

MSWAC

Metropolitan Solid Waste Advisory Committee

King Street Center ▪ 201 South Jackson Street, Suite 5701 ▪ Seattle, WA 98104-3855

May 13, 2022

To: King County Executive Dow Constantine
King County Councilmember Rod Dembowski
King County Councilmember Girmay Zahilay
King County Councilmember Sarah Perry
King County Councilmember Jeanne Kohl-Welles
King County Councilmember Dave Upthegrove
King County Councilmember Claudia Balducci
King County Councilmember Pete Von Reichbauer
King County Councilmember Joe McDermott
King County Councilmember Reagan Dunn

CC: Christie True, DNRP Director
Pat D. McLaughlin, Solid Waste Division Director

RE: ADVISORY NOTE IN SUPPORT OF THE 2023-2024 SOLID WASTE RATE PROPOSAL

The Metropolitan Solid Waste Advisory Committee (MSWAC) recognizes the need for an adequate revenue stream to support the regional solid waste system and ensure continued progress on key capital projects such as transfer station modernization, maximizing disposal capacity at the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill, diverting resources from disposal and expanded recycling services. Toward this objective, King County's Solid Waste Division has proposed a rate increase that would raise the current per-ton disposal rate by 9.6%, or the equivalent of an additional \$0.79 on the average monthly bill for curbside customers.

While fiscal accountability and responsible stewardship of public funds is a priority, we are mindful of how significant inflation and the economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic are impacting our residents. The proposed 2023-2024 rate increase will fund key initiatives and will position the division to maintain a smooth and steady rate path in future years.

MSWAC is committed to programs and services that protect the environment and enhance the quality of life in our communities. Ensuring our residents continue to have access to the full range of essential waste disposal and recycling services King County provides is among our top priorities. We are also invested in the division's long-range comprehensive planning goals to boost recycling rates, modernize the Northeast and South County Recycling and Transfer Stations (with expanded services), and advance actions to mitigate climate change and address environmental inequities.

The Division's 2023-2024 proposal will fund our key priorities including:

- Decreasing the tonnage of materials being landfilled by adopting waste prevention and resource recovery programs, such as Re+, that are beneficial to the environment and local economy.
- Access to recycling and waste disposal services seven days a week at eight transfer stations and six days a week at two rural drop boxes.
- Capital improvements that generate family-wage jobs in the construction trades and expand access to recycling in communities, such as south King County, that currently have limited access to such services.

This proposal was discussed in the January, February, March, April and May MSWAC meetings this year and we appreciate the dialogue with County staff. We favor this gradual and incremental approach to rate increases.

We thank the Executive and County Council for considering our input as an advisory committee.

Signed on behalf of MSWAC,

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Penny Sweet
Chair, Metropolitan Solid Waste Advisory Committee
Mayor, City of Kirkland

DocuSigned by:

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Linda Knight
Vice-Chair, Metropolitan Solid Waste Advisory Committee
Solid Waste Coordinator, City of Renton