



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

Northwest Regional Office • 3190 160th Avenue SE • Bellevue, Washington 98008-5452 • (425) 649-7000

July 31, 2009

The Honorable Kurt Triplett  
King County Executive  
401 5th Avenue  
Suite 800  
Seattle, WA 98104

The Honorable Dow Constantine  
Chair, King County Council  
Room 1200, King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Executive Triplett and Councilmember Constantine:

I am pleased to know that King County is undertaking a comprehensive planning effort to explore the future role of reclaimed water as an integral part of the County's regional wastewater system.

The Washington State Legislature has encouraged and supported reclaimed water use since passage of the State's Reclaimed Water Act in 1992, and legislation in 2006 and 2007 elevated the importance of reclaimed water use in Washington.

The Department of Ecology is working with communities throughout the state to provide effective water management to meet current and future water needs for people, fish, and the natural environment. Reclaimed water is an important tool, along with water efficiency and conservation efforts, in meeting these needs. In addition, reclaimed water is an important mechanism for improving water quality and reducing discharge of treated wastewater into Puget Sound and other sensitive areas.

It makes sense for King County to plan now to determine if the County's existing reclaimed water program should expand in the future. One of the most significant challenges to the distribution and use of reclaimed water is the cost of building infrastructure to serve potential uses. Carrying out a comprehensive planning effort now will allow the County to work with a variety of parties to fully examine the benefits and costs of providing additional reclaimed water from the County's treatment plants. In addition, the information gathered through this process will be useful to local jurisdictions' comprehensive planning efforts and will also help inform efforts to achieve our state's climate change reduction goals.

I applaud King County's commitment to plan for the future and consider innovative uses for its treated wastewater. Ecology looks forward to participating in this important planning effort.

Sincerely,

Jeannie Summerhays  
Regional Director



Louise Miller  
former King County Councilmember  
17005 - 191st Avenue NE  
Woodinville, WA 98072

RECEIVED

AUG 06 2009

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August 6, 2009

King County DNRP  
Wastewater Treatment Division

The Honorable Kurt Triplett  
King County Executive  
401 5th Avenue  
Suite 800  
Seattle, WA 98104

The Honorable Dow Constantine  
Chair, King County Council  
Room 1200, King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Executive Triplett and Councilmember Constantine:

I understand that legislation will be transmitted to the King County Council to approve the planning process to determine if King County's existing reclaimed water program should expand. I am writing in support of this important effort to comprehensively explore the future role of reclaimed water in our region.

In my travels to other states, I frequently encounter regions that are far more advanced than King County in their production and use of reclaimed water. Reclaimed water could be used to support some of King County's major initiatives, such as preservation of farm lands and local agriculture, preservation of parks and open space, and salmon conservation and recovery. Analyzing and understanding the benefits and costs associated with providing reclaimed water for these purposes will help determine if it makes sense to pursue reclaimed water for such uses. It will also be useful to evaluate if and how expanding King County's reclaimed water program can play a role in restoring Puget Sound and mitigating projected climate change impacts.

The wide range of opinions regarding the need for reclaimed water was evident during the regional water supply planning effort that I chaired. As a former water district commissioner, state legislator, and King County Councilmember, I am aware of the many policy, financing, and operational issues that need to be considered before decisions are made on whether to expand the County's reclaimed water program. Conducting the planning process now provides the opportunity for the region to fully discuss, debate, and resolve these issues. If we wait until there is an emergency situation or wait until state or federal regulations are adopted that require increased use of reclaimed water, we may find we have foreclosed the opportunity for cost-effective reclaimed water investments and for regional involvement in shaping the future of King County's reclaimed water program.

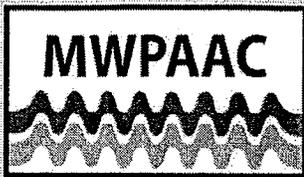
I appreciate the County's commitment to conducting this planning process now, and I look forward to participating in this important regional effort.

Sincerely,



Louise Miller

cc: Christie True, Division Director, Wastewater Treatment Division



## Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee

King Street Center, 201 South Jackson Street, MS KSC-NR-0512  
Seattle, WA 98104 206-263-6070

### MEMBERS:

*Alderwood Water and  
Wastewater District*

*City of Algona*

*City of Auburn*

*City of Bellevue*

*City of Black Diamond*

*City of Bothell*

*City of Brier*

*City of Carnation*

*Cedar River Water and Sewer District*

*Coal Creek Utility District*

*Cross Valley Water District*

*Highlands Sewer District*

*City of Issaquah*

*City of Kent*

*City of Kirkland*

*City of Lake Forest Park*

*Lakehaven Utility District*

*City of Mercer Island*

*Midway Sewer District*

*Northeast Sammamish Sewer District*

*Northshore Utility District*

*Olympic View Water and Sewer District*

*City of Pacific*

*City of Redmond*

*City of Renton*

*Ronald Wastewater District*

*Sammamish Plateau Water and  
Sewer District*

*City of Seattle*

*Skyway Water and Sewer District*

*Soos Creek Water and Sewer District*

*Southwest Suburban Sewer District*

*City of Tukwila*

*Val Vue Sewer District*

*Vashon Sewer District*

*Woodinville Water District*

August 13, 2009

The Honorable Kurt Triplett  
King County Executive  
401 Fifth Ave., Suite 800  
Seattle, WA 98104

SUBJECT: Reclaimed Water Comprehensive Plan

Dear Executive Triplett:

The Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee (MWWPAAC) has been briefed numerous times on the status of the Reclaimed Water Comprehensive Plan (RWCP). At our July 22, 2009 meeting, we received an update on the Purpose and Need Statement, and the RWCP process that the King County Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) has submitted for your review and transmittal to the King County Council. MWWPAAC requested several changes to the process, Purpose and Need Statement and the evaluation criteria used to determine if potential reclaimed water uses and the strategies that serve them address the reclaimed water planning drivers, which WTD is forwarding to you. In addition, MWWPAAC also approved two recommendations relating to the RWCP at its July 22nd meeting.

First, given the current economic climate, MWWPAAC recommends delaying the RWCP until 2011 or beyond. The recommendation to delay the RWCP was approved by MWWPAAC's members by an eight to six vote. Those who voted in support of the deferral stated their reason for doing so was concern over spending scarce resources on a long-term planning effort during difficult economic times. The MWWPAAC members voting to continue on schedule with the RWCP argued there should be a plan in place that guides WTD's future decisions with respect to reclaimed water and, without such a plan, decisions on any expanded use of reclaimed water will be made ad hoc.

Second, MWWPAAC recommends that should the RWCP continue on schedule, the financial policies contained in the Regional Wastewater Services Plan should be reviewed and revised to address reclaimed water pricing and cost allocation issues as soon as possible during the early stages of the RWCP. The majority of the existing reclaimed water policies were adopted in 1999. Although some were amended in 2006, we believe additional revisions are needed. The current timeline for completion of the RWCP shows the policies for the pricing of reclaimed

The Honorable Kurt Triplett  
August 13, 2009  
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water will be completed in 2013. In response to MWPAAC's comments, WTD has indicated it will be moving this date up so that the pricing of reclaimed water is discussed earlier in the RWCP process. We believe it is very important that the King County Council update these policies in the Regional Wastewater Services Plan before WTD begins marketing expanded uses of and negotiating new contracts for reclaimed water.

One possible avenue for review of policies for the pricing of reclaimed water is the newly formed Financial Policies Work Group that will report to the King County Council's Regional Water Quality Committee. The following are represented on the work group: King County sewer districts, Snohomish County sewer districts, Suburban Cities, MWPAAC, City of Seattle, City of Bellevue, the King County Executive and King County Council. This work group will review specific financial policies in the Regional Wastewater Services Plan and make recommendations to the Regional Water Quality Committee regarding possible revisions to those policies. The work plan for the group is still being defined and the development of financial policies relating to reclaimed water could be added to the work plan.

MWPAAC appreciates the opportunity to comment on the RWCP and wishes to acknowledge that WTD staff has closely involved MWPAAC in the RWCP process and incorporated many of our comments into the process, Purpose and Need Statement and the proposed evaluation criteria. We ask that you carefully consider our comments regarding reclaimed water and the RWCP and recognize that deferral of the planning process, or alternatively addressing pricing policies earlier in the process, will assist you in your efforts to reduce expenditures and avoid higher sewer rates.

Sincerely,



Scott Thomasson  
Chair

cc: King County Council Members  
Regional Water Quality Committee Members  
MWPAAC Members  
Theresa Jennings, Director, King County Department of Natural Resources (DNRP)  
Christie True, Director, Wastewater Treatment Division, DNRP



August 17, 2009

Kurt Triplett  
King County Executive  
King County Chinook Building  
401 5th Ave. Suite 800  
Seattle, WA 98104  
Via email: [kurt.triplett@kingcounty.gov](mailto:kurt.triplett@kingcounty.gov)

Dear Executive Triplett,

We are writing to support King County's Reclaimed Water Comprehensive Plan and the process for its development.

People For Puget Sound is a non-profit membership organization working to restore the health of Puget Sound. We have been involved as a stakeholder in the process to develop the Reclaimed Water Comprehensive Plan and recently provided feedback on the Purpose and Need Statement. We appreciate that the staff has reached out to a wide variety of stakeholders for input and has created a transparent planning process.

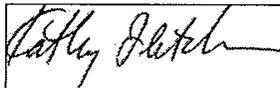
Reclaimed water planning is not a sexy topic but we feel that it is a critical issue that relates to the long-term health of the Puget Sound basin. There are a number of factors that play into this issue:

- Water as a resource is becoming more precious, especially as our population continues to grow in the Pacific Northwest.
- We face an uncertain future that will be influenced by global climate change
- The reuse of water will result in cleaner water being discharged into our lakes, streams and Puget Sound
- Salmon recovery relies on clean fresh water supplies, which will be more possible with water reclamation
- Our community ethic is moving towards a less wasteful approach

We strongly believe that it is in the best interest of the citizens of King County to take a precautionary approach and to plan ahead for the future. The Reclaimed Water planning process is going to take many years and a delay now could have very negative consequences down the line.

Thank you for your consideration. You can reach me or Heather Trim of my staff at (206) 382-7007 if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, enclosed in a rectangular box. The signature appears to read "Kathy Fletcher".

Kathy Fletcher  
Executive Director