



## King County

### **Dow Constantine**

King County Executive

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[www.kingcounty.gov](http://www.kingcounty.gov)

February 25, 2021

The Honorable Claudia Balducci  
Chair, King County Council  
Room 1200  
C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Balducci:

This letter transmits a proposed motion, that if approved, would extend a waiver of public advertising and competitive procurement requirements through February 28, 2023, for emergency work relating to power reliability at the West Point Treatment Plant (WPTP).

Approval of this proposed legislation supports an Executive Declaration of Emergency (attached) that I made on February 25, 2021, due to the risk of unanticipated power disruptions at WPTP, which present an immediate threat to plant operations and employee safety and can result in unauthorized discharges from WPTP into Puget Sound.

King County's WPTP provides wastewater treatment for residents and businesses in the City of Seattle, City of Shoreline, the north end of Lake Washington, and parts of southern Snohomish County. The WPTP treats significant volumes of wastewater, receiving approximately 90 million gallons a day (mgd) of wastewater flows during the dry season and up to 300 mgd during wet weather. During intense rain events, WPTP provides primary treatment and disinfection for flows above 300 mgd up to 440 mgd.

The Washington State Department of Ecology issued Administrative Order 19477 to King County on February 2, 2021, regarding six unauthorized secondary bypasses at WPTP between January 1, 2018 and June 30, 2020. An unauthorized bypass of the secondary treatment system at WPTP occurs when stormwater and sewage that received some treatment is blended with fully treated water and then disinfected before discharge. As noted in the Administrative Order, these six unanticipated, unauthorized bypasses were caused by electrical power issues at WPTP. The Administrative Order requires DNRP to complete four corrective actions, which include the submittal of two reports to Ecology,

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development of a strategic master plan for WPTP's electrical system by December 31, 2021, and implementation of the corrective actions in the plan by December 31, 2025.

My Executive Declaration of Emergency, and this proposed motion, will allow the Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) to take immediate action to modify the cogeneration system that produces power and heat at WPTP, which may include installation of a battery energy storage system, and complete any other needed improvements to WPTP's electrical system. DNRP will also proceed with urgency to analyze and develop a schedule and cost estimate for a new electrical power line in coordination with Seattle City Light to address longer-term power reliability at WPTP. DNRP will keep the Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee and the Regional Water Quality Committee apprised of progress on these efforts.

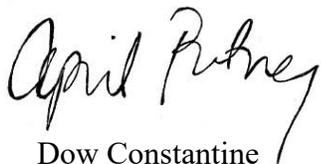
This proposed motion is accompanied by a proposed ordinance to appropriate \$64.6 million to the Capital budget of the Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) in the DNRP for the work necessary to improve power reliability at WPTP. The proposed ordinance appropriates \$61.6 million for improvements to the electrical system at West Point, including the modifications to the cogeneration system that produces power and heat at WPTP. WTD will also consider other near-term options to improve power reliability, including the possible installation of a battery energy storage system. The proposed ordinance would also appropriate \$3 million to analyze and develop a schedule and cost estimate for a new electrical power line to serve WPTP.

The proposed legislation furthers the Healthy Environment goal of the King County Strategic Plan to integrate climate preparedness into County operations and provision of public services by limiting or avoiding any future unauthorized bypasses at WPTP because of power disruptions during extreme rain events that are occurring with greater frequency.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed motion. This important, proposed legislation will ensure there is no delay in addressing power reliability issues at WPTP, protecting employee safety, public health, and the environment.

If your staff have any questions, please contact Mark Isaacson, Division Director of the Wastewater Treatment Division of the Department of Natural Resources and Parks, at 206-477-4601.

Sincerely,



for

Dow Constantine  
King County Executive

Enclosure

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cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Carolyn Busch, Chief of Staff

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

Shannon Braddock, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Karan Gill, Director, Council Relations, Office of the Executive

Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget

Christie True, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)

Mark Isaacson, Division Director, Wastewater Treatment Division, DNRP