

**COUNCIL SUMMARY BACKGROUND BRIEFING:
KING COUNTY REGIONAL COMMITTEES AND OTHER ISSUES
*November 2019***

This briefing summarizes recent actions taken by the three regional committees formed as a result of the merger of King County and Metro. The three regional committees are the Regional Policy Committee, the Regional Water Quality Committee, and the Regional Transit Committee. Staff will also include updates on other regional issues (e.g., King County Flood Control District, King Conservation District) as appropriate. In addition, the Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC), was formed in the early 1990s to comply with the Growth Management Act requirements for collaboration of counties and their cities on countywide planning policies. The GMPC meets three to four times per year to consider amendments to the countywide planning policies and to monitor progress on implementation. This is intended as a summary briefing; staff can provide more details on any of the items below.

REGIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE (RPC)

The November 13 meeting of the RPC was cancelled. A special meeting to discuss the regional homeless governance proposal may be scheduled in early December.

The next regular meeting of the RPC is scheduled for December 11.

REGIONAL TRANSIT COMMITTEE (RTC)

The RTC met on November 20. A summary will be provided in the January Regional Issues packet.

The next meeting of the RTC is scheduled for December 18.

REGIONAL WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE (RWQC)

November 6 meeting summary:

- **WaterWorks Water Quality Grant Recommendations.** The Committee was briefed on the fourth round of WaterWorks grant recommendations by the WaterWorks Grant Ranking Committee.

To be eligible for a grant, a project must:

- Create a benefit to or improvement of water quality within the County Wastewater Treatment Division's (WTD) service area and benefit its ratepayers; and
- Demonstrate that water quality benefits are related to WTD's regional water quality responsibilities.

Non-profit groups, cities, counties, special purpose districts, tribes, and private businesses

entities that are partnered with an otherwise-eligible entity, are eligible to receive funding, following a competitive review process.

Applications are reviewed and ranked by the County's WaterWorks Grant Ranking Committee. This 13-member, volunteer advisory group is appointed by the King County Executive and confirmed by King County Council.

Nearly \$2 million is awarded through the ranking committee every two years for a variety of projects, including green stormwater infrastructure (rain gardens and cisterns), education and community engagement, research and monitoring, and stream and river bank restoration.

An additional \$2 million is awarded through King County Council-allocated funding for WaterWorks projects. The WTD oversees implementation and delivery of funds through either method for distribution.

- **Clean Water Plan Workshop.** The Committee received a briefing from the WTD staff on the update to the Clean Water Plan. The themes addressed were the subject of previous outreach efforts; an accelerated project schedule and policy decision points were also discussed.

Earlier this year the County collected information from stakeholders on water quality issues. A summary list of priorities heard from stakeholders includes:

- Protect and restore our rivers, lakes, and Puget Sound
- Prepare for and prevent climate change
- Avoid sewer system failures
- Protect public health
- Support health habitats for fish and wildlife
- Keep rates affordable in the context of the growing region
- Ensure benefits and impacts are experienced equitably
- Communicate with the public about the plan
- Maintain an effective wastewater treatment workforce
- Increase collaboration between agencies and departments
- Prioritize the best water quality outcomes for our investments

The County Executive is recommending accelerating the planning effort, with a draft Clean Water Plan targeted for late 2021, instead of 2022. The County made the decision to accelerate the Plan believing that the acceleration would help address pressures of current and proposed regulatory requirements—e.g., nutrients. However, there are concerns expressed by some stakeholders, including Bellevue, that the acceleration might not allow for attention and scrutiny of the proposed rate structure that would be needed to implement the plan.

The planning team identified eight preliminary decision areas, including:

- What treatment plant investments should be made?
- What approach should be taken to address stormwater and combined sewer overflows in King County's system?
- How will regional water quality investments be financed?

The December 4 meeting of the RWQC has been cancelled.

KING COUNTY REGIONAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE (AHC)

November 15 meeting summary:

The King County Regional Affordable Housing Task Force adopted a Five-Year Action Plan last December that recommends strategies for regional coordination to address affordable housing needs. A standing Affordable Housing Committee (AHC) of the Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC) was formed to guide implementation of the recommended strategies. The committee Chair is King County Councilmember Claudia Balducci. Bellevue Deputy Mayor Lynne Robinson serves as a Sound Cities Association member on the committee.

At the November 15 meeting, King County staff presented background on the Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs) and the impact of past CPP affordable housing targets, including equity issues. The Committee voted to advance two actions established in the Five-Year Action Plan for the initial work program:

- Analyze and identify unused and new revenue sources and help build the case for greater investment.
- Review and recommend zoning and land use actions to increase and diversify housing choices and maximize affordability, particularly near frequent transit.

The next meeting of the AHC is scheduled for January 17.