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| Northeast Sammamish Sewer and Water District Water System Plan Update for 2020 | | |
| Service Area  Northeast Sammamish Sewer and Water District’s (District) service area encompasses approximately 4.5 square miles. The retail service area is bounded on the north by 187th Avenue NE and Redmond-Fall City Road, on the west by the shore of Lake Sammamish, on the south by the approximate alignment of NE 20th Street, and on the east by an irregular boundary generally west of 240th Avenue NE. Approximately 1.2 square miles of the retail service area currently not served is the future service area. The District’s retail service area is bounded on the east and south by the water service area of Sammamish Plateau Water (Sammamish Plateau), the northwest by the water retail service area of the City of Redmond, and the north by the service area of the Union Hill Water Association (Union Hill).  The District serves approximately 3,330 customer connections; since 2010, the District has added only 36 new metered accounts. Changes in land use planning and development patterns indicate that future growth will be less than that projected in 2010: the projected population of the District’s service area for the year 2030 is 9,380 and decreases to 8,800 in the year 2040. All but two of the District's water customers reside within the boundaries of the City of Sammamish, even though the District’s boundaries extend beyond the City into rural area.  The District’s last plan was approved in 2011 and extended by state Department of Health (DOH) in 2017 for two years.  One intertie with Union Hill Water Association exists to provide wholesale service; there are two emergency interties with Sammamish Plateau Water District and one emergency intertie with the City of Redmond. Sammamish Plateau and Northeast Sammamish also share a reservoir.  The District has held two franchises with the County for operations and maintenance in unincorporated areas within its service area: franchise #13609 for sewer, which expires in 2024; and #9281 for water, which expired in 2019. An adopted plan is required to apply for a new franchise.  Water Use Efficiency  The District obtains its water from five groundwater wells. Historical average day demand and maximum day demand for the past 9 years is 480 and 1,988 gallons per day per equivalent residential unit (ERU), respectively.  The annual distribution system loss rate (how much water they lost in distribution) has decreased from a high of 4.4% in 2012 to a low of 0.5% in 2018; the rolling 3-year average is 1.3%, which is far below the state-mandated water use efficiency standard of 10%.  The Plan contains a ten-year capital improvement plan with an estimated cost of approximately $10.7 million, and a twenty-year plan costing $24.1 million. The District identified six funding sources for the proposed improvement projects: developer extensions, rates, and general facility charges. Total water operating revenues for the District in 2018 were estimated to be $2.2 million and same year operating expenses were estimated to be $1.7 million.  Reclaimed Water and Regional Planning The District does not have a sufficient customer base for use of reclaimed water, as the vast majority of their uses are residential or otherwise potable needs. The District doesn’t produce effluent for re-use, and connection to the “purple pipe” system in nearby Redmond would require significant effort to reach the top of the Plateau.  SEPA  The District completed a State Environmental Policy Act checklist and issued a Determination of Nonsignificance for the issuance of the plan on July 15, 2020; there were no appeals. | | |
| A review of the specific statutes, rules, codes and policies to the water system plan is as follows: | | | |
|  | **A. General water plan, King County Code (KCC) 13.24.010 and 13.28** | **Comments/findings** | |
| (1) | Review is applicable to water utilities distributing or obtaining water in unincorporated King County, and/or utilities that are special purpose District created pursuant to Title 57 Revised Code of Washington (RCW). Is there a need to meet the consistency requirements of RCW 43.20.260? | * Yes, the District's Water System Plan (Plan) is subject to King County Council approval under Title 57 RCW. * Yes, The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) also needs to demonstrate consistency for the Plan under RCW 43.20.260. | |
| (2) | Consistency with King County Comprehensive Plan (KCCP) and development regulations, and policies including KCC 21A.28.040 development standards, provision of adequate supplies for anticipated growth and development. | * Yes, the District's Plan is consistent. | |
| (3) | Infrastructure for existing and future service areas based on adopted land use map. | * Yes, the District used adopted land use maps. The service area is primarily in the City of Sammamish with only two customers in unincorporated King County. | |
| (4) | Review proposals for modified or expanded service areas based on compliance with utility's approved plan, and ability to meet duty to serve requirement. | * Not applicable. The service area has not changed recently and is not expected to change. The District maintains duty to serve policies for its retail service area. | |
| (5) | Sufficient information to demonstrate the ability to provide service consistent with the requirements of all applicable statutes, codes, rules, and regulations. | * Yes, the Plan demonstrates an ability to provide service consistent with applicable statutes, codes, rules and regulations. * The District obtains its water from groundwater sources and has sufficient rights to produce during the planning period. * The District’s water supplies appear sufficient to meet projected peak day demand in 2039. | |
| (6) | Monitor and review effectiveness of purveyor conservation plans if within area covered by an approved Coordinated Water System Plan (CWSP). | * The District is within the East King County CWSP. * The District’s water use efficiency plan identifies conservation activities which the District employs as part of its long-range conservation plan. * KCC 13.28 relates to the CWSP and conservation goals. The District’s conservation measures include a Water Loss Control Action Plan, customer education, rebate program, and plumbing retrofit program. | |
|  | **B. Consistency requirements: 13.24.060** |  | |
| (7) | State and local health requirements. | * Yes, water purveyed meets State and local health requirements per reporting in the SENTRY system. | |
| (8) | Creation and maintenance of logical service areas. | * Yes, the service area is logical. | |
| (9) | Elimination or prevention of duplicate facilities. | * Yes. The District intends to provide service within its service area by means of direct connection. * The District seeks approval as a satellite management agency for connected independent systems. * The District maintains emergency and/or supply interties with Union Hill Water Association, Sammamish Plateau, and the City of Redmond. | |
| (10) | Promotion of most healthful and reliable services to the public. | * Yes. Water purveyed by the District complies with DOH requirements. The water is neither chlorinated nor fluoridated. * District sampling has shown manganese to be present at levels that presents aesthetic concerns rather than health concerns. The District’s response for manganese will depend on acceptability of the water to customers. * The existing combination of water sources provides sufficient capacity to meet the requirements of the District through 2039. | |
| (11) | Provision of service at a reasonable cost, and maximization of use of public facilities. | * Cost of service is comparable to other water districts in the region. | |
| (12) | King County Comprehensive Plan and other pertinent county adopted plans and policies. | * Yes, there is consistency between the District's Plan and the King County Comprehensive Plan. | |
| (13) | Basin-wide or multi-basin water plans, sewerage plans, or both when approved by the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) or Department of Health (DOH). | * The District has not been involved in multi-basin water plans. * The Plan is consistent with the East King County CWSP. | |
| (14) | Applicable state water quality, water conservation, and waste management standards. | * Yes, applicable standards are met. The Plan includes adequate water quality monitoring data. * The District's distribution system loss (non-revenue or unaccounted-for water) was 0.5% in 2018; the rolling 3-year average is 1.3%, which is far below the state-mandated water use efficiency standard of 10%. | |
| (15) | Water Resources Act (RCW 90.54). | * The District will maintain its existing conservation (efficiency) program while complying with DOH’s Water Use Efficiency Rule. | |
| (16) | Growth Management Act (GMA) (RCW 36.70A). | * The District issued its own SEPA Determination of Non-Significance, and its plan is based on the locally adopted use and density standards, as well as on local growth projections. | |
| (17) | Groundwater management plans. | * The District owns five groundwater wells. * Wellhead protection areas for the sources have been developed. | |
| (18) | Federally approved habitat conservation plans and recovery plans under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). | * The Water District does not have surface water usage or discharge which might affect sensitive species or recovery plans. | |
|  | Requirements for salmon recovery under Ch. 77.85 RCW, and other plans, including regional water supply or water resource management plans. | * The Water District does not have surface water usage or discharge which might affect sensitive species or recovery plans. | |
| (19) | **C: Countywide Planning Policies** |  | |
| (20) | G-4: Adopt comprehensive plans that are consistent with the Countywide Planning Policies as required by the Growth Management Act. | * Yes, the District adopted a plan that is consistent with Countywide Planning Policies. | |
| (21) | EN-19: Promote energy efficiency, conservation methods and sustainable energy sources to support climate change reduction goals. | * Not discussed in Plan. | |
| (22) | DP-13: All jurisdictions shall plan to accommodate housing and employment targets. This includes coordinating water, sewer, transportation and other infrastructure plans and investments among agencies, including special purpose Districts. | * Yes, the District asserts it can accommodate population and employment targets of the cities within its service area, especially as the District is losing population within its service area. | |
| (23) | PF-2: Coordinate among jurisdictions and service providers to provide reliable and cost-effective services to the public. | * Yes, the District has coordinated with neighboring service providers with interties for potable and/or emergency supply. | |
| (24) | PF-4: Develop plans for long‐term water provision to support growth and to address the potential impacts of climate change on regional water resources. | * The increased water usage associated with population growth within the District can be met using existing water rights and historic production levels. | |
| (25) | PF-7: Plan and locate water systems in the Rural Area that are appropriate for rural uses and densities and do not increase the development potential of the Rural Area. | * The District’s service area currently only serves two customers in the rural area, but has the right to extend their retail area at a later time. | |
| (26) | PF-8: Recognize and support agreements with water purveyors in adjacent cities and counties to promote effective conveyance of water supplies and to secure adequate supplies for emergencies. | * Yes, the District has agreements with neighboring water systems with interties and emergency back-up. | |
| (27) | PF-9: Implement water conservation and efficiency efforts to protect natural resources, reduce environmental impacts, and support a sustainable long‐term water supply to serve the growing population. | * The water conservation and efficiency efforts of the District meet the minimum required by statute WAC Ch. 246-290. | |
|  | PF-10: Encourage water reuse and reclamation, especially for high‐volume non‐potable water users such as parks, schools, and golf courses. | * The Plan does not consider reclaimed water use, as the utility does not have reclaimed water infrastructure or potential customers. | |
| (28) | **D: King County Comprehensive Plan (KCCP)** |  | |
| (29) | F-107: With special purpose Districts or local service providers, plan for provision of services to rural areas. | * The District’s retail and future service areas includes rural area properties. | |
| (30) | F-108: King County to work with cities and service providers to establish priority areas for public funding of capital facilities. | * Yes, King County will continue do this. | |
| (31) | F-201: All facilities and services should be provided in compliance with provisions and requirements of the Endangered Species Act and the Clean Water Act. | * The District’s provision of water service doesn’t rely on impaired waters or habitat; the District meets the Clean Water Act through its compliance with DOH regulations. | |
| (32) | F-209: In the Rural Area, services provided by agencies should support a rural level of development and not facilitate urbanization. | * The District’s retail and future service areas includes rural area properties. | |
| (33) | F-210: capital facility plans and capital improvement programs for services to unincorporated King County are consistent with the KCCP. | * Yes, the District's Capital Improvement Plan is consistent with the KCCP and future land use. | |
| (34) | F-211: King County helps coordinate development of utility facilities with other projects that utilize public rights-of-way and easements, where possible. | * The District will obtain a franchise to work within County-owned rights-of-way. | |
| (35) | F-221: King County shall initiate a sub-area planning process with any service provider that declares, in its capital facilities plan, an inability to meet service needs within service area. | * Not applicable as the District did not identify an inability to meet service needs within its service area. | |
| (36) | F-223: If a service deficiency is identified in a service provider's existing service area, King County and the applicable service provider shall remedy the deficiency through a joint planning process addressing capital improvement programs and long-term funding strategies. | * Not applicable as the District did not identify an inability to meet service needs within its service area. | |
| (37) | F-231: King County supports coordination of regional water supply planning, sales of excess water supplies among municipalities in the region, water quality programs and water conservation, reuse and reclaimed water programs. | * The District has interties with neighboring utilities to provide potable and/or emergency water supply. | |
| (38) | F-232: Water utilities that obtain water from, or distribute water in unincorporated King County, and water utilities formed as special purpose Districts under Title 57 RCW are required to submit water system plans to the county for review and approval and shall describe in their plans how they intend to meet their duty to provide service within their retail service area. | * The District is a special purpose district formed under Title 57 RCW. * The District can meet its duty to serve in the designated retail service area. | |
| (39) | F-246: King County supports interties that allow the transfer of water resources among water utilities to meet the projected demands for growth where such interties meet the requirements of RCW 90.03.383 and are also consistent with any applicable locally adopted comprehensive plans, regional water supply plans, adopted groundwater management plans, watershed plans, approved Coordinated Water System Plans, Endangered Species Act response requirements and Clean Water Act requirements. | * The District has an intertie with the neighboring water utilities to provide potable and/or emergency water supply. The interties are consistent with the applicable plans. | |
| (40) | F-249: Utilities with more than one thousand service connections required to submit water system plans for approval to King County shall include an evaluation of reclaimed water use opportunities by completing King County's Water Reclamation Evaluation Checklist. | * The District provided the Checklist, but has not found any opportunity to use reclaimed water as 98.8% of their water is for residential use. | |
| (41) | F-251: In its review of water system plans, the UTRC shall consider the criteria provided in K.C.C. 13.24.010, 13.24.060, and 13.24.070, and determine the plan's consistency with the following:  a. Applicable provisions of the King County Comprehensive Plan, land use plans, and development regulations adopted under the Growth Management Act;  b. Approved or adopted regional water resource plans, such as basin plans, groundwater plans, watershed-based conservation and recovery plans developed under ESA, salmon recovery plans developed under chapter 77.85 RCW, water resource plans developed under chapter 90.54 RCW, watershed plans developed under chapter 90.82 RCW, and a regional water supply plan or water resource management plan;  c. The county's Regional Wastewater Services Plan; and  d. Other applicable provisions of countywide plans managed by King County, as specified in UTRC guidance or checklists. | * The UTRC has reviewed the planning data and the District's operations and has found the Plan is consistent with:   a. the King County Comprehensive Plan, land use plans and development regulations;  b. to the extent applicable, the basin plans, groundwater plans, watershed-based conservation and recovery plans for the  service area; and  c. other applicable provisions. | |
| (42) | F-252: In reviewing proposals for modified and expanded service area boundaries for municipal water suppliers, the UTRC shall consider, in addition to Policy F-251:  a. Compliance by the water system with its water system comprehensive plan, including water conservation elements;  b. Whether it can meet its duty to provide service within its service area, as required under chapter 43.20 RCW; and  c. Consistency with the service provisions of any applicable Coordinated Water System Plan, as adopted in King County Code Chapter 13.28. | * Not applicable as the District is not changing its water service area. | |
| (43) | F-253: Consistent with Countywide Planning Policies, public drinking water system surface water reservoirs and their watersheds should be managed primarily for the protection of drinking water, but should allow for multiple uses, including recreation, when such uses do not jeopardize drinking water quality standards. Public watersheds must be managed to protect downstream fish and agriculture resources. | * Not applicable as the District does not control any surface water reservoirs or watersheds. | |
| (44) | F-254: Groundwater-based public water supplies should be protected by preventing land uses that may adversely affect groundwater quality or quantity to the extent that the supply might be jeopardized. The county shall protect the quality and quantity of groundwater used as water supplies through implementation of Policies E-493 through E-497 where applicable. | * The District has a Well Head Protection Program. * The County’s rural zoning also protects much of the Evans Creek wellfield area. | |