



DATE: September 25, 2023

SUBJECT: King County Regional Committees Update

Regional Policy Committee (RPC)

At its September 13 meeting, the RPC:

- **Received a briefing by King County Solid Waste Division (SWD) on Waste to Energy (WTE)**, which is one of the long-term waste disposal options under consideration by King County. WTE plants burn solid waste in a boiler. The resulting steam is used to power an electric generator. SWD operates a regional solid waste system for the unincorporated areas and 37 partner cities, including Bellevue. One remaining local landfill, the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill, is a 920-acre site located in unincorporated Maple Valley owned and operated by King County. The next King County solid waste disposal options, following the future closure of Cedar Hills landfill in 2038, will have economic, environmental, and social impacts to the region.
- **Acknowledged receipt of the 2022 Best Starts for Kids (BSK) levy Annual Report.** The BSK Annual Report provides information on Best Starts for Kids financial investments made in 2022, as well as BSK performance measures and outcomes. The transmitted report indicates that BSK extended contracts to support continuity of services, offered 34 funding opportunities. BSK distributed over \$110 million to community partners, partnering with more than 450 community-based organizations to reach over 264,000 children, young people, families, and community members across King County.
 - The 2022 BSK Annual Report is the first annual report for the 2022-2027 levy period.
- **Received a presentation on King County's reformatted human services levy data dashboard.** King County has recently streamlined and uniformed levy data information for easier and faster access. King County data dashboard use zip code and demographic information to overlay participant use, service locations and resources.

The next RPC meeting is scheduled for October 11. Councilmember John Stokes serves on the RPC.

Regional Transit Committee (RTC)

At its September 20 meeting, the RTC:



- **Heard an annual update on Metro's Strategic Plan performance measures dashboard.** The Strategic Plan identifies strategies and performance measures for ten adopted goals, which are tracked through an online dashboard. The briefing responds to a requirement that Metro provide an annual oral briefing on its performance measurement dashboard.

The next RTC meeting is scheduled for October 18. Councilmember Janice Zahn serves on the RTC.

Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC)

At its August 23 meeting, the RWQC:

- **Approved an amended motion for King County's Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) to develop a methodology for forecasting long-term financial investments for capital improvements.** The motion responds to a member's request for a comprehensive understanding of the long-term rate drivers and the impact of different assumptions on those rates. The change reflects a request from Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee (MWPAAC) to move the due date of the methodology to January 2024 to allow time for MWPAAC review.
- **Discussed a draft motion that requests WTD to develop and maintain a long-term financial forecast that generates long-term sewer rates.** The draft motion requests WTD to develop a long-term financial and sewer rate forecast by July 2025 and to provide status updates in January 2024, July 2024 and April 2025.
- **Discussed a possible motion concerning contaminants of emerging concern in wastewater effluent.** King County councilmembers Balducci and Kohl-Welles co-sponsored a motion that identifies actions WTD should take to address long-lasting chemicals, including per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). RWQC members provided feedback to Chair Balducci about amendment concepts.
- **Heard an update on federal advocacy related to long-term wastewater needs.** A subcommittee of RWQC members met in early-2023 to discuss strategies to secure additional federal funding for wastewater infrastructure. King County WTD staff have begun developing a strategy to pursue applicable federal funding opportunities available to wholesale suppliers.

At its September 6 meeting, the RWQC:

- **Approved a motion concerning contaminants of emerging concern in wastewater effluent and directing next steps to limit their impact.** The motion identifies actions WTD should take to address long-lasting chemicals, including PFAS. RWQC



members approved an amendment related to reporting on the cost of WTD's activities to address contaminants of emerging concerns. Another amendment clarified WTD's role in implementing state and federal chemical action plans.

- **Heard a briefing on WTD's progress on developing a methodology to forecast long-term costs of capital investment needs.** WTD is moving forward with a work order for consultant support and shared a deliverables schedule for MWPAAC engagement. By January 2024, WTD is required to brief RWQC on the recommended capital forecast methodologies and will provide a progress update on the financial forecast work.
- **Reviewed the 2023 Work Program**, with a focus on the annual sewer rate process and re-starting the Clean Water Plan discussions. Member acknowledged the need to have adequate time for discussion, full representation and understanding of the issues.

The next RWQC meeting is scheduled for October 4. Councilmember Conrad Lee serves on the RWQC.