







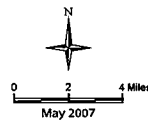


KING COUNTY

Water Utilities' Service Planning Areas

-  Majority of Water Provided by Seattle Public Utilities
-  Water Utility Name
-  City Name
-  Jurisdiction is Member of Cascade Water Alliance
-  Coordinated Water Supply Planning Area
-  Urban Growth Area Boundary
-  City Boundary
-  Section - Township - Range Grid



Map produced by:
King County GIS/WIA GIS and Visual Communications & Web Unit
0703skwater/SERVICEAreas.ai wgab

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2007-0375

EKCRWA

East King County Regional Water Association

Comments by: Robert Pancoast, Executive Director, East King County Regional Water Association. P. O. Box 699; Carnation, WA 98014; ph:425.880.4337

Presentation to: Metropolitan King County Council - Growth Management and Natural Resources Committee on July 24, 2007

Good Morning. My name is Robert Pancoast. I reside at 5401 290th Ave NE; Carnation Washington in the Ames Lake area of unincorporated King County.

I have served as the Executive Director of the East King County Regional Water Association for the past 10 years. Unfortunately my counterpart, Mr. Don Wright, Director of the South King County Regional Water Association is out of state and unable to join us this morning. The East King and South King Regional Water Associations are non-profit organizations formed through interlocal agreements between public utilities and municipalities to pursue the planning and implementation of the elements of the East King and South King Coordinated Water System Plans, respectively. The East King County Regional Water Association was the lead agency for the last two updates of the East King County CWSP. The South King County Regional Water Association was the lead agency for the development of the South King County CWSP. The two RWA's are integral parts of function of the CWSPs for these portions of King County.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee; I have come before the Committee this morning to make several comments on the proposed ordinance. The first is that we need to make sure that we fully understand how this proposed boundary revision and creation of the Skyway/CWA Critical Water Supply Service Area (CWSSA) will operate and interact with other CWSP areas. I would like to state that we are not directly opposed to the proposed ordinance to alter the boundaries of the Skyway Critical Water Supply Service Area (CWSSA) to contain the eight members of the Cascade Water Association (CWA). However, dozens of communities and water utilities within King County have significant concerns about how the proposed changes will function and potentially impact them. These cities and water utilities, to date, have been relatively excluded from providing meaningful input into the proposed boundary changes despite the direct affects it may have on each of them. Neither the East King or South King County RWA's have ever been directly consulted by King County nor the CWA to better understand and mitigate potential impacts from this proposed ordinance despite the very core involvement of the two RWA's in the creation and administration of the CWSP for these planning areas.

We believe that everyone needs adequate time to understand how this process will work and ensure that we do not create a number of unintended consequences that will hinder rather than help regional water utility coordination and the operation of individual water utilities. Currently municipalities and water utilities within the region potentially affected by this ordinance are

preparing letters containing a number of comments and proposed suggestions. I would urge you to give the process time to receive and consider these comments and suggestions. We are not aware of any pressing need to rush through the proposed ordinance. There is no pressing requirement of the Washington Department of Health or pending approval by King County or any other agency that mandates a rush to approve and implement the proposed Ordinance. **Therefore, my first request to this Committee is to give the process some additional time to allow opinions to be heard and ensure that we do not further damage water utility coordination in King County.**

The Public Water System Coordination Act has been a very valuable tool to facilitate water utilities coming together within geographic areas to address a variety of issues that have ranged from anticipated future demand and supply determinations to utility design standards, satellite management policies, and water conservation policies and goals. Administration of these CWSPs through the Regional Water Associations and through their Water Utility Coordinating Committees has provided a valuable mechanism to promote collaboration among utilities for establishing interties, sharing resources like tanks, investigating regional water supply projects and facilitating minor service area boundary changes between utilities.

What you are now considering in this proposal is something quite different where neighboring water utilities within a geographic area perhaps utilities that are even adjacent to one another are now going to be placed in different planning areas with different CWSPs, standards and policies. This is very different from what many would consider the intent of the Coordination Act. The proposed action might provide a very real benefit for Cascade Water Alliance to plan for its members, but it is not difficult to understand that it might not be in the best interest of coordinating between neighboring CWA and non-CWA utilities. We need to better understand how communications and a functioning working relationship between the various CWSP planning areas and their respective agencies will be handled. For example, with this proposed change, will utility service area boundary adjustments now require the convening of two WUCC's to resolve the issue? How will we handle potentially different CWSP policies among the neighboring utilities for interties, shared resources like tanks, construction standards, or even wheeling water across one utility to get to another utility?

My second request to the Committee this morning is that in addition to taking some additional time to allow comments and determine potential unintended consequences, we make productive use of this additional time by trying to work in a more collaborative manner to ensure the proposed ordinance works for all water utilities in King County. We feel there is an emerging opportunity with the recent appointment of an acting Director of the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks. We would suggest that one or more meeting(s) be held with the new Director and her staff to provide some input and suggestions into how the ordinance might be slightly modified to ensure that we end up with a Water Utility Coordination Process that benefits not just a limited number of utilities but maintains a workable coordination process for all communities and water utilities in King County.

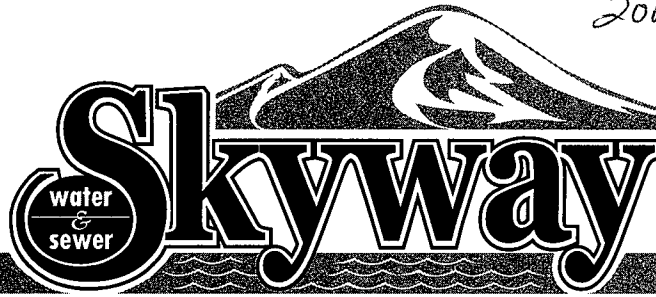
One prime example of a potential modification to the existing ordinance is the current vision in the ordinance of the Planning Committee. The Planning Committee is charged with the task of not only analyzing issues relative to the Skyway CWSP boundary change but also the potential effects of this action upon the East King County and South King County CWSSA's. While we appreciate the fact that the Washington Department of Health and King County see the need to address potential effects on the East King and South King County CWSPs and CWSSA's, the process as proposed is of significant concern. Specifically it appears to exclude the East King County and South King County Regional Water Association representatives or any other utility representatives from these affected areas. In effect, it allows the water systems leaving the East King County and South King County CWSP's to determine the effects of their departure on the those water systems that will remain. Frankly, we find the current Planning Committee proposal not only counter-intuitive, but indifferent to the interest of key utility stakeholders. To address this concern, we would propose that representatives of the East King County and South King County CWSP's be afforded the opportunity to participate and/or consult in the Planning Committee's evaluation of effects to their CWSPs and assist in the preparation of related recommendations. We believe such an approach will not only result in a more efficient process, but may avoid potential conflicts and misunderstandings that could arise under the current proposal.

So in summary, water utilities throughout East and South King County have significant concerns with the currently proposed process contained in Ordinance 2007-0375. King County water utilities request that additional time be permitted in the process to allow receipt of comments and evaluate potential unintended consequences. We also request that we utilize this additional time to work in a more collaborative manner to slightly revise the ordinance and ensure the proposed ordinance works for all water utilities in King County.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you about this issue.

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2007-0375

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July 23, 2007

Larry Phillips, Chair
King County Growth Management and Natural Resources Committee
King County Council
1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

RE: Proposed Ordinance No. 2007-0357

Dear Councilmember Phillips,

Skyway Water and Sewer District urges King County's reconsideration of the above proposed ordinance which would modify the boundaries of the existing Skyway Critical Water Service Area (SCWSA) and alter the Skyway Coordinated Water System Plan (SCWSP) in order to establish a single critical water supply service area for the Cascade Water Alliance (CWA). The Board of Commissioners of Skyway Water and Sewer District believes that passage of the proposed ordinance would severely undermine coordinated water system planning efforts to date, negatively impact District water service operations and be directly contrary to the Growth Management Act.

Skyway Water and Sewer District is a founding member of the Cascade Water Alliance. With approximately 64% of its water supply provided by Cascade, the District strongly supports Cascade -- its purpose, its governance method, and its regional long term water supply planning efforts. The remaining 36% percent of Skyway's water supply, however, is not provided by Cascade. Remaining supply is provided by the City of Renton (26%) and District wells (10%).

While the District provides both water and sewer services to its customers in the West Hill area, its water and sewer boundaries are not congruent. Within the District's boundaries, lie the water service areas of King County Water District No. 125, the City of Seattle and the City of Renton. If ever there was a need for the coordination of water service, it is in the West Hill! And if ever there was an intentional and significant coordinated water system planning effort made, it was the effort that was made in 1999 between King County, the State Department of Health, the City of Renton, the City of Seattle, the City of Tukwila, King County Water District No. 125 and Skyway Water and Sewer District, in the update of the existing "Skyway Coordinated Water System Plan".

In the West Hill area, the Skyway Coordinated Water System Plan is not just a planning document that sits on a shelf. It is "living" document that is referred to and used routinely amongst area service providers.

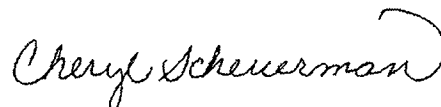
Skyway Water and Sewer District strongly supports the coordinated water system planning process. To alter the Skyway Coordinated Water System Plan, however, to only include CWA members, and to exclude adjacent but non-CWA members, is not acceptable. How can the District operate effectively and efficiently if the City of Renton -- a city that supplies 26% of its

water – the city in whose “Potential Annexation Area” it lies – is excluded from its critical water service area or coordinated water system plan? How will existing water service continue to be provided by the City of Seattle to a large apartment complex in Skyway, when Seattle is not included in the service area or plan? How can emergency interties and/or transmission and storage facilities continue to be shared between Skyway and King County Water District No. 125 (1.3 mg water tank) and Skyway and the City of Renton (1.4 mg tank and booster station) when these providers are replaced in the Skyway Plan by the cities of Bellevue, Kirkland and Redmond and Skyway is not included in their respective amended CWSPs?

Coordination is indeed critical to the planning and operation of public water systems. Skyway Water and Sewer District agrees that Cascade must also be included in this process and supports them toward such. To alter the Skyway Plan to include Cascade members only and exclude all other systems currently operating in the area, however, is not the means to accomplish this effort. Other options are available and must be considered. The ordinance, as proposed, has not been completely thought out. Its passage will have a very significant impact on operating systems – CWA member and non-member alike. Please postpone its consideration until operational issues, such as those that it would pose for Skyway Water and Sewer District, can be addressed.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Skyway Water and Sewer District



Cheryl Scheuerman,
General Manager

Cc: Jane Hague, King County Council
Julia Patterson, King County Council
Dow Constantine, King County Council
Larry Gossett, King County Council
Mike Reed, King County Council
Michael Gagliardo, Cascade Water Alliance
Rick Kirkby, Cascade Water Alliance
Pam Bissonnette, King County DNR
Richard Rodriguez, WSDOH
Lys Hornsby, City of Renton
Pat Brodin, City of Tukwila
King County Water District No. 125
Lisa Espinosa, City of Seattle/SPU
William Snell, Attorney
Susan Boyd, PACE

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2007-0375*

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

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**GROWTH MANAGEMENT AND NATURAL
RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

July 24, 2007

Committee Chair Phillips and Councilmembers,

My name is Larry Blanchard; I am the Public Works Director for the City of Kent. Kent is a member of the South King County CWSP and the Water Utility Coordinating Committee for the CWSP. Therefore, we believe we are a stakeholder in Ordinance No. 2007-0375.

Upon Receipt of a copy of this ordinance last week Kent and other agencies and districts from the South King County CWSP and the East King County CWSP met to discuss a joint response letter that will be presented prior to full County Council review of this ordinance.

I am here today to speak on behalf of the City of Kent.

First, I would like to applaud the County's efforts to reconcile the boundaries of the three Critical Water Supply Service Areas due to the changes that have occurred or will occur in the near future. Our comments are not directed at the goal of establishing a single CWSSA but to describe how this goal can be obtained through a collaborative process.

It is our understanding that in the proposed ordinance the Water Utility Coordinating Committees will only reconvene after the Skyway CWSP Planning Committee has submitted its recommendations to King County to assess the report that determines the affects, the boundary adjustments have on each agencies utility operations. More specifically it allows the water systems that leave the East King County and South King County CWSP's to determine the affects of their departure on those systems that remain without review or comment by the remaining agencies.

It is our hope that the County Council will include a provision in the ordinance that invites all members from the South King County and East King CWSP to directly participate on the Planning Committee so that they can be included in the process to evaluate and comment on the report to be prepared by the Committee. Another option would be to reconvene the WUCC's for each CWSP to provide comments to the Planning Committee prior to preparation of the report.

The County Councils consideration of Kent's concerns are greatly appreciated, we look forward to working with County staff on this process.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today.

*Distributed @ 7-24-07 G-MWR mtg
2007-0375*

Engineers | Planners | Surveyors



July 24, 2007

Ms. Jane Lamensdorf-Bucher,
KC DNRP Regional Water Planning Manager
King Street Center
201 S Jackson St, Suite 700
Seattle, WA 98104-3855

Subject: Skyway Coordinated Water System Plan proposed changes
Proposed King County Ordinance No. 2007-0357

Ms. Lamensdorf-Bucher:

This letter is in regard to the letter dated June, 4, 2007 regarding proposed changes to the Skyway Coordinated Water System Plan and associated Critical Water Supply Service Area (CWSSA). I am writing at the request and on behalf of King County Water District No. 125, an original member of the Water Utility Coordinating Committee that was assigned the task of developing the original and updated Skyway Coordinated Water System Plan (CWSP). This letter is in advance of the Board of Commissioners' formal letter on the subject matter and is necessitated by how quickly this item is moving through the King County process.

The proposal for modifying the boundaries of the Skyway CWSSA has not been fully researched and discussed with the parties affected, including those within the CWSSA. As presented, the proposal is unacceptable to the District. Contrary to the June 4, 2007 letter indicating such, the proposal has not been discussed with the Board of Commissioners of Water District No. 125. The lack of coordination with the affected purveyors, combined with the proposal totally excluding existing parties to the CWSP, gives little or no regard to the issues that led to development of the Skyway CWSP or the members that operate under the planning document and associated agreement.

The original declaration of the CWSSA was based on several factors: overlapping and inconsistent service area boundaries; multiple purveyors serving a geographical area that might be better served by a single or reduced number of purveyors; and, a lack of storage on the Skyway Hill. A detailed program for addressing these issues was formed by the participating parties and while the participating purveyors have made great strides, the Plan has not been fully implemented. King County Water District No. 125 relies on the existence of the Coordinated Water System Plan as a guideline for interaction and coordination with its neighboring purveyors. Additionally the other key purveyors within the Skyway Plan include the Cities of Renton, Seattle and Tukwila and we do not believe any of them have discussed the proposal for modifying the CWSSA or approved it.

Ms. Jane Lamensdorf-Bucher
July 24, 2007
Page 2

Eliminating the District from the CWSSA and essentially rewriting the CWSP to address the needs of the Cascade Water Alliance is unacceptable as presented. The District requests that any such action be delayed until the impacts to Water District No. 125 have been fully evaluated and discussed.

Sincerely,
PACE Engineers, Inc.



Susan E. Boyd
Vice President

cc: Board of Commissioners, King County Water District 125
Jane Hague
Julia Patterson
Dow Constantine
Larry Gossett
Mike Reed
Michael Gagliardo
Rick Kirkby
Pam Bissonnette
Richard Rodriguez

