

# SWAC

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Solid Waste Advisory Committee

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

May 20, 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 REGARDING THE 2023-2024 SOLID WASTE RATE PROPOSAL THAT FUNDS KEY ENVIRONMENTAL PRIORITIES

The Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) 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 that would raise the current per-ton disposal rate by 9.6%, or the equivalent of an additional \$0.79 on the disposal portion of 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 residents. The proposed 2023-2024 rate increase will fund key initiatives and will position the division to maintain a smooth and steady rate path and solid waste infrastructure in future years.

SWAC 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 expanded organics diversion, and advance actions to mitigate climate change and address environmental inequities.

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

- 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.
- Expanding 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.
- Sustaining 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 SWAC 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 SWAC,

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*Wendy Weiker*

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Wendy Weiker

Chair, Solid Waste Advisory Committee

Republic Services

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*Taylor Atkinson*

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Taylor Atkinson

Vice-Chair, Solid Waste Advisory Committee

Owner & Lead Designer, Atwill Design