



City of
Bellevue

City Manager's
Office

DATE: October 14, 2025

SUBJECT: King County Regional Committees Update, September 2025

Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC)

At its September 3 meeting, the RWQC:

- **Received an update on the Washington State Department of Ecology's draft optional Puget Sound nutrient permit and King County Wastewater Treatment Division's (WTD's) comments.** King County noted that investments to meet the regulatory requirements would represent some of the largest investments in water quality in state history; however, WTD is concerned that the requirements are based on outdated scientific analysis.
- **Heard a briefing on WTD's response to King County Motion 16449, related to long-term rate forecasting.** WTD's presentation included multiple scenarios evaluating the impact on rates of combined sewer overflow (CSO) projects and variable rate debt. Both scenarios showed higher near-term rates if assumptions were more conservative. Scenario evaluation will be used in future sewer rate development.
- **Discussed the RWQC motion directing WTD to implement a work plan to improve transparency and accountability in the rate-setting process.** RWQC members proposed additional changes that clarify WTD's role in the Utility Rate Affordability Summit and the working relationship with the Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee (MWPAAC) and RWQC in regard to capital project review. Action was planned for a future meeting.
- **Received an update on the Regional Wastewater Services Plan (RWSP).** RWQC members expressed concern with the lack of policy framework guiding the draft sets of actions developed by WTD and the RWSP Working Group. Members also questioned how policy questions adopted in the RWSP Scoping Document would be incorporated into the capital categories analysis, especially when they span multiple capital categories. WTD continues to shift its approach to best address RWQC concerns.

The next RWQC meeting is on October 1, which will be included in the October update. Councilmember Conrad Lee serves on the RWQC on behalf of the Sound Cities Association.

Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC)

At its September 17 meeting, the GMPC:

- **Discussed a draft motion to amend growth targets within potential annexation areas of King County.** The draft motion includes moving 128 housing units from the Black Diamond Potential Annexation Area to the King County Unincorporated Potential Annexation Area. The motion will return for potential action on November 19.
- **Discussed a draft motion on the Affordable Housing Committee (AHC) charter**

amendments. The proposed charter amendments will be brought back for potential action at the November 19 meeting. The GMPC was supportive of membership changes for the AHC. The GMPC also discussed the draft 2026 AHC workplan and progress that the AHC has made with reviewing comprehensive plans of jurisdictions in King County. To date, 35 of 40 jurisdictions have completed their review with Carnation currently under review.

- **The GMPC discussed updates on annexation activity within King County.** Since 2020, five new annexations and none since the GMPC was provided the last update which was last year. Current potential annexations under discussion include Auburn, Bellevue, Enumclaw, Federal Way, Kent, Maple Valley and Snoqualmie.
- **The GMPC discussed recent King County Impact fee legislation passed in 2023.** The King County Council has taken up legislation related to schools in the last year which includes reconsidering its impact fee methodology and schedule in response to Senate Bill 5258 relating to increasing the supply and affordability of condominium units and townhouses as an option for homeownership. The King County Council is currently considering legislation related to the establishment of new Interlocal Agreements with school districts.

The next GMPC meeting is scheduled for November 19. Councilmember Jared Nieuwenhuis serves on the GMPC representing Bellevue.

Affordable Housing Committee (AHC)

At its October 2 meeting, the AHC:

- **Discussed the 2026 AHC State Legislative priorities,** including amendments. The Master Builder's Association of King and Snohomish County submitted an amendment to support policies that would address lowering barriers to housing of all types to address the region's housing shortage.
- **Discussed the draft 2026 AHC workplan.** The AHC proposed fewer meetings in 2026 and shifting to a quarterly meeting schedule, rather than almost monthly which occurred in 2024 and 2025 due to the comprehensive plan review work program. The AHC discussed the focus of the workplan, which includes leveraging emerging housing trends to inform affordable housing policy solutions, and building and sustaining accountability to jurisdictions comprehensive plans housing chapters.
- **Discussed progress on Comprehensive Plan review and Growth Management Hearing Board (GMHB) Appeals.** The AHC discussed progress made on comprehensive plan reviews, and to date 35 of 40 jurisdictions in King County have been completed. The AHC discussed housing related appeals for Clyde Hill, Duvall, Kitsap County, Mercer Island, and Hunts Point. Others are still underway. The AHC was briefed on the findings from Kitsap County and Mercer Island by the GMHB, which could have implications for jurisdictions with how House Bill 1220 is implemented.

The next AHC meeting is scheduled for November 6. Mayor Lynne Robinson serves on the AHC on behalf of the Sound Cities Association.