



DATE: July 24, 2023

TO: Mayor Robinson and City Councilmembers

FROM: Genesee Adkins, Chief of External Affairs

SUBJECT: King County Regional Committees Update

Regional Policy Committee (RPC)

At its July 12 meeting, the RPC:

- **Heard a briefing from the King County Flood Control District on the 2022 Annual Update.** The King County Flood Control District provides funding and policy oversight for flood risk reduction capital projects and programs in King County. The 2023 workplan includes 12 flood projects in east King County totaling approximately \$64.7 million. Several projects in east King County will acquire flood prone property, develop flood resistance areas, or provide maintenance to existing properties. In partnership with the King County Flood Control District, the City of Bellevue completed the Lower Coal Creek Drainage project, which created five box culvert crossings, totaling \$14.5 million. An additional seven projects funded by the King County Flood Control District, impacting the Bellevue area, will receive nearly \$11 million in Flood Control District funding.
- **Received a Regional Homelessness Authority (KCRHA) presentation on data source information.** KCRHA returned to provide follow-up to their June 14 presentation to the RPC on the KCRHA Five-Year Plan. The KCRHA presented information on their homelessness data gathering process and source points. The detailed statistics estimates 50,000 for the King County homeless count for 2023-2025. KCRHA has replaced the "point in time count" with a partnership with Washington State Department of Commerce to collect monthly and annual data of King County residents that touch different homeless systems, including Medicaid, domestic violence shelters and behavioral health systems. The new data system is more inclusive and allows for the flexibility of counting individuals who are in various short- and long-term homelessness circumstances.

The next RPC meeting is scheduled for August 2, 2023. Councilmember John Stokes serves on the RPC.

Regional Transit Committee (RTC)

At its July 19 meeting, the RTC:

- **Toured the King County Metro South Annex Base to learn about bus operations and electrification.** Metro is actively transitioning its bus fleet to zero-emissions



vehicles powered by renewable energy by 2035, consistent with Metro Connects, Metro's Strategic Plan and the King County 2020 Strategic Climate Action Plan. The 2023–2024 King County budget includes investments in transportation electrification to advance climate goals and reduce local air pollution. The South Annex Base tour included a bus charging demonstration, hearing directly from Metro bus operators and learning more about Metro's daily operations.

The next RTC meeting is scheduled for September 21. Councilmember Janice Zahn serves on the RTC.

Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC)

At its July 6 meeting, the RWQC:

- **Discussed a report on wastewater governance.** A study commissioned by Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) examined the governance of wastewater treatment services, highlighting the benefits of the current centralized system but also identifying concerns about unclear roles and decision-making authority. Members discussed maintaining the current system that provides the benefits of an intergovernmental authority while retaining the experience that King County has gained in operating the regional system. However, members felt that the relationship with the Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee (MWPAAC) should be formalized and that RWQC should better utilize their decision-making authority.
- **Authorized the RWQC chair to sign a letter regarding the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit for the West Point Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) and Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO).** The letter highlights that the issues the permit addresses are appropriate; however, the timeline is too compressed and may lead to high costs. The letter requests that the timeline be adjusted and that the scope of the actions addressing polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) be narrowed and prioritized. The potential costs required for compliance could impact the short-and long-term impacts on customer affordability.
- **Approved a motion for King County's Wastewater Treatment Division 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 next RWQC meeting is scheduled for August 23. Councilmember Conrad Lee serves on the RWQC.