideration of this report. The important work discussed in the report will help King County ensure that protection of Puget Sound health is properly considered when assessing treatment plant technologies in the future.

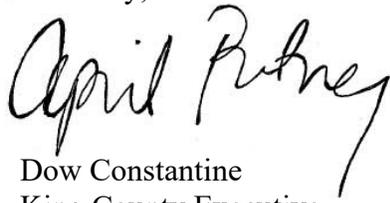
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If your staff have any questions, please contact Kamuron Gurol, Director of the Wastewater Treatment Division, Department of Natural Resources and Parks, at 206-263-5767.

Sincerely,

 for

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Janine Weihe, Acting Chief of Staff

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

Shannon Braddock, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Karan Gill, 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)

Kamuron Gurol, Division Director, Wastewater Treatment Division, DNRP